

Team takes medal at national competition

-See Page B10

Hopefuls court business leaders

-See Page A5

Family House celebrates

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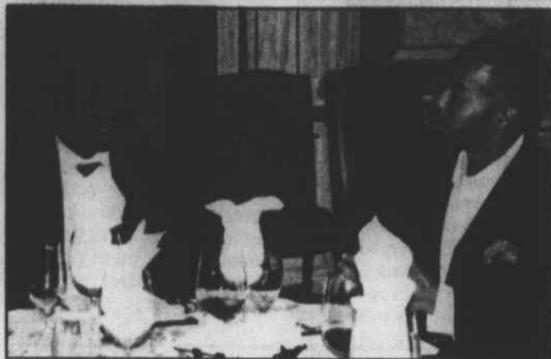
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Photos by Layla Garms

Dr. Ed Reynolds (left) with J. Matthew Williams.

Lessons from a Trailblazer

Current black male WFU employees dine with school's first-ever black student

BY LAYLA GARMS
THE CHRONICLE

Dr. Ed Reynolds, Wake Forest University's first black student, returned to his alma mater last week.

The San Diego, Calif. resident was on hand for a series of special events held to celebrate WFU's decision to voluntarily integrate 50 years ago. The integration of the school is the focus of a yearlong campaign at Wake called Faces of Courage.

Reynolds, a native of Akropong, Ghana, took time to interact with current African American WFU faculty and staff during an intimate invitation-only dinner at Noble's Grille on Sept. 20.

J. Matthew Williams, assistant director of WFU's Office of Diversity and Inclusion, said he arranged the dinner because he wanted Reynolds to see the impact of his decision to attend to Wake Forest.

"Ed Reynolds ... really opened the doors of opportunity for all of these men to work in their current capacity," Williams said. "Without him, where would we be?"

Williams, a member of the university's Class of 2009, said he hoped the dinner would be an affirming experience for the men in attendance.

"There's a huge misunderstanding that African American men don't occupy positions of authority in academia, and when you look around the room, you

see the impact of their influence on our university," he stated. "...I think it's important to recognize our contributions. Oftentimes, there's a very singular view of African American men, and showing the diversity of what we offer to the community is important."

Wake Forest alumnus Kevin Smith was among the handful of staff members on hand. Smith, who began a two year fellowship in the Office of University Advancement in August, said the opportunity to come face to face with someone who played such an integral role in Wake Forest history made it a can't miss event for him.

"It's something that's very impactful for me and something I think I'll remember for the rest of my life," commented the Wilson native, who graduated in May with a degree in English and political science. "...He really changed the history of this entire university. What he did definitely deserves recognition."

Though many credit Reynolds, who went on to obtain graduate degrees from Ohio University, Yale and the University of London, with singlehandedly opening the doors for the countless African American students who have come behind him, Reynolds, a father of one, says his enrollment in the school was a community effort. He

See Reynolds on A7



120 Years Later

WSSU kicking off yearlong slate of anniversary events tomorrow

BY LAYLA GARMS
THE CHRONICLE

Winston-Salem State University will embark tomorrow on a yearlong celebration of its 120th anniversary.

From its origins in a one-room schoolhouse, where founder Dr. Simon Green Atkins taught 25 students at what was then known as Slater Industrial Academy, the institution has blossomed into a sprawling 117 acre-campus with 6,400 students and faculty members.

Over the years, Winston-Salem State has been many things to many people. For city native Peyton Hairston Sr., it was a place to grow and find his purpose. Hairston was one of 11 children, four of whom attended WSSU, then known as Winston-Salem

See WSSU on A8

Photo courtesy of WSSU

Above: Some of the very first Rams pose with WSSU Founder S.G. Atkins and his wife, Oleona Atkins, in this vintage Slater Academy photo.

Photo by Layla Garms

Right: Marilyn Roseboro stands by the clock tower of her alma mater, near where the celebration kickoff will be held.



Panel: There are countless other Troy Davises

BY TODD LUCK
THE CHRONICLE

A panel of death penalty opponents used the one-year anniversary of the execution of Troy Davis to call for the elimination of a system that they say is broken.

Davis' case attracted international attention. In 1989, Davis, an African American, was accused of fatally shooting a white police officer in Savannah, Ga., though there was no physical evidence to connect him to the crime and most of the eye witnesses in the case recanted their statements. Davis was put to death on Sept. 21, 2011.

The panel, held at Wake Forest University, was moderated by Mark Rabil of the school's Innocence and Justice Clinic, and featured former inmate Darryl Hunt, retired death row Chaplain Rev. Carroll Pickett and lawyer Kristin Parks, who is currently representing a client whose case is drawing parallels with Davis'.



Photo by Todd Luck

Rev. Carroll Pickett speaks as Darryl Hunt and Kristin Parks look on during a panel at Wake Forest University.

Hunt, who was represented by Rabil when he successfully fought for his freedom after being wrongfully convicted of rape and murder, was a longtime advocate for Davis. The case was personal for him, having been only one vote away from the death penalty at his own trial. Two days before the WFU panel, Hunt took part in another death penalty discussion at North Carolina Central

University with Davis' sister, Kim.

"There's nothing we can do to bring Troy back, but we can stop the other Troys from being executed, and that is the most important thing is to be able to prevent it from happening to someone else," said Hunt. "That's what we hope to get out of this by continuing to bring awareness."

See Davis on A9

Watt loses many Forsyth constituents

U.S. Rep Mel Watt has long represented the people of the N.C.'s 12th District.



BY LAYLA GARMS
THE CHRONICLE

Forsyth County residents who thought they were being represented in Washington, D.C. by U.S. Rep. Mel Watt may get a surprise on their ballot this election season.

A highly controversial redistricting effort that the North Carolina General Assembly launched earlier this year is still causing confusion for some voters in the Twin City, according to voting rights advocates.

The overall redistricting, which has also affected the districts of many state lawmakers, has received considerable press, but many voters don't realize that their households have been impacted by the changes, explained Susan

See Districts on A8

Colorful Future



Photo by Layla Garms

Andre Phillips recently opened RAW Talent Tattoo & Piercing on North Liberty Street. The shop is decorated with Phillip's original graffiti art. Read more on page A3.

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