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THE CHRONICLE

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'By sitting down, these students stood up for equality.'

BY TEVIN STINSON
THE CHRONICLE

In recognition of the 60th anniversary of the first sit-in victory in the state, last weekend hundreds gathered in downtown Winston-Salem to remember the 21 college students who made history.

Less than a month after students from NC A&T State University staged their historic sit-in at a Woolworth lunch counter in Greensboro, on Feb. 23, 1960, 11 students from Winston-Salem Teacher's College (now Winston-Salem State University) and

10 students from Wake Forest College (now Wake Forest University) staged their own sit-in at a local lunch counter downtown. Although the students were eventually arrested and charged with trespassing, three months later the courage of those students led to the desegregation of all lunch counters in the city.

On the day of the vigil, current students from both universities came together just as they did 60 years ago. When discussing the historic moment, WFU president Nathan Hatch said the same courage those students had



Photo by Garrett Garms

Last weekend more than 200 people gathered at the corner of Fourth and Liberty Streets for a vigil honoring the college students who led a sit-in movement that intergrated lunch counters in Winston-Salem.



Photo by Tevin Stinson

Current students from Wake Forest University and Winston-Salem State University during a sit-in vigil honoring the 60th anniversary of the local sit-in movement started by students from the two universities.

in 1960 still resonates throughout the community today. Hatch said, "The world we know today is better because of the people who came before us, particularly these brave students."

"By sitting down, these students stood up for equality. By banding together, they broke clutches of injustice, and by taking action, they changed the course of the community. May that courage be what inspires us and continue to work towards bettering this city and community for all."

Before presenting a proclamation to Victor Johnson, the only living student from either school who started the sit-in movement, WSSU Chan-

cellor Elwood Robinson also shared his thoughts. Robinson, who grew up in a small rural North Carolina town, said he still remembers the sting of segregation and those who were willing to take a stand against injustice. Robinson said the courage those students and others throughout history have shown is what motivates him to keep the fight alive.

"It's deeply rooted in our memories, the pain associated with segregation," Robinson continued. "I still remember deep in my soul and it motivates me every day."

After the proclamation was read, guest speaker Jonathan L. Walton, dean of WFU's Divinity School, delivered the keynote ad-

dress. Following Walton's address, students from two universities and others in attendance marched from the Millennium Center, located at the corner of Trade and Fifth Streets, to the corner of Fourth and Liberty Street, where the historic marker honoring the sit-in victory is located.

Once the crowd of about 200 arrived at the marker, the names of the 21 students were called and current students from the two universities sat down in chairs meant to represent the peaceful protesters who changed the city of Winston-Salem forever. The crowd erupted in applause when Victor Johnson's name was called and he joined the students.

Parkland PTSA honors students with 3.0 GPA

BY TEVIN STINSON
THE CHRONICLE

It's no secret that high school can be challenging. With pressure from parents, teachers, peers, and the added pressure of social media, one could argue that being a high school student in today's climate is more challenging than ever, which is why last weekend the Parkland High School PTSA (Parent

Teacher Student Association) held a special ceremony to honor those who are facing those challenges head-on.

When discussing the event, PTSA president Karisa McDaniel said they just wanted to do something to honor the students who are facing the challenges of high school with grace.

"All of our money and our hard work is dedicated to giving back to the children because maintaining a 3.0 GPA or higher is hard to do when you're in high school. It's not easy," McDaniel said. "You have so many different programs going on. You have children that are working, kids that are doing afterschool curriculum, athletic programs, it's tough to maintain that GPA and balance

all that at one time. So again, kudos to you all."

During the celebration held on Saturday, Feb. 22, students who are currently maintaining at least a 3.0 GPA (Grade Point Average) were presented with a certificate marking their accomplishments. Before receiving their certificates, Parkland alumni Deshaywn Middleton encouraged the students to keep up the good work.

Middleton, who is a graduate of Norfolk State University where he was a standout defensive lineman before taking his talents to the CFL (Canadian Football League), encouraged the students to believe in themselves. Middleton, who is the younger brother of NFL player Doug Middleton, also told the students to take advan-



Photo by Tevin Stinson

Karisa McDaniel, Parkland High School PTSA president, presents a student with a certificate during a special celebration on Saturday, Feb. 22.

tage of everything Parkland has to offer.

"One thing I want you guys to do is believe in yourself. When you believe in yourself, it goes a long way and you can

achieve anything you put your mind to," Middleton continued. "I just want you guys to stay determined, have perseverance and to believe in yourself, because I believe in you."

Following the keynote address, the students who were recognized for their achievements enjoyed food and music with their peers and family.

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