

Going for Term #4



Joines Campaign Photo

Mayor Allen Joines announced Tuesday his intentions to seek a fourth term. After the early morning announcement, Joines made a blitz of stops around the city, including Medcap Pharmacy, where he met with African American business owners (as seen above). This is an election year for not only Joines, but the other eight members of the City Council as well.

Women

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Spanish at Salem College, first became interested in the subject after visiting Mexico in 1998.

"I went to Acapulco, which is on the coast," she related, noting that the descendants of African slaves are most often found in coastal areas of Latin America. "...I saw all of these black people. I had no idea they were there. I was totally shocked."

Intrigued by the notion that she and her Spanish speaking counterparts had some cultural heritage in common, Hines-Gaither began talking to the people she encountered in hopes of learning more about Afro-Mexican history.

"When I started asking them questions about their own history or heritage, they didn't know either," she reported. "They could look at me and recognize the similarities but they had no idea of their history. It's a history of silence and denial."

Despite considerable digging, Hines-Gaither said little information was available about Afro-Latino culture, even though Latin America was once home to five times as many slaves as the United States, according to her research.

Hines-Gaither, who has both a master's degree (from Wake Forest University) and a bachelor's degree (from Salem) in Spanish Education, began to tackle the topic in earnest when she enrolled in the doctoral program. In 2005, she acquired a 10-day work visa to travel to Cuba to collect data about Afro-Cubans. The research she gathered will help her with her dissertation, which focuses on black Latina immigrants in North Carolina.

Colon, Panama native Avis Williams-Smith is among the Afro-Latina subjects Hines-Gaither has interviewed thus far. Williams-Smith, a mother of three, said she was happy to be involved with the project.

"I think the project is awesome to present a different view of the Hispanic woman. It's definitely different for us. It's much more difficult from my perspective because I kind of feel like I don't fit into any one mold," said Williams-Smith, a medical interpretation student at GTCC. "I'm a black woman — that's what everyone sees — but I can't change my culture, I'm a Hispanic woman as well. I thought it was awesome that she addressed that. We were kind of invisible. Black Hispanic females are never discussed or talked about or anything."

Williams-Smith said she was aware of her familial heritage, which can be traced back to Jamaica, but she never thought of herself as a black woman before moving to America to pursue her master's degree in linguistics and literature at Penn State University.

"I never thought of my race, I just thought of myself as a woman," she said, noting that



Ama Frimpong

Panamanians differentiate themselves based on socio-economics, not ethnicity.

In researching for her dissertation, Hines-Gaither, who will complete her coursework in cultural studies this spring, discovered that the black international presence in Winston-Salem reaches far beyond Latin America.

Quebec (Canada) native Achlai Wallace is one of six international subjects Hines-Gaither has interviewed during her research process. Wallace, a InterVarsity Christian Fellowship campus minister for five area colleges, hails from a thriving population of Haitians that reside in the frigid French-speaking province. Having done her own research on black women in her native Canada, Wallace said Hines-Gaither's work piqued her interest right away. The two became close friends and even travel together, presenting Hines-Gaither's research.

"I also love culture and I love that Krishnauna is seeing black people in other places because I think that's a huge thing to educate people. I know firsthand that that's needed because of my interaction with students," said Wallace, who moved to the U.S. nearly six years ago to be with her American husband.

Though varied, Hines-Gaither said many of the international women's experiences in the United States dovetail with her own experiences as an



Achlai Wallace

African American. While her subjects are proud of their nationality and want to be recognized as citizens of their birthplace, they also identify strongly with the African American community as well, she said.

Twenty-three year-old Ama Frimpong, a native of Accra, Ghana, can relate to both.

"I have always considered, and will always consider, myself an African living in America, just because of the pride and love that I have for my country and my continent. When I think of home, I think of Ghana," Frimpong stated. "...That being said, I see no distinction when it comes to fighting for equality or other social justice issues that affect us all alike. Before we are any particular ethnicity or race, we are first human."

As a Spanish major at Salem, Frimpong, who is now a Wake Forest Law student, was enrolled in several of Hines-Gaither's courses and later contributed her voice to Hines-Gaither's growing repertoire of black international women's accounts of life in North Carolina.

Hines-Gaither, whose first book, a memoir about her work and studies, is awaiting publication, said she intends to continue her exploration of black international women.

"I would hope that this is the first of many books," she said of her dissertation. "I would love to continue documenting the stories of black women of the diaspora. I think there are stories that we don't hear of a lot or we make assumptions about them. I would love to hear about their experiences from their own voices."

To read more about Hines-Gaither's research and travels, go to www.weboaal.com/travelogue2.htm.

Watt awarded Human Rights Medal

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

U.S. Rep. Melvin L. "Mel" Watt received the 2013 North Carolina A&T State University Human Rights Medal on Feb. 1 during the school's 53rd Sit-In Anniversary Breakfast.

Watt, 67, was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives in 1992, six years after serving one term in the N.C. Senate. He practiced law for 22 years, specializing in minority business and economic development law in a general practice firm best known for its civil rights work.

As one of only two African Americans elected to Congress from North Carolina in the 20th Century, Watt has been a member of the House Judiciary Committee, the House Financial Services Committee and the Congressional Black Caucus, where he served as chairman in 2005-06.

The Human Rights Medal is given in recognition of individuals who have strived to correct social injustice and have contributed significantly to the betterment of the world. It is awarded to



File Photo

U.S. Rep Watt has served the 12th District since 1992.

courageous men and women whose actions reflect those that were demonstrated in 1960 by four A&T freshmen — Ezell Blair Jr. (Jibreel Khazan), Franklin Eugene McCain, Joseph Alfred McNeil and David Richmond Jr. The men led a group of students to

take a stand for justice by sitting down and refusing to leave the segregated whites-only lunch counter of the F.W. Woolworth Store in downtown Greensboro. Their nonviolent protest became part of a nationwide movement that led to desegregation.



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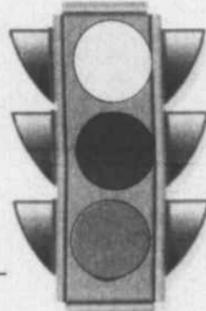
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