

THE WEEKLY WIRE

May 16, 2015 Edition
Volume 9, Issue 20

A NEWSLETTER FOR WSSU ALUMNI & FRIENDS

Raleigh-Wake Chapter of the WSSU National Alumni Association, PO Box 24826, Raleigh NC 27611-4826

CHAPTER NEWS & INFORMATION

Meeting and End of Year Celebration
MOVED TO
Lions Park Community Center
516 Dennis Ave, Raleigh NC 27604



3 PM – May 17, 2015

You should receive an e-mail from SignUpGenius. If you don't receive an e-mail, please contact Nikki Marshall at nmarshall4@mail.com. This event is open to all Rams and Friends of Rams

Car Wash Coupons Fundraiser

	Your Car Wash Benefits:
	Raleigh-Wake Chapter of Winston-Salem State University
	Good for one Full Service car wash at any Autobell® location.

Please contact Elijah Haddock at ehaddock@nc.rr.com to get your coupons



We are seeking an individual to serve as chair of our By-laws committee. The purpose of this committee is to review our current by-laws and propose changes that reflect how we are currently operating as a chapter. If you are interested in serving in this capacity, please reply to me via e-mail at shard74008@aol.com.

Thx,
Stanley N. Harding
Chapter President



Players Needed For the 2015 Coed Alumni Softball Tournament

On

May 30, 2015

*Millbrook Exchange Park
1905 Spring Forest Road,
Raleigh NC 27615*

Save the Date and share this event with any WSSU alumni who are interested in playing on the Raleigh-Wake team!

This event is free and open to the public.

WSSU NEWS & INFORMATION

Common to WSSU Grads: Find Your Path in Life



David Rolfe/Journal

Winston-Salem State University Chancellor Elwood Robinson (left) congratulates hip-hop recording artist Common on receiving an honorary degree from WSSU during Friday's commencement exercises at Bowman Gray Stadium. Common was the commencement speaker for WSSU.

Award-winning hip-hop recording artist and actor Common encouraged nearly 1,000 graduating students from Winston-Salem State University to follow and trust in their paths to achieve their dreams.

"You want to surround yourself with people who believe in your path," Common said Friday. "Belief is contagious. As you climb up the mountain, it will be difficult at times."

Common, who was born Lonnie Rashid Lynn Jr., was the keynote speaker at WSSU's graduation

ceremony, which was held at Bowman Gray Stadium before about 12,000 people.

During his 27-minute speech, Common talked about his career as an actor, author and a hip-hop artist. He mixed humor with his remarks that elicited laughter from the crowd. Some women in the audience screamed as he spoke.

He told the graduates that he was inspired by NBA star Michael Jordan, media mogul Oprah Winfrey, President Barack Obama and Jesus.

Common said he learned as a youth playing for a basketball team in Chicago that he had to practice and work hard to achieve greatness.

Common said he dropped out of college to pursue a career as a hip-hop artist over the objection of his mother.

"I had found my path," he said. "This voice of hip-hop would take me around the world."

Common released his first album, "Can I borrow a Dollar," in 1992, and he has since recorded nine others.

Common, 43, won a Grammy Award in 2003 for his song, "Love of My Life," with singer-songwriter Erykah Badu. Common won a second Grammy for his 2007 album, "Southside." He's also a noted social activist.

During his speech, a young woman yelled to Common from the grandstand: "Here's your wife." Common replied, "Where are you; I want to meet you."

The crowd laughed at the exchange.

Common told the graduating students they will face challenges in their lives, and they will not achieve their goals as quickly as they want.

"If you see the mountaintop, you know you will get there," he said.

After his speech, the WSSU Choir and Symphonic Band performed the song "Glory" from the 2014 movie "Selma." The song, by Common and singer John Legend, won the Academy Award in February for Best Original Song.

Afterward, WSSU Chancellor Elwood Robinson presented Common with an honorary doctorate of humane letters.

Common said he appreciated receiving the degree.

“This is one of the best days of my life to get this honor for you all,” Common said. “I’m grateful. I got a doctorate.”

Before the ceremony, Christina Ware, who is legally blind, said she was excited about receiving a bachelor’s degree in business management.

“WSSU has an awesome disability program,” Ware said. “I try not to live in the (blind) world. I strive to get nothing but A’s. I don’t let one thing define me.”

(Winston-Salem Journal, May 15, 2015)

Amica Mutual Pledges \$100,000 for Scholarships at WSSU

Amica Mutual Insurance Company will contribute \$100,000 to an endowed scholarship fund at Winston-Salem State University in honor of Chancellor Donald Reaves' retirement last December.

The scholarship fund was created to support undergraduate honor students. It was established with an initial gift of \$100,000 from Chancellor Reaves and his wife, Dr. Deborah Reaves. Amica's pledge will be paid over four years starting immediately.

"Amica is pleased to honor retired Chancellor Donald Reaves and Dr. Deborah Reaves with this pledge gift to support their endowed scholarship fund at Winston-Salem State," said Robert A. DiMuccio, chairman, president and CEO of Amica Mutual Insurance Company. "We have a deep respect for Donald, who has been a member of our Board of Directors since 2004. We're honored to support Donald and Deborah's efforts to help students achieve their dreams of a college education."

"We are extremely excited about and appreciative of this generous contribution from Amica," said Chancellor Elwood L. Robinson. "I can think of no better way to recognize and honor Donald and Deborah Reaves than by supporting this scholarship fund which will continue their

commitment to our students and to academic excellence at WSSU."

Reaves served as chancellor at WSSU from August 2007 until the end of December 2014. Throughout his tenure, Amica Mutual Insurance supported the university in various ways.

"The company has hired our students and this contribution is certainly not Amica's first gift to WSSU," said Reaves. "That the CEO and the board found a way to continue that support in recognition of my retirement is a wonderful gesture for which I am truly appreciative. The Amica gift, when added to the endowed scholarship fund that Deborah and I established and others have supported, will benefit WSSU students for generations to come."

About Amica

Amica Mutual Insurance Co., the nation's oldest mutual insurer of automobiles, was founded in 1907. The company, based in Lincoln, Rhode Island, is a national writer of auto, home, marine and umbrella insurance. Life coverage is available through Amica Life Insurance Company, a wholly owned subsidiary. Amica employs more than 3,400 people in 44 offices across the country. For more information, visit Amica.com.

(www.wssu.edu)

Nearly 1,000 Students to Participate in Commencement May 15

Christina Ware's story is one of the many inspiring testimonials of the nearly 1,000 undergraduate and graduate students from near and afar who are expected to participate in Winston-Salem State University's commencement ceremony on Friday, May 15, at 9:45 a.m., at Bowman Gray Stadium, 1250 South Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive. Academy Award-winning recording artist, activist and actor Common will be the keynote speaker. There are no guest limits or ticket requirements for the ceremony.



It is conceivable that Ware's story of work ethic, undeniable spirit and enthusiasm encapsulates the sentiment of her graduating 2015 classmates. Ware, 43, of Winston-Salem, is quite active on and off campus as a mentor to other students, a

member of the non-traditional student organization, the first president of Epsilon Chapter 130 of Tau Sigma National Honor Society at WSSU, a wife and proud mother of two. She is also legally blind. She wants to blaze trails, set examples and raise the bar for others with disabilities.

"In 2007, I lost my eyesight. After a six-month pity party, I decided to continue my education and make a difference for others. Since 2008, I have spent every day of my life proving to society that having a disability does not mean we are weak. I am now an advocate for persons with disabilities," Ware, a business major, said, "We are not handicapped, we are handy capable!"

Ware, who can be described as always pleasant and having an unlimited enthusiasm for life, says every day alive is like Christmas. She demands to be treated like everyone else and has been noted to say, "I may physically fall, but mentally I can get back up and pull a 4.0 semester." After graduation she wants to start a Kosher/Halal foods business and become active on community boards.

The China Connection

From the City of Harbin, the capital and largest city of the Heilongjiang province of the People's Republic of China, WSSU Master of Arts in the Teaching of English as a Second Language and Applied Linguistics students Yaowen Xing and Chunling Zhang have found a second home at WSSU and in Winston-Salem. They perhaps have come the farthest distance to attend the university.



With a population of more than five million people, Harbin is situated in the northeast region of China so close to Russia that only the Songhua River separates the two countries.

Nicknamed the Ice City, the average winter temperature is -3.5 °F with annual lows hitting -31.0 °F. It's no wonder the students say the warmer weather here in the Piedmont Triad has not been lost in translation with them and it's one of the things they enjoy.

"We really love the weather in North Carolina, especially the long summer time, since our hometown is so cold with snow for almost 6 months of the year," Xing, 30, noted. "We also love the people at WSSU and the faculty who all are nice and it has been a really good experience."

Xing and Zhang, 35, are in America as part of a Chinese education immersion program to help exchange the cultures between China and America. They enjoy working as cultural ambassadors to students in both the cultures. The two came to the U.S. in 2013 and have been teaching at Konnoak Elementary school during the early hours and studying and researching later in the day. "Coming to America was a dream for me after learning about it through books, movies and music, and my time here it has been amazing," Xing said.

Zhang, said she didn't know much about WSSU or Historically Black Colleges or Universities (HBCUs), but after a short time here she knew WSSU would be was special part of life. "I have met many African-Americans who have been friendly and helpful. I now can say I truly have many black friends," Zhang said. She and Xing have taken advantage of the HBCU experience. They have been often seen attending evening lectures and presentations, sports events, musical and visual arts events. With their WSSU master degrees they will return to China one day in the

future to make an impact on teaching and the quality of education there.

The All-In Approach



Olivia N. Sedwick, 21, a political science major from Indianapolis, has taken "the all-in approach" to her WSSU experience. The current WSSU student government president (SGA), honor's student and champion athlete, chose WSSU over other schools she could have attended.

Featured in a USA Today article highlighting the HBCU experience released last June, Sedwick is quoted as saying about WSSU, "I fell in love with the school." She says, "We talked about things that I had never had the chance to before coming from a predominantly white high school."

Liking the intellectual and social environment, she was comfortable becoming involved around campus. In her first year, a walk-on athlete for the women's track and field team, she was a 2013 CIAA Indoor Women's Track and Field All-Conference competitor and the WSSU women's shot put record holder until earlier this year, although she never competed in the throws until coming to college. In her second year she served as the sophomore class vice president while also being appointed to serve on many committees throughout the university. In that same year, she was a delegate to the UNC Association of Student Governments (UNCASG), representing WSSU students on a state-wide level. At the end of that year, she became the first African-American female elected senior vice president of UNCASG and served in that capacity for the entirety of her third year while being active as the chief of staff for the WSSU student government association that year also. Toward the end of her term in UNCASG, she decided to run for student body president and has served as the voice of the students for the duration of her last year. With all of her activities, she has

maintained a 3.95 GPA throughout her time in college.

Sedwick has been selected as a UNC General Administration Presidential Intern, which begins in July. Upon completion of the prestigious one-year appointment, Sedwick plans to attend Howard University School of Law.

A Drum Major who will March for a Noble Cause



Willie Davis, 22, a social work major from Fayetteville, N.C., who has led WSSU's Red Sea of Sound Marching Band as a drum major for his senior year, will now march to lead the charge for helping veterans and their families cope with typical and unique challenges of serving in military. Davis will be one of four Cadets with the distinct honor of being commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant U.S. in the U.S. Army during this year's commencement ceremony. Despite that professionally Davis will help vets, military and families with things like dealing with emotions, he said, "I don't think I will be ready for the commissioning part (of commencement) emotionally."

Readiness for Davis is an understatement. The youngest of three siblings, who was age 10 when his father died, Davis has been an A average student throughout life. He was in the top ten of his high school class and the first generation in his family to attend college. At WSSU, besides maintaining high academic achievement and serving in the U.S. Army ROTC, Davis has been active with the WSSU Band, the University Choir, a Campus Ambassador, a mentor to freshmen students, vice president of the WSSU chapter of Kappa Kappa Psi National Honorary Band Fraternity, a Veterans Helping Veterans Heal intern and a member of Galilee Missionary Baptist Church in Winston-Salem.

After graduation, Davis is going to graduate school at the University of South Carolina. He plans to complete that program in one year and begin his military duties. As a clinical social worker, his responsibilities may range from clinical counseling, crisis intervention, disaster relief, critical event debriefing, teaching and training, supervision, research, administration, consultation and policy development in various military settings. He wants to specialize in helping military veterans who suffer from different traumas such as Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), paranoid schizophrenia and other conditions.

Photo Identifications:

Yaowen Xing and Chunling Zhang - Xing is in solid shirt, Zhang has glasses and stripped shirt.

(www.wssu.edu)

EDsmart Releases Its Rankings of the Top 10 Historically Black Colleges with the Highest Retention Rates

EDsmart today released the 2015 edition of its Top Ten Historically Black Colleges, which measures academic success. The rankings were created by using recently released data on each college where a total of 84 historically black colleges (HBCUs) were considered, and 10 were ranked

This press release was originally distributed by [ReleaseWire](#)

Lehi, UT -- (ReleaseWire) -- 05/12/2015 -- The new report has been issued by EDsmart, which reveals the top ten historically black colleges with the highest retention and graduation rates. The report allows students, parents, and schools to evaluate colleges based on important outcome-related measures. Also shown are the degrees awarded, which can be a factor of consideration for schools and counselors.

Each year, students decide to transfer from one college to another for various reasons. Although this is a choice for the student, it also means it could increase their overall cost of attendance and

decrease their probability of graduation. Students who decide to transfer to a new college lower their chance of graduating in six years by 87%.

Choosing the right college is very important. Student's choosing a college that has high retention and graduation rates reduces a students likelihood of transferring to a new college. It also shows the college is offering their students quality courses and facilities. EDsmart states, "Although graduation and retention rates are factors that should weigh heavily in a student's decision of which university to attend, those that are evaluating potential candidates should use these figures only as a way to narrow down their schools of choice. We advise parents and potential students to look at other factors that are specific to each individual's needs."

The Top Ten Historically Black Colleges with the Highest Retention and Graduation Rates are as follows:

1. [Spelman College](#), Atlanta, Georgia
2. [Fisk University](#), Nashville, Tennessee
3. [Morehouse College](#), Atlanta, Georgia
4. [Howard University](#), Washington, District of Columbia
5. [Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University](#), Tallahassee, Florida
6. [Elizabeth City State University](#), Elizabeth City, North Carolina
7. [Tougaloo College](#), Tougaloo, Mississippi
8. [Winston-Salem State University](#), Winston-Salem, North Carolina
9. [Wilberforce University](#), Wilberforce, Ohio
10. [Oakwood University](#), Hunstville, Alabama

Graduation and retention rates are not only a good way for students and parents to find the best colleges; they also offer a metric for the colleges themselves to gauge how well they are serving their student's needs. When a college loses a student, it also becomes a financial loss to both parties.

Colleges that struggle with graduation and retention rates can look at the Top 10 Historically Black Colleges with the Highest Graduation and Retention Rates Report that has been put together by the team at EDsmart."

"The 10 colleges listed by EDsmart can be used as benchmarks for similar colleges in regards to graduation and retention rates.

For additional information please visit <http://www.edsmart.org/historically-black-colleges-highest-retention-rates/>

About The EDsmart.org Community College Ranking
The ranking allows students and parents to see which education establishments are performing well, to give them an informed choice of where to attend.

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For more information on this press release visit:
<http://www.releasewire.com/press-releases/edsmart-releases-its-rankings-of-the-top-10-historically-black-colleges-with-the-highest-retention-rates-597961.htm>

(Source: <http://www.digitaljournal.com/pr/2551584#ixzz3aF3AguJJ>)

WSSU SPORTS NEWS & INFORMATION

WE SEE RED

OCT 3	CHOWAN
OCT 10	J.C. SMITH
OCT 31	SHAW
NOV 7	FSU

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TICKET OFFICE

Winston-Salem State University
RAMS
Football 2015

THE ALBERT H. ANDERSON CONFERENCE CENTER

SEASON TICKETS

Get your General Admission 2015 Football Season Tickets at the WSSU Ticket Office for

\$40 in the Anderson Center or online at [Football Season Tickets](#).

Nine Lady Rams Named to 2015 USTFCCCA All-Region Team

The Winston-Salem State Lady Rams were rewarded for a great 2015 outdoor track & field season when nine student-athletes were named to the United States Track & Field/Cross Country Coaches' Association (USTFCCCA) Division II Atlantic All-Region team. While the WSSU honorees featured several returnees, the 2015 selection saw a few first timers as well.

The Lady Rams were well-represented on the track as senior Nya Michaux (100m, 200m, 4x100m), junior Raven Covington (100m, 4x100m), sophomore Ty-Leah Hampton (200m, 4x100,4x400m), sophomore Daija Ervin (4x100), sophomore RoDaijah Faucette (400m, 4x400m), and sophomore Raven Hamilton (800m, 4x400m) all took home honors in sprints and mid-distance events. Joining them for the first time was freshman Domtilla Kiplaget (3000m steeplechase). Sophomore Tametris Morrison (400m hurdles, 4x400m) was named to the team.

Senior Tajanel McNeil was the sole field events honoree with her fourth straight selection in the triple jump.

The Lady Rams will all await selection to the 2015 NCAA Division II Outdoor Track & Field National Championship Meet in Allendale, Michigan on May 21-23rd. Selections will be announced tomorrow afternoon at 6:00 p.m.

(www.wssuRams.com)

WSSU ALUMNI NEWS & INFORMATION

COMMUNITY NEWS & OTHER INFORMATION

*The Raleigh-Wake Chapter of the
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Association Motto:

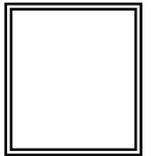
“Linked together in unity. Serving together with
purpose.”

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