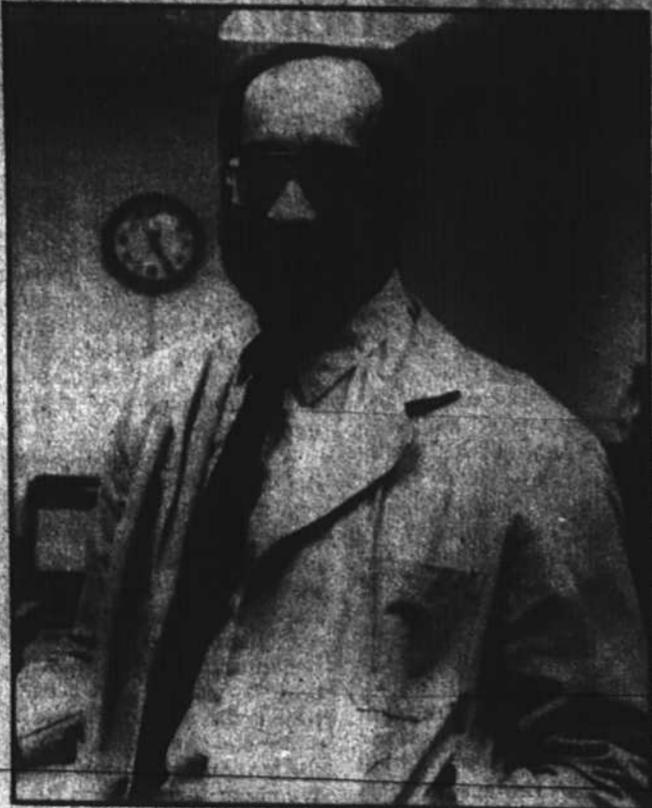


# Doctors Vaughn, Watkins Dedicated To Helping Others

By Leri Grier  
Post Staff Writer

Doctors Robert Vaughn, Jr., 33, and James Watkins, 33, have much in common. They have been General and Vascular Surgeons for two and one-half years. General Surgery deals with the abdomen, breast, head and neck, while Vascular Surgery deals with blood vessels with the main emphasis on bypass surgery for atherosclerosis (hardening of the arteries).

"We also deal with varicose veins and ulcers of the lower extremities. A lot of blacks are victims of diabetes and hardening of the arteries which leads to gangrene of the legs, and which may lead to eventual amputation. We stress early treatment and early diagnosis for these conditions," was the consensus of both doctors, whose office is located at 951 South Independence Blvd., Suite 415.



**James Watkins**  
.....Vascular surgeon



**Dr. Robert Vaughn, Jr.**  
.....Vascular surgeon

The doctors also mentioned that they deal with stroke prevention, abdominal aneurysms (weakening and ballooning of the arteries) and phlebitis. They differ from other black surgeons, because in addition to general surgery, they do vascular surgery.

They expressed their reasons for choosing this profession. "It was a decision to dedicate my life to helping individuals overcome illness and disease. My father who is not a physician, wanted at least one of his children to become a physician," said Vaughn, who is originally from Chattanooga, Tennessee. "I wanted to be a surgeon, because it's one of the areas in medicine where you can most directly affect the patient and achieve a cure," pointed out Watkins, who is originally from Montgomery, Alabama.

Watkins mentioned that they treat less than five to ten percent of the black population in Charlotte, and they want to attract more blacks. "There are and have always been qualified, black physicians," he said. Vaughn added, "We find that some blacks in the community still view black doctors with the stereotype of being able to

treat colds and the non-surgical. Some blacks feel that white physicians are best when they want surgery, but we are qualified and in some instances better than white physicians. Some blacks also look at white physicians as specialists and black physicians as general doctors, and they are reluctant to be operated on by us."

Through all the reluctance, the rewards of Vaughn being a General and Vascular Surgeon are "satisfaction in seeing the procedure go well after a patient has undergone an operation and satisfaction in seeing a patient's problem taken care of." For Watkins, it's "seeing a job well done, satisfied patient and a patient who appreciates the things I've done."

General and Vascular Surgeon Vaughn concluded, "I have enjoyed practicing and living in Charlotte and have found the community to be generally warm and receptive to me as a newcomer. I look forward to spending many years in Charlotte and establishing a very large, surgical practice." General and Vascular Surgeon

Watkins concluded, "In the two and one-half years I've been in Charlotte, I've found it to be a warm and generous city. I'm fortunate to have enjoyed the faith and support of fellow physicians and patients."

Dr. Robert Vaughn, Jr., and his wife, Esther, are the parents of 20 month-old Talaya. He is a 1968 graduate of Riverside High School in Chattanooga, Tennessee; 1972 graduate of Morehouse College where he received a B.S. degree in Biology; 1976 graduate of Meharry Medical College where he received an M.D. degree, and a 1981 graduate of Georgetown University, where he completed surgical training residency and internship. The Presbyterian is a Diplomat of the American Board of Surgery and member of the

Metrolina Morehouse Alumni, where he is treasurer; Charlotte Medical Society; Mecklenburg County Medical Society; American Medical Association; National Medical Association; Old North State Medical Association; NAACP and Omega Psi Phi Fraternity.

Dr. James Watkins is the husband of Marie. He is a 1968 graduate of Alabama State College Laboratory High School and attended Southern Illinois University during 1968-71. He graduated from the University of Alabama in 1972 where he received a B.S. degree in Biology; Meharry Medical College in 1976 where he received an M.D. degree, and Georgetown University in 1981 where he completed surgical training residency and internship. He is also a Di-

plomat of the American Board of Surgery and member of the Mental Health Authority of Mecklenburg County; Charlotte Medical Society; Mecklenburg Medical Society; American Medical Association; National Medical Association; Old North State Medical Association; NAACP and Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity.

# Livingstone Captures Two Major Awards

Livingstone College Pre-Alumni Council captured two major awards and numerous honors during the 38th annual conference of the National Pre-Alumni Council of the United Negro College Fund in Greensboro.

The local student body raised \$42,120 to top all efforts by the 42 member institutions and received the UNCF Contribution Award; this total also earned the Samuel D. Leisendorf Award for the highest per capita giving which averaged \$33 per student.

Keisha DeGraffenreid, a sophomore Chemistry major from Pittsboro, N.C., was crowned Miss UNCF. Keisha is a Dean's List student and the daughter of Rev. and Mrs. K. T. DeGraffenreid.

Rev. Darin Moore, was elected President of the National Pre-Alumni Council. Moore, a junior Psychology major, currently serves as President of the Livingstone Student Government Association. The Mt. Vernon, N.Y.,

native is the son of Mrs. Constance L. Moore. Dennis Summers, a junior Political Science major from Charlotte, was elected Parliamentarian. Dennis is the son of Mrs. Lucille Summers.

Livingstone was also recognized for having the largest student delegation attendance. Mrs. Daphne Colson, director of development at the college, served as program chairman and was named advisor to the National Pre-Alumni Council.

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**Vita Program**

The candidates of Alpha Lambda Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority provided voluntary assistance to the Vita Program of the Internal Revenue Service.

The session was conducted by Lloyd Johnson, IRS Agent on Saturday, February 25, at Mount Olive Presbyterian Church. The candidates included Betty Cornwell, Pearlina Davis, Carol Grier, Sherrie Hall, Betty McCain, and Vereda Pridden.

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