

# Lambeth's storied Baptist Medical career to end

CHRONICLE STAFF REPORT

Donny Lambeth will retire from Wake Forest Baptist Medical Center on June 30.

He has had 17 job titles in his tenure, which began in 1972 as a cost accountant at North Carolina Baptist Hospital. He became president of the Hospital in 2008.

Lambeth has been chair of the Winston-Salem/Forsyth County School Board since 1994, having been elected to the Board five consecutive times. He is also exiting the Board to serve in Raleigh. He is the Republican nominee for the North Carolina House of Representatives District 75 seat and has no opposition in the November election.

"This transition has been planned for some time," Lambeth said. "I am honored to have served Wake Forest Baptist

for 40 years. Now, I will spend time with my family and then gear up for a new opportunity of service, representing the people of Forsyth County in the General Assembly."



Lambeth

McConnell. "Donny has led an accelerated journey in those hospitals, improving their operations and financial performance and

strengthening their community involvement," said McConnell.

Lambeth's first full time job after graduating from High Point University with a degree in business was in the accounting department at Baptist Hospital. He became controller in 1982, vice president for financial services/CFO in 1987, and chief operating officer in 1999.

"Since I came, the changes in the organization have been massive and beneficial for the community, the region and the state," added Lambeth. "Today, the medical center has a major impact on the quality of life, the health and the economy of the region."

In addition to his degree from High Point, Lambeth earned his MBA from Wake Forest. He and his wife, Pam, are the parents of four daughters and the grandparents of four.

## Reynolds

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tribution was \$800,000 to the United Way of Forsyth County. In addition to the Foundation contributions, Reynolds employees donated \$769,227 of their own

money to the United Way Campaign this year.

The American Snuff Charitable Trust, which is associated with RAI's Memphis, Tenn.-based subsidiary, American Snuff Company, LLC, made 65 individual contributions worth a total of \$465,600 in

2011. The Trust's largest contribution of \$30,000 went to the Mid-South Red Cross.

Santa Fe Natural Tobacco Company, Inc. and its associated Foundation donated a combined \$469,540 in 2011. The company made nine charitable contributions dur-

ing the year, with the largest donation of \$113,680 going to the Carolina Farm Stewardship Association. Santa Fe's Foundation made 10 contributions, with the largest — \$155,000 — going to the American Indian College Fund.

## Graduates

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fan.

"I grew up a huge Duke fan," confessed the Wilson native. "I'm obsessed with Duke basketball. I love Wake Forest in football and soccer, but in basketball, I always pull for Duke."

Smith received scholarship offers from a wide variety of schools, including Johns Hopkins. The English-political science double major said he was looking for a balance between his physical and intellectual pursuits. He had set his sights on the Blue Devils, but in the end, he said Wake Forest ended up being a better fit.

"I really wanted to go to a school that was academically comparable to its athletics program," related Smith, who attended WFU on an academic scholarship.

It didn't take long for the Wake Forest community to worm its way into the couple's hearts.

"I just love the people," commented Bryant, a native of Augusta, Ga. "You know anywhere you go from here on out, you are a part of the club. You're a Demon Deacon for life."

Bryant, a sociology major who served as a resident advisor (RA) for three out of her four years on campus, said one of her most formative learning experiences was the semester she spent abroad in Dakar, Senegal last spring.

"I was there for four months, and I was with a host family," she stated. "I didn't know a soul when I got in the place, and I came back with friends there, and friends from different colleges."

Being in Senegal gave her a different perspective on the interpersonal relationships she was building at Wake Forest and in her personal life and deepened her focus on the importance of establishing bonds with those around her, said Bryant, the second of two children.

"Senegalese culture just promotes so much more interaction with people, way more than we do in America, and I think that's something my eyes were opened to, just in being there," she remarked.

Bryant followed her trip to Senegal with a trek to Kien Giang, Vietnam, where she spent her winter break building Habitat for Humanity homes alongside fellow members of the WFU Volunteer Service Corps.

"It was so rewarding," she commented. "We helped people and we saw the people that we helped."

Smith, the oldest of three children, broadened his horizons by pushing the boundaries of his personal and professional experience as an intern at Viacom's Logo Network in New York City, an LGBT (lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender) friendly station founded by a former MTV executive.

"I ended up being the only straight male working in the entire department," he related. "It was an experience that I definitely wouldn't trade for the world. It was fun getting different people's perspectives... I think it's benefitted



Photo by Layla Garm

The two grads will remain at WFU to work.

me, especially in talking with my peers that may not have been immersed in that community, because it's hard if you've not been brought up around it."

A lover of the written word, Smith did freelance work for the Old Gold & Black student newspaper and served as an executive on the board for the English Student Association, and as an ambassador for Words Awake!, a fledgling program the school launched earlier this year to highlight WFU alumni who are making a living as writers. This spring, he also took part in the M4 (Making Manhood Mean More), initiative, a mentoring program that focuses on black male masculinity, relationships, etiquette and everything in between.

"We just talked about the black male experience in the US and also in a university setting," explained Smith. "From that forum, we really learned how to shape the way that we see things... it's definitely an empowerment movement."

Byrant, who has a background in theater, was active in the Can I Poet student organization, including serving as president her sophomore year. She also appeared in "Wake World," an annual program staged by current students for incoming freshmen that pokes fun at life on campus and tells the newcomers what to expect through skits and plays.

Though they have enjoyed

countless learning experiences over the course of their four years at WFU, Bryant and Smith say what has stuck with them most is a commitment to service.

"I want to be doing something that matters, and I think that I could speak for most of my classmates when I say that, because that is what we've been taught here," Bryant said. "Wake Forest doesn't have a community service requirement, but it would surprise me if anyone in our graduating class has not volunteered at least once in their college experience. I don't think that's an average collegiate mindset, but it's something that happens a lot on Wake Forest's campus."

"Being at Wake makes you a humanist," Smith agreed. "It makes you consider a world-wide perspective."

Both Bryant and Smith will be staying on Wake Forest as fellows next year. Bryant will serve in the division of Student Life as one of 10 on-campus fellows in a year-long program, and Smith will serve as an alumni giving fellow in the school's Office of Advancement. Over the course of his two-year stint, Smith will attempt to increase alumni giving by interacting with thousands of WFU grads, a component of the job he is greatly looking forward to.

"I've never met one I didn't like," he said of Wake Forest alumni. "You can be different in your academic and social perspectives, but you're still part of a large collective

of Demon Deacons. You can really be a part of a legacy here at Wake; they really take pride in the quality of people they put out into the world."

## RED

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ice cream.

"This event is an entrenched part of Keller Williams Realty's culture and displays the extraordinary effect a company can have when individuals come together to work as a team for the greater good of everyone," said Team Leader Jody Peske. "Last year, we participated in the Safe Sober Prom Night Program, which creates awareness about the dangers of drugs and alcohol, particularly around prom time. The

Program asks students to sign a pledge card agreeing to stay drug and alcohol free on prom night. We can't tell you what an impact it made on each of us personally—it felt so great to give back to the community we know and love."

Nationwide, more than 40,000 Keller Williams associates participated in RED Day activities, including taking part in food and blood drives, cleaning up trash in public parks, doing yard work for neighbors in need and revamping gardens at nursing homes. More than 190,000 volunteer hours were logged.

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