

WSSU

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Teachers College or simply "TC." Hairston said his experiences on campus in the 1950s helped to shape and inform much of the nearly six decades that has followed. He remembers his class as a small, close knit group determined to succeed in a hostile world.

"We were so small that everybody knew everybody and we developed friendships that have lasted through the years," he remarked. "Some of my best friends are people I met at Winston-Salem State."

It was there that Hairston met his wife of 47 years, the late Jannie Shaw, a doe-eyed underclassman.

"She was gorgeous and had the biggest, prettiest eyes. I remember telling my mom I met a little girl that has eyes so big I almost call them saucers," he recalled. "...The library was where we did most of our courting. You'd go to the library at night, get your studying done so you could hold hands under the table, and then I'd get to walk her back to her dorm."

Hairston described his instructors as visionary leaders who pushed students and prepared them for a post Brown v. Board of Education, world where separate but equal would no longer be the norm.

"It amazes me how the faculty and staff there prepared us for things that they could never know would ever happen," declared Hairston, whose 30 year career in the local school system included over two decades in school administration. "...[When I started college], the idea was that I would get a job teaching in some black school like all the others had done, but things changed in the '60's. We walked through doors where we were not wanted, not welcome and everywhere we went, we raised the level of proficiency, we made it a better place."

Hairston, who also served the City of Winston-Salem for nine years as one of the first black firefighters in the South, was recently inducted into the Big House Gaines Hall of Fame for Meritorious Service. The two-term National Alumni Association president said the school has earned his passion and dedication.

"It was there when we needed it," he declared. "They wouldn't even let me in the back door at Duke ... or any of the other prestigious universities, but Winston-Salem State was there, and they were graduating folks who were having tremendous impact on the lives of black folks. Everywhere they went, they were in high demand. That was a tremendous incentive."

Charlotte native Marilyn Roseboro has many fond memories of her time at WSSU, both as an undergrad and later as a longtime employee. Roseboro came to WSSU in 1969, the same year the school became a university, on the prestigious RJ Reynolds Tobacco Company Scholarship, which covered her tuition and afforded her the opportunity to spend a semester abroad in Great Britain.

Roseboro was a member of the school's marching band, then known as "The Biggest Sound in the CIAA," and still vividly remembers the time in Baltimore, Md. that the band performed before thousands at a Baltimore Colts game a few days after Thanksgiving.

"(The band) was this close group - we were like a family anyway," she related. "And we had new uniforms that year. We were looking sharp if I do say so myself!"

Students who lived on campus were held to strict rules and required to inform their dorm matrons of where they were going and when they planned to return whenever they



WSSU Photo by Garrett Garna

Students walk near a campus likeness of Simon Green Atkins.

left campus, Roseboro said, and Sunday dinners on campus were a can't miss event. The Hauser Building, which was constructed during her tenure as a student, was home to a student center, complete with a beauty parlor, a barber shop and a bank. Her graduating class, the Class of 1973, donated the adjacent concrete fountain that still stands to this day.

"It was just the place to be - everything happened over there," she recalled with a smile.

After six years working in the media and public relations field, Roseboro returned to campus as a member of the staff. Over more than three decades, she held a variety of positions, from director of public relations to associate professor of mass communications.

As an employee, Roseboro says her love for her alma mater grew. She remembers the anticipation she felt each year as she watched the buses chartered by Alumni Associations from across nation pull up in front of the old Alumni House, loaded down with former Rams ready to celebrate Homecoming.

"That's when you knew, 'It's Homecoming, y'all!'" declared the 61 year-old. "...They talked about 'Ram pride,' we were proud of this institution. There was just no school like Winston-Salem State."

Looking back, Roseboro said the university has come a long way, increasing the breadth and diversity of its courses of study, its infrastructure, and its students.

"It's a tremendous tribute to (founder) Dr. Simon Green Atkins when you think about the faith that he had to have to start this institution, the level of commitment he had to have to build this institution at a time when there were so many challenges," she said.

Anniversary events will begin tomorrow (Sept. 28) at 11 a.m. near the school's clock-tower, said Dr. Shirley Manigault, special assistant to the chancellor and co-chair of the 120th Anniversary Planning Committee. The program, which is free and open to the public, will include the reading of a proclamation from Mayor Allen Joines, the unveiling of a custom anniversary postage stamp and commemorative souvenirs and musical performances by student groups. Organizers are expecting around 1,000 attendees.

Over the next year, a series of events will be held to celebrate the past, present and future of the institution.

"I think it's going to be intellectually stimulating, somewhat provocative, and I think people will enjoy themselves," Manigault said of the activities planned over the next year. "They are fun events and intellectual events and cultural events. There's something, I think, for everyone to take away from the university in this year of celebration."

For more information about Friday's program, visit www.wssu.edu/about/events/2012/anniversary_celebration.aspx. Information about other anniversary events throughout the year will be available at wssu.edu/anniversary.

Districts

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Campbell, chair of the Forsyth County Democratic Party. As the start of early voting on Oct. 18 draws closer, Campbell says she is fielding an increasing number of phone calls from disgruntled Democrats who are unhappy that they have been moved from Watt's largely liberal 12th District to that of U.S. Rep. Virginia Foxx, a conservative Republican who represents the state's 5th District.

"A lot of folks don't know that they've been redistricted," said Campbell, who added that 21 of the 40 Watt precincts in the county have been redistricted to Foxx.

"People need to know that Mel Watt is not going to be their representative."

Watt's district had never encompassed a large portion of Forsyth County. The snake-shaped district includes parts of several cities, including Charlotte, Lexington, Greensboro and High Point. Most of Forsyth has always been in the Fifth, which also includes parts or all of 11 other counties.

Rob Coffman, director of the Forsyth County Board of Elections, says the Board notified all voters who were affected by the redistricting when voter registration cards were mailed out last spring.

"It listed redistricting on the bottom, we made sure. It

said on the card 'changed for redistricting,'" Coffman said. "...I think we've done what we need to do for notification."

Coffman recommended that voters who are unsure of their district consult the sample ballot on the BOE's Web page, which is based upon street address and will contain up to date election information.

Washington Park resident Cornelia Barr said she knew congressional districts changes were coming. An unaffiliated voter, Barr was moved from the 12th to the 5th District. She is not angry; instead she is looking forward to supporting School Board Member Elisabeth Motsinger, the Democrat challenging Foxx. What Barr, head of the Gateway Environmental Initiative, says she didn't expect was the difficulty she experienced in trying to find where she fell in her new district. At the time of the primary, when Barr began to search for new district lines, she says maps were hard to come by.

"It just seems that there should be a government vehicle that shows where the boundaries are," said the mother of one.

Both Congressman Watt and Foxx have since added maps to their Web sites that allow voters to identify which district they live in, but many voting rights advocates - including Barr - believe that more publicity is needed if 5th and 12th District constituents are to go to the polls as informed voters.

"I've done a lot of voter

registration over the years and I think it's really important to approach this not as a partisan issue, but as a voting rights issue," she said. "The more information we have, the more effective we can be as voters."

Fleming El-Amin, a committee member for Precinct 81 at Oak Summit United Methodist Church, said he's encountered quite a few people in his precinct who are surprised to find that they are now in the 5th District.

"It's just the misinformation that's out there, the confusion that's out there, and it may discourage some people from actually voting because they can't vote for the representative that they want to vote for," El-Amin said.

Although the changes have been noted on voter registration cards, the seasoned poll worker said he expects there will still be some folks who don't notice them until they get to the polls. El-Amin said he is working with nonpartisan groups such as Democracy NC to help make voters aware of the changes. He is hopeful that perhaps the redistricting will serve as a wake-up call to re-energize voters of every persuasion to exercise their civic duty by casting ballots this election season.

"Too many people wait until there's a fire in the house before we get involved. We've just got to become more learned," said the Glenn High School teacher. "I tell everybody I come in contact with 'stay active, stay informed, and let's move forward to advance our community.' That's my gospel that I preach everywhere I go."

Early voting runs Thursday, October 18-Saturday, Nov. 3. To see which district you are in, view your sample ballot at www.forsyth.cc/Elections or call 336-703-2800.

Are You Ready to Vote?

Today, more than ever, we need to vote to protect the gains we have made and to move forward.

Register at any of the following agencies:

North Carolina Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV)
Departments of Social Services (DSS)
Departments of Public Health (WIC)
Vocational Rehabilitation offices
Departments of Services for the Blind
Departments of Services for the Deaf & Hard of Hearing
Departments of Mental Health Services
Employment Security Commission (ESC)

Register by **October 9, 2012**
to vote in the November Election.

WAKE FOREST VS. DUKE

12:30PM, SEPTEMBER 29TH AT B&I FIELD
FAMILY WEEKEND

GO DEACS! GAME TICKETS ON SALE NOW!
VISIT WAKEFORESTSPORTS.COM OR CALL THE TICKET OFFICE AT 336-758-3322 TO PURCHASE

REMAINING HOME SCHEDULE

09/29 - DUKE (FAMILY WEEKEND)	11/03 - BOSTON COLLEGE
10/25 - CLEMSON (BLACKOUT)	11/24 - VANDERBILT

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