

Sigma Betas engaged on MLK Day

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

On the Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday, members of the Sigma Beta Club of Winston-Salem participated in several activities.

On the morning of Monday, Jan. 19 during The Odd Fellows Cemetery Restoration Project, the Sigma Betas worked with other organizations cleaning up the 12-acre cemetery on Shorefair Drive across from the Dixie Classic Fairgrounds. The Odd Fellows Cemetery is believed to have started in 1911 by the Twin City Lodge and the Winston Star Lodge, both African-American fraternal organizations. The Odd Fellows Cemetery is one of Winston-Salem's oldest African-American graveyards outside the Salem area. It is, by far, the largest African-American cemetery dating from the early 20th century. An estimated 10,000 graves could be located in the cemetery.

After the Martin Luther King Jr. National Day of Service Project at the cemetery, the group went to the Wynnsong 12 Cinema to see the movie "Selma."

This year marks the 50th anniversary of the Selma march and President Johnson's signing into law of the Voting Rights Act on Aug. 6, 1965, which changed the course of our nation's history. The movie tells the story of the three months leading up to the Selma march as it has



Submitted Photos

Above: The young members work in Odd Fellows Cemetery.

Right: The kids and their leaders pose outside of a movie theater.

never been told, portraying Martin Luther King Jr. as both a hero and a citizen, who used his voice to advance voting rights for all Americans.

The Sigma Betas concluded their activities on Tuesday, Jan. 20 by going to see the On Common Ground Lecture Series featuring renowned speaker Dick Gregory on the campus of Winston-Salem State University.

The Sigma Beta Club originally called the "Beta Club" is a signature Program of Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc., and whose



existence dates back to the early 1950s. It was launched under the guidance and leadership of the Honorable Dr. Parlette L. Moore, 20th National President of Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc., while serving in his capacity as National Director of Education. Throughout its existence, the Sigma Beta Club has been an essential

part of the total organizational structure in many of our alumni chapters in Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, offering members a unique opportunity to instill wholesome values, leadership skills, social awareness, and cultural consciousness in youth at the most critical stages of their personal development.

Alphas help make science fairs a success

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

This year, the Alpha Pi Lambda Chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. continued its partnership with the Winston-Salem/Forsyth County School System in sponsoring its annual science fairs.

The fraternity joined additional sponsors such as Wake Forest School of Medicine Northwest AHEC, SciWorks and Fisher Scientific in providing support for this endeavor. Over the course of two weeks, young scientists from across the county competed for prizes and the chance to represent the district in regional events. The district was broken into two divisions - elementary and secondary, with events taking place on Jan. 16 and Jan. 23, respectively.



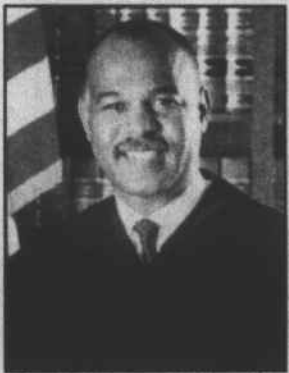
Brothers from Alpha Phi Alpha served as judges, presenters and logistics volunteers to ensure the success of the events. Alpha Pi Lambda has a long-standing history of supporting the science fairs. In fact, the awards that the students receive are named after a former member of the chapter, Lowden E. Anderson. While the fairs are open to all students, the fraternity has placed a heavy emphasis on increasing the participation of students from traditionally underrepresented populations in S.T.E.M programs (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics). Careers in these fields offer extraordinary opportunities; however, the rate of participation by minorities is tremendously low. The Alpha Pi Lambda Chapter is excited to continue its partnership with the school system in hopes of reversing this trend.

Appeals judge to keynote BLSA banquet

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

The Wake Forest Black Law Students Association (BLSA) will host its 30th annual Scholarship Banquet at 6 p.m. on Friday, Feb. 13, at the Milton Rhodes Arts Center, 251 N Spruce St. A cocktail reception is planned for 5:30 p.m. followed by dinner and a full program at 6. This year's theme is "Rising Above" and will include a reading of the poem "Still I Rise" in honor of the late Dr. Maya Angelou, Wake Forest University's first Reynolds Professor of African Studies.

Judge Roger L. Gregory of the U.S.



Gregory

Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit will provide the keynote address. Judge Gregory joined the court in 2001 after receiving a nomination from former President Bill Clinton. He earned a bachelor's degree from Virginia State University

and his J.D. in 1978 from the University of Michigan Law School. He co-founded the law firm Wilder & Gregory in Richmond, Va. in 1982 with L. Douglas Wilder, the first African-American to be elected as a governor in the United States. Gregory chaired the firm's litigation section beginning in 1985.

Tickets for the banquet, which is the annual fundraising effort for the BLSA Scholarship Fund, are \$65 per person for non-Wake Forest Law students. A table for 10 is available for \$600. Tickets must be purchased in advance by Jan. 31. Tickets will not be available at the door. Contact Ariana Burnette,

vice president of Wake Forest Law's BLSA, at burna29@wfu.edu to purchase tickets or make a donation to the scholarship fund.

Kersh speaking at Summit

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

Rogan Kersh, provost and professor at Wake Forest University, will speak at Summit School on Feb. 2 at 7 p.m. Kersh is speaking on the topic of "ethics and integrity among young people today" as part of Summit School's Inspiring Learning series. All Inspiring Learning speaking events are free and open to the public.

"Our community is not limited to the teachers, children and parents who learn together on Summit School's campus each day. The Inspiring Learning series offers a forum for the entire community to learn, ask questions and have meaningful conversations," Michael Ebeling, head of Summit School, said.

Kersh received his B.A. from Wake Forest in 1986 and returned as provost and professor of political science in July 2012.

He also coordinates academic programming with the administration of the School of Medicine.



THE CELEBRATION OF LIFE CONTINUES FOR

Mary Ernestine Gillis Thomas

Sunrise: Sept. 18, 1945

Sunset: Jan. 18, 2015

Mary was born in Moore County on Sept. 18, 1945 to the late Ernest Gillis and Martha Gillis.

On Jan. 18, 2015, early Sunday morning, Mary heard her name called as she took flight on the wings of angels. She was the eldest of five children and received her education in Richmond V.A. at the Maggie L. Walker High School. Mary moved to Winston-Salem where she became a member of Zion Memorial Baptist Church for many years. She later moved her membership to Union Chapel Missionary Baptist Church under the leadership of Pastor Connie G. Robinson, where she became active in the Pastor's Aid Ministry, the Missionary Department and the Sunday School Ministry. Mary was a member of the Ralph R. Morgan American Legion Post #220 where she served as Auxiliary President for many years. She was a faithful and dedicated member of the Sisters of James H. Young Memorial Chapter #592 Order of the Eastern Stars where she served as Worthy Matron for many years. Mary later became the personal assistant to the late Dr. Maya Angelou where she continued to work until her health began to decline. As a means of being independent and not defeated by her health issues, Mary became the caretaker for Mr. Todd and Kristen Martin's two children, Hope and William. She loved the children dearly as we know they loved her back.

Mary was married to the late Floyd Thomas and had five children. Mary was preceded in death by her granddaughter, Jurel Hawkins-Hazel and great granddaughter, Alania Marjai Hawkins.

She leaves to cherish her memories her mother Mrs. Martha G. Jones, her children, Muriel Reid (Kenneth) of the city, Marjorie Jones (Armin) of Charlotte, N.C., Marlo Smith (Jerry) of the city, Lillian Whack (Stephen) of Charlotte, N.C. and Robert Thomas (Preshora) of the city; one step-daughter, Angela Thomas of Greensboro, N.C.; three brothers; Robert Gillis of Las Vegas, N.V.; Lynwood Gillis, Sr. (Carolyn) of the city; Ernest Gillis of Richmond, V.A.; three sisters, Clara Shelton of the city; Martha G. Lyles of Riverdale, G.A. and Renee Gillis of Richmond, V.A.; one aunt, Ms. Lillie Mae James of Clinton, N.C.; 14 grandchildren, 16 great grands and a host of loving nieces, nephews, cousins and friends.

Celebration of Life will be held on Saturday, Jan. 31, 2015 at 1 p.m. at Union Chapel Missionary Baptist Church, 300 NW 25th Street. Visitation is from 12:30 - 1 p.m.

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