

THE WEEKLY WIRE

December 10, 2011 Edition
Volume 5, Issue 50

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

Wishing a Happy Birthday to the following
RAMS:

Randal Calloway '94' Dec 9th
Monica Money '90' Dec 21st
Daisie Blue '72' Dec 30th

Chapter's Christmas Social



The Raleigh-Wake Chapter will celebrate the Christmas season with food, fellowship, and charity on Saturday, **December 17, 2011, at 4pm.** Join us at

the home of Takeeta Tyson (4125 Mackinac Island Lane, Raleigh NC 27610) with your signature/favorite dish, warm-spirit, and new, unwrapped toy (Toys for Tots campaign). RSVP by calling 919.272.2254 or e-mailing Takeeta at ttyson951@rams.wssu.edu. When you RSVP, please indicate the number in your party and the dish you plan to bring.



In keeping with the season of giving, the Raleigh-Wake Chapter will collect new, unwrapped toys for the local Toys for Tots campaign until Saturday, December 17th. Donations can be brought to the Christmas social on December 17th. If you would like to donate, but unable to attend the social, please contact Takeeta (919.272.2254) to make arrangements for pick-up or delivery.

WSSU News & Information

WSSU Represented In National Choir Performing in Nashville

D'Walla Simmons-Burke, director of choral and vocal studies, Daniel Smith, a music business major from Raleigh, and Anthony Howard, a music education major from Butner, N.C., will be representing Winston-Salem State University (WSSU) through their participation in the "105 Voices of History" HBCU National Choir performance at the Grand Ole Opry House in Nashville on January 22, 2012.

Simmons-Burke was nominated by her colleagues to be a Presenting National Conductor at the concert with Smith and Howard being selected as members of the choir that includes representatives from each of the nation's 105 Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs). Smith, a baritone, and Howard, a tenor, both sing in WSSU's choir and Schola Cantorum.

"It is always an honor to conduct the 105 Voices of History that strives to provide a national platform to raise public awareness of the legacies and the importance of the talent we have on the HBCU campuses," Simmons-Burke said. "To be nominated by my colleagues and selected as one of the four presenting conductors is quite an honor. I know it will also be a wonderful experience for Daniel to be a part of this outstanding group of talented young people for the second time."

Simmons-Burke has also been a feature conductor for the 105 Voices of History's September 2010 performance at the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts and for the "One Voice" musical showcase in May of this year in Nassau. Smith and Howard were both members of the choir for the Kennedy Center performance this past September.

The talent of the choir and the conductors will be on display through the different genres of classical, Negro spirituals, jazz, gospel and country along with original works by African American composers. Additionally, the choir will perform with Dr. Shirley Caesar, Grammy Award winner and gospel music singer, songwriter and recording artist.

The choir is sponsored by Partners Achieving Success, a nonprofit organization focused on developing partnerships that reach a broad spectrum of individuals and businesses with an emphasis to building collaborations through those relationships. P.A.S. has increased opportunities for HBCU students to showcase their talents, develop national leaders and benefit from scholarships.

Tickets for the Nashville concert are \$25-\$55 and are available at the Opry Box Office at 800-SEE-OPRY or online at www.opry.com.

(www.wssu.edu)

WSSU Earns Accreditation for Student Health Center

The A. H. Ray Student Health Center at Winston-Salem State University (WSSU) has been awarded another three-year term of accreditation by the Accreditation Association for Ambulatory Health Care, Inc. (AAAHC).

“The health and well-being of our students is very important, and this goes a long way towards supporting that goal,” said Chancellor Donald J. Reaves.

An independent team of health care professionals examined the Center and found that it continues to meet rigorous, nationally recognized standards for quality health care services. According to the AAAHC, the dedication and effort necessary for an organization to be accredited is substantial and the compliance with those standards implies a commitment to continual self-evaluation and continuous improvement.

In addition to providing health care, the Center also encourages and reinforces wellness programs by promoting “Healthy Rams for Life!” A holistic approach to healthcare service and education is intended to prevent and minimize disruptions to student’s academic progress due to health issues and to support students in choosing to live healthy and productive lives on campus and after graduation.

“Our health service staff works daily towards the goal of quality healthcare by striving to deliver safe, easily accessible, efficient and affordable healthcare services to our students,” said Ether S. Joe, director of A. H. Ray Student Health. “The Peer Health Educators play an important role in education and positive outcomes by increasing the Health Center’s ability to reach the student population.”

The WSSU Student Health Center is an operation within the Division of Student Affairs which is under the leadership of Dr. Trae Cotton, vice chancellor.

(www.wssu.edu)

2012 Honda Battle of the Bands Tickets

No need to call or go online to purchase tickets for the Honda Battle of the Bands, WSSU Foundation has them here on campus! Come out and show your support for WSSU’s “Red Sea of Sound” Marching Band. This event will be in Atlanta, GA on Saturday, January 28th at 3pm. WSSU has a section of premium lower bowl tickets reserved in the Georgia Dome. Tickets are \$12 each. Contact 336-750-3147 or email [Regina Craven](mailto:Regina.Craven@wssu.edu) to get your tickets today!



WSSU Receives Major Grant for International Project

Winston-Salem State University (WSSU) has received a three-year grant totaling \$99,285 from the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH)’s HBCU initiatives program to support a project to integrate India into the school’s liberal arts curriculum.

“We are extremely excited about this award,” said Dr. Joti Sekhon, director of International Programs at WSSU. “There were 39 applications for this specific grant and we were one of only four to receive funding.

The grant will be used to enhance the cross-cultural and global competence of students by providing the resources necessary to allow faculty from across the campus to develop or restructure courses as a means of infusing knowledge about India into the university’s curriculum. Given the growth of India’s role in the world economy, our students must have increased knowledge of the country from historical and contemporary perspectives.”

The funding is connected with the NEH’s Bridging Cultures initiative which encourages projects that explore the ways in which cultures from around the globe, including subcultures within the U.S., have influenced American society.

In 2010, Winston-Salem State became one of 10 colleges selected by the Institute of International Education to participate in an international studies pilot group to build a strategic plan for study abroad and exchange opportunities with institutions in India.

“The NEH grant will move that objective forward and give a significant boost to the WSSU strategic plan priority to prepare students for success in the 21st century,” added Sekhon. “India is one of the fastest growing economies in the world, the world’s largest democracy and a strategic player in international affairs, so it is imperative that the university enhance

the skills and capacities for our faculty and students to engage with India.”

Dr. Rob Anderson, associate professor of Portuguese, and Dr. Rose Sackeyfio, assistant professor of English, will serve as co-directors of the project with Sekhon.

(www.wssu.edu)

Older Editions of the News Argus and Yearbooks Available Online

The NC Digital Heritage Center has scanned older issues of the WSSU yearbook and New Argus student newspaper. The News Argus goes back to December 1962. Please click on the link below to access the copies.

[News Argus and Yearbooks Link](#)

WSSU Board May Address Tuition Increases

Winston-Salem State University's board of trustees is expected at its quarterly meeting today to discuss whether to raise student tuition and fees. The meeting will be at 9 a.m. at the Thompson Center.

Several schools – including UNC School of the Arts, UNC Greensboro and UNC Chapel Hill – have proposed tuition increases to make up for shortfalls in state allocations. The UNC board of governors must approve such increases.

(Winston-Salem Journal, December 9, 2011)

WSSU Included in New Book Exploring Strategies for International Academic Partnerships

Winston-Salem State University's (WSSU) efforts to expand international partnerships to provide opportunities for the school and its students are included in a newly published book as the results of a collaboration by Dr. Peggy Valentine, dean of the School of Health Sciences, Dr. Jessica Bailey, dean of the School of Business and Economics, and Dr. Joti Sekhon, director of International Programs.

The chapter is included in *Developing Strategic International Partnerships: Models for Initiating and Sustaining Innovative Institutional Linkages*, a book written by experts and practitioners from various

institutions around the world to help colleges and universities expand beyond their campuses. It features recommendations, models and strategies for initiating, managing and sustaining a range of international partnerships that have become more important as colleges and universities understand that learning, research and institution-building are now taking place in a more global environment.

“Our chapter is a case study of activities Winston-Salem State has undertaken,” said Valentine. “It addresses the unique perspective of Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) and the challenges that we face in entering the international arena, especially given the limited resources available. Yet, we understand that our students must be prepared to serve and to compete in a global society. While there are certainly barriers, there are also opportunities for HBCUs to increase involvement in international education through diversity initiatives, particularly those that encourage partnership and collaboration with minority-serving institutions.”

“In addition to opportunities for study abroad, HBCUs need to recognize the importance of internationalization in the curricula of a university and in the lives of students,” Bailey added. “We must support efforts to increase student interest in international studies and increase exposure to knowledge and cultures from around the world. Our students must be prepared to work in a global economy and compete on a global level for the best professional opportunities.”

It is estimated that fewer than 100 WSSU students participated in study abroad programs during the university's 119-year history. Many of those students, however, have taken advantage of international opportunities during the past decade when the university expanded its international education effort. A key factor in that expansion was the establishment of an Office of International Programs in 2000 which has led to a significant increase in WSSU students studying abroad in the past two years.

“The office has focused on international education which includes study abroad and curriculum infusion, as well as faculty and student exchanges,” explained Sekhon. “For example, we are involved in a comprehensive partnership with the University of Cape Coast in Ghana that exposes our students to the political, economic, social and cultural realities of contemporary Africa. The faculty-led summer program in Ghana focuses on the historical legacy of the trans-Atlantic slave trade and the British and French colonialism in Africa.”

Other WSSU examples in the book include:

- Students in health sciences serving on research teams in Europe and Africa through a partnership with Johns Hopkins University;
- An international fieldwork practices that develops culturally competitive skills for occupational therapy students working in partnership with Santa Paula University in Costa Rica; and
- The development of international courses, including instructors from France teaching business classes to provide cross-cultural interaction among students.

“Significant challenges still remain, particularly with regard to resources for internationalization in the midst of sharp cuts in the university’s budget,” added Sekhon. “We continue, however, to focus efforts on providing our students with opportunities to have a more global approach in their education, whether it through study abroad or study on our campus. It also is exciting to work with faculty in the various schools on campus and the College of Arts & Sciences to develop programs in various parts of the world. In fact, the effort to develop a strategic plan for engagement with India is the impetus behind the collaboration between Dean Valentine, Dean Bailey and myself to contribute to this volume.”

Developing Strategic International Partnerships is the sixth book in a global education research report series published through a partnership between the Institute of International Education (IIE) and the American Institute for Foreign Study (AIFS). In addition to information based on U.S. experiences, the book also includes entries from the United Kingdom, France, India and Ethiopia. The IIE and AIFS have anticipated that the book will gain attention with institutions within and outside of the United States that are seeking to develop international partnerships.

(www.wssu.edu)

WSSU Sports News & Information

The Black College Sports Encyclopedia CONGRATULATE the Winston Salem State University RAMS as their 13-0 record is a new HBCU single season win record.

Southern	12	1948
Prairie View	12	1953
Florida A&M	12	1978
Tuskegee	12	2000

Tuskegee	12	2007
Winston-Salem	12	2011

Maynor: CIAA Stronger That its Reputation

When coach **Connell Maynor** of Winston-Salem State wants to get something off his chest he does it.

Earlier this week, Maynor defended the CIAA and it’s reputation for being a weak conference.

“For all the CIAA haters and naysayers who say the CIAA is weak and we can’t play football and all of that, let me say this,” Maynor said. “I’ve been in the CIAA for two years now as a head coach and we are 21-2, and our only two losses have come against CIAA teams.

“So that tells you something – that the CIAA is stronger than people say.”

Those two losses came last season, when Shaw and St. Aug’s beat the Rams.

Maynor said that by WSSU making a deep run in the NCAA Division II playoffs, he hopes the CIAA will get more respect next season.

National exposure a boost for WSSU

Winston-Salem State will be getting something a lot of Division II programs don’t get – national exposure.

WSSU’s semifinal game from Bowman Gray Stadium on Saturday against Wayne State at 2 p.m. will be seen live on ESPN3.

Bill Hayes, the athletics director, said it’s a big deal to be on national media. If the Rams win Saturday, they will be televised on ESPN2 next week in the Division II championship game in Florence, Ala.

“That’s a bonus to be on TV,” Hayes said. “That’s a rallying point for the alumni all over the country. I’m sure some of the Midwest alumni will make it to Florence, if we get that far, and there are alumni that are coming to games now that I haven’t seen in years.”

ESPN3 viewers will see first hand what a Bermuda grass field looks like in the fall when the grass has gone dormant. Those viewers will see a brown field at Bowman Gray Stadium with white painted lines and the red WSSU logos in the end zone and at midfield.

NCAA and drug testing

The NCAA drug-tests players after playoff games. Last Saturday, after WSSU beat New Haven 27-7, there were 12 players from each school that went through the process.

“We were drug-tested and so was New Haven,” Maynor said. “I don’t know about the other playoff games. That’s part of life and it goes along with what we’ve been teaching all year, and that’s being accountable for everything that you do.”

Maynor said he hadn't received results of the drug tests from the NCAA.

"If we have people that failed a drug test and they get suspended that's life – and that's what we teach these guys, to be accountable," Maynor said. "You will be held accountable."

Maynor said that it's his understanding that if a player does fail a drug test after a playoff game, that player is suspended not only for the next game but also for the next season.

The NCAA would not comment on any part of its drug-testing policy.

Wilkerson back at practice

Defensive lineman **Justin Wilkerson**, who missed the first two playoff games because of an ankle injury, was back at practice earlier this week.

Wilkerson hurt his ankle on a tackle in the CIAA championship game against Elizabeth City State on Nov. 12.

"He's been out for a couple of weeks," Maynor said about Wilkerson. "We'll see how he looks; so, he could go this week."

Maynor said Wilkerson is the only player who is questionable for Saturday's game, which will be the Rams' 14th game in 15 weeks.

Run stopper Owens ready for challenge

The Rams haven't faced a good running team since the CIAA title game against Elizabeth City State. That will change Saturday when Wayne State comes to town.

Wayne State has two 1,000-yard rushers.

The Rams have been outstanding against the run all season. Defensive lineman **Donnie Owens** of the Rams is playing his best football of the season and said he is ready.

"We know they have two very good backs," Owens said. "We have to stay in our gaps and be fundamentally sound. They like to run the ball, so we'll have to be ready for that."

Division I conversation?

With WSSU making a run at the Division II national championship there's the natural question about a possible look at moving up to Division I.

It was tried before Hayes arrived at WSSU as the athletics director. Hayes, 68, didn't rule it out but he also said right now the program is a better fit at Division II.

"This hasn't been discussed but we might better understand the power of Division II," Hayes told the *Triangle Tribune*. "This playoff run and added games and exposure is greater right now than being where we were, butting our heads against the wall trying to

figure out how to get a plane down to Tallahassee (Fla.) and a plane down to Bethune (Cookman) and a plane to Delaware State.

"Financially, it was over our heads. This to me, right now, makes a whole lot more sense."

(Winston-Salem Journal, December 9, 2011)

Rams Notebook - Maynor: Playoff System the Only Way to Go

Coach Connell Maynor of WSSU, who is in his second season as a head coach, says there's nothing like the excitement of a playoff to decide the national championship.

"I use this as an example," Maynor said. "A few years ago, the Indianapolis Colts had records of 15-1, 14-2 and 13-3, and were the No. 1 seed in the AFC, but not once did they play in the Super Bowl. None of the years they made it because they had to play to get there."

"The BCS is a bunch of bull jive. It's somebody's opinion who the best two teams are. We were picked to lose the last five weeks and we won because you decide it on the field."

Maynor said it's a shame that Division I doesn't have a playoff system.

"Everybody else has playoffs," Maynor said. "The NFL, the NBA and Division I-AA have playoffs, but I guess at the high Division I level they are right and everybody else is wrong."

No Rams make all-region team

Even though WSSU won the NCAA's Super Region I and is 13-0, it didn't have any players named to the Daktronics All-Super I Region first or second team.

The Super I Region comprises four conferences, including the CIAA. Jim Zuhlke, the sports-information director at West Chester University, runs the voting for the region and said that only three of a possible eight CIAA sports-information directors voted. The SIDs from the schools are responsible for nominating players for the region team and then voting for the teams.

"It's disappointing that no Winston-Salem State players made it," Zuhlke said.

Only two players from the CIAA made the first or second team, which had a total of 55 players. Running back Daronte McNeill of Elizabeth City State was on the first team and linebacker Daron Jones of Lincoln (Pa.) was on the second team.

No more 5 a.m. practice sessions

The Rams went through their final 5 a.m. practice of the season on Monday morning. Because exams are

starting this week, Maynor said he'll tweak his practice schedule and will likely have practices in the afternoons.

Maynor pointed to the 5 a.m. practices – which started in early September – when asked what has made the Rams such a good team. The Rams practiced three days a week at 5 a.m. because several Rams had afternoon classes.

"I think the early practices have had a lot to do with our success," Maynor said. "They are paying the price and they don't want to go out there and give it up. They feel like they are working hard and they've deserved it, and it's started with those 5 a.m. practices. These guys are sacrificing."

Family comes first

When receiver C.J. Washington first arrived at WSSU, he let Maynor know that he had family matters he needed to resolve.

Maynor said he always gives his players the chance to help their families.

"For me, it's God, family and work," Maynor said. "So if those guys have some family issues we will talk about them and make it work. Family comes first and (Washington) had some issues and we gave him some time away and he came back and he has helped us."

Quick kicks

- WSSU will try to become the second historically black school to play for the national championship in Division II. WSSU will play Wayne State on Saturday in the semifinals at Bowman Gray Stadium at 2 p.m. Central State (Ohio) lost to North Dakota State 41-21 in the 1983 title game.
- Running back Nic Cooper's 1,712 yards rushing this season are third best in a school history. He has 3,334 career yards, good enough for fifth place. Martin Hicks is fourth with 3,386 yards. Cooper's 40 career rushing touchdowns are second behind Richard Huntley's 57.
- Wayne State has the maximum amount of scholarships allowed in Division II at 36; WSSU has around 28 scholarships.
- Kameron Smith, a redshirt junior, has passed for a school-record 2,577 yards this season. For his career, he has 4,099 yards to rank third in school history. Tory Woodbury is the school's all-time passing leader with 4,493 yards.

(Winston-Salem Journal, Updated December 9, 2011)

WSSU Football Team Will Play Saturday at Home at 2 p.m.

Winston-Salem State's semifinal Division II playoff game with Wayne State (Mich.) will be played at 2 p.m. on Saturday at Bowman Gray Stadium.

Bill Hayes, the athletics director at WSSU, was given the word on Sunday night. Hayes also said that the game will be shown on ESPN3.

The Rams (13-0) are making their second appearance in the semifinals having also gone in 1978 when Hayes was the head coach of the Rams.

The Rams are trying to become the first historically-black college to win the Division II national championship.

(Winston-Salem Journal, December 4, 2011)

Rams' Defense Takes Charge

When older alumni and fans are dancing in the aisles at Bowman Gray Stadium, it can mean just one thing – the Winston-Salem State Rams are on a roll.

That was the case Saturday afternoon in front of a crowd of 6,143 as undefeated WSSU jumped all over New Haven 27-7 in the quarterfinals of the Division II football playoffs.

A stout defense that was underrated much of the season had all the answers, and quarterback Kameron Smith of the Rams made the right moves. That combination sent WSSU into the semifinals against Wayne State (Mich.) and another game at dance-crazy Bowman Gray. Kickoff will be at noon or 1 p.m. next Saturday.

"We're a pretty good defense, but I guess we don't get the credit, but that's fine," 5-foot-8 rover Alton Keaton said. "Don't game-plan for us. We play hard for 60 minutes, and if you don't want to take into consideration how good our defense is, it will be a long day for anybody."

It was a long day for the Chargers (11-2). They never hit stride on offense, had three turnovers and learned just how hard it is to defend against Smith, running back Nic Cooper (132 yards on 14 carries) and Smith's supply of talented wide receivers.

Coach Connell Maynor, whose team improved to 13-0, said that the Rams faced some adversity but never lost belief.

The Rams also matched the 1978 WSSU team in reaching the semifinals, but the playoff bracket in '78 had just eight teams.

"They have a great quarterback and a great offense, but great defenses can stop great offenses, and that's

what happened today," Maynor said. "We got pressure on the quarterback and made some plays.

"He was running around with his head chopped off throwing the ball all over the place, and that comes from pressure. The defense played a great, great game."

Quarterback Ryan Osiecki, who had helped New Haven average 43 points a game this season, had one touchdown pass, but nothing else went right.

The Rams took an early 6-0 lead, but place-kicker Alejandro Suarez missed the extra-point attempt. The Chargers came right back to score when Osiecki hit Demetrius Washington-Ellison for a 36-yard touchdown, and the point after made the score 7-6 with 1:40 left in the first quarter. It was just the fourth time all season that the Rams trailed.

But the Chargers made their biggest mistake of the game when Quran Kent fumbled on a punt return after he was hit by long-snapper Rodney Taylor. Rashad Shaw recovered at the Chargers' 20, and Cooper scored from the 12 three plays later, breaking three tackles on his way to the end zone.

WSSU led 13-7, but a run from high-scoring New Haven was expected. It never came.

Defensive end Akeem Ward, who spent most of the game in the Chargers' backfield, led the pressure on Osiecki, who was sacked three times.

"It was to get to the quarterback and cause havoc," Ward said of the game plan.

Wide receiver Jameze Massey, who dropped a sure touchdown pass last weekend against California (Pa.), did his part on offense. He had six catches for 138 yards and two touchdowns and was most effective when the Chargers crammed the box hoping to stop Cooper.

"We really just tried to get out because we have a really good running back in Nic Cooper, and they tried to load the box, so I just tried to take that ninth man out of the box with some deep balls," Massey said.

Massey caught a 48-yard scoring pass from Smith on the Rams' first possession of the game and caught a 33-yard touchdown pass on the second play of the fourth quarter, helping the Rams to a 20-7 lead.

Maynor wasn't surprised that Massey rebounded from last week's drop.

"He knows that feeling of letting his teammates down," Maynor said. "He kind of laid there on the field, and he walked off the field with his head down, and he knew he let the crowd down and the community down. He didn't want to do that again, and he stayed focused and watched the ball all the way in."

WSSU, which is trying to become the first historically black college to win the Division II football championship, needs one more win to reach the title game Dec. 17 in Florence, Ala.

"We haven't won it yet," Maynor said when asked about the prospect of a title. "We still have two games left."

(Winston-Salem Journal, December 4, 2011)

Rams' Byrd, Washington Prefer Playoffs to Bowls

The argument about the Division I bowl system vs. a playoff system has gone on for a long time and will likely continue.

Two Winston-Salem State players — tight end Michael Byrd and defensive back C.J. Washington — have been on both sides of the argument, having started their careers at Division I schools before coming to WSSU. Byrd (East Carolina) and Washington (Wake Forest) each played in bowl games during their Division I careers and now they are experiencing the Division II playoffs.

"I had an opportunity to play in the Hawaii Bowl and the Liberty Bowl twice," Byrd said. "And in my last year, we played in the Military Bowl."

Byrd and Washington graduated in May. They had one season of eligibility left and came to WSSU as graduate students. They had no idea that the Rams, who are 13-0 and play in the semifinals on Saturday at Bowman Gray Stadium against Wayne State at 2 p.m., would have such a historic season.

Both agreed the competitive nature of the playoffs and its win-or-go-home scenario is better than bowl games.

"It gives everybody a fair chance to compete," Byrd said. "In Division I, you have to win six games to get into a bowl, but in Division II, if you do well in the regular season and get in the playoffs, you have a shot to compete for the national championship."

Washington, who was part of two bowl games with the Deacons, said the playoff system makes the postseason more dramatic.

"I like the playoff system a little better," Washington said.

Coach Connell Maynor brought in just the right amount of transfers to blend with his holdovers — and that combination has put the Rams into rarefied air. No historically black school has ever won a national championship in football in Division II.

Maynor said the leadership and experience that Byrd and Washington have brought have been valuable.

"Byrd came in and helped us with our pro-set offense," Maynor said. "I think his first three or four catches earlier in the year went for touchdowns. He's been a tremendous help to our offense in the running game and the passing game."

Washington, a Winston-Salem native and former player at Carver High School, decided to come across town to WSSU because his sister was about to have a baby near the end of the summer and he wanted to be close to home.

"I think about that every Saturday – that if I would have gone somewhere else, it wouldn't have been like this," Washington said. "I can't say I didn't expect this, but it's just been an amazing experience and I'm glad I'm a part of it."

Byrd and Washington said plenty of their former teammates have stayed in touch and have been following the Rams' progress in the playoffs.

"A couple of my teammates have come to playoff games, and two weeks ago when I had an interception, they were ranting and raving about that," Washington said. "A lot of the guys from Wake are rooting us on."

Washington said his former teammates were even speculating about a possible game between the two schools.

"A lot of the guys were saying maybe a Winston-Salem State-Wake Forest matchup would be a good game," Washington said. "Some of my Wake teammates say it would be close and others were saying it would be a blowout, but we just joke around with that. It's just good camaraderie and it's nice to see that some of my former teammates over there at Wake and former coaches are supporting me."

Byrd, from Thomasville, also wanted to play his final season closer to home.

"Guys have been calling to congratulate me," Byrd said. "And I expect some of those guys might come to Saturday's game because East Carolina's season kind of ended early. But it will be nice to have some of my former teammates here."

Washington said the biggest surprise for him is seeing how much talent the Rams have.

"A lot of guys could have played at a higher level and they are showing that on Saturdays," Washington said. "Some kind of fell through the D-I cracks but they are making the best of their opportunities."

Byrd said the Rams have been good at focusing on each game and not looking too far ahead. Byrd said the Rams have what it takes to win the national title.

As for the swag from the bowl games, Byrd said he still has a nice stereo system but said: "I want a national-championship ring because that will last forever."

(Winston-Salem Journal, December 7, 2011)

WSSU Alumni News & Information

Come join us as we celebrate the Winston-Salem State University Rams Football Team as they pursue the NCAA Division II Championship.

Place: Club Therapy, 411 N. Cherry Street, Winston-Salem, N.C.

(Located next to Marriot and just across from Embassy Suites)

Phone: (336)725-8818

Time: After Football Game, Saturday, December 10, 2011 from 6-10 P.M.

Sponsor: WSSU Class of 1978

Attire: Game Attire

Last Saturday, we had such a good time we decided to do it again.

Come celebrate and support a worthy cause at the same time!!!

See you there!!!

Respectfully submitted,
Donald R. Henderson
WSSU Class of 1978
Senior Class President

Top Ten Things Alumni Can Do

10. Help recruit future Rams and encourage a prospective student to visit the campus.
9. Mentor current students.
8. Support WSSU Athletics. Attend and show your RAM PRIDE!
7. Attend a WSSU Young Alumni Council event in your area, and take a fellow RAM with you.
6. Update your mailing address, email address, job information, birth of children, etc. by visiting the WSSU Alumni Relations website or call 336-750-2125.
5. Stay educated about WSSU, share what you know with others.
4. Visit the campus. Wear WSSU Ram Scarlet and/or display WSSU paraphernalia at home or work.

- 3. Visit the WSSU Alumni Relations website and join our Facebook page.
- 2. Join the WSSU National Alumni Association.

And the Number One Thing WSSU Alumni Can Do . . .

- 1. Make an annual gift to WSSU. Every gift regardless of size, helps.

Helmet Campaign

HELLO RAMS & Friends

How do you feel about the success of our football team 2011 season?



10-0 regular season
 CIAA Champions
 2-0 NCAA Div II Playoff
 Currently 13-0 with an average of 40 points per game.

No other college/university team(s) in the nation has ever done this (SMALL or LARGE). If you have not witness the RED and White machine in action, come out this Saturday to Bowman Gray Stadium as our RAMS take on Wayne State in the NCAA D11 National Semi Finals. Game starts at 2:00 pm!

Many of you have supported the helmet campaign and we thank you. However, we need you and others to buy stock in your/our student athletes and their success. Their safety and future will pay dividends as they re-invest themselves in the future. This a sure thing, you/we must believe.

Let us stand tall for a greater readiness, let us move on.

Please use the attached form and make your investment today.

Curtis Richardson

Hotel for Winter Board Meeting and HONDA Battle of the Bands

The WSSUNAA has reserved a block of rooms in Atlanta for our winter meeting and the Honda Battle of the Bands scheduled for Saturday, January 28, 2012. The room rate is \$99.00 at the Atlanta Marquis Marriott.

Reservations can be made by calling the hotel at the number below and ask for the WSSU Alumni rate. We expect the room block to sell fast, so please do not delay in making your reservation.

[Atlanta Marriott Marquis](#)

265 Peachtree Center Avenue · Atlanta, Georgia 30303
 USA - Phone: 1-404-521-0000

Gordon Everett - President
 WSSU National Alumni Association

Community News & Other



Councilman Weeks at his swearing in ceremony pictured with his wife Mrs. Wilma Weeks and niece. Councilman weeks was also was selected as co-Mayor Pro Tem and Chair of the City of Raleigh Public Works Committee. Please visit Councilman Weeks at www.weeksworks.com

FAFSA Day - February 18, 2012



FAFSA Day is a program offered by College Foundation of North Carolina, the North Carolina Association of

Student Financial Aid Administrators and the State Employees' Credit Union each February. On FAFSA Day, Saturday February 18, 2012 college financial aid officers and other volunteers will help students complete their Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) forms. The program is open to students who plan to attend college in the 2012-13 academic year. Click on the link below to find a location near you.

[FASFA Day Locations](#)



**INAUGURAL HBCU ALL-STAR GAME TO FEATURE TOP
MEN'S BASKETBALL PLAYERS
FROM THE CIAA, SIAC, MEAC & SWAC**

Three Days of Events Dedicated to Showcasing & Celebrating Historically Black Colleges & Universities' All-Star Basketball Talent

(ATLANTA - November 29, 2011) The inaugural HBCU All-Star Game will be played in Atlanta, Georgia on April 6, 2012, at Morehouse College's Forbes Arena. The HBCU All-Star Game is a showcase of the top talent among HBCU men's basketball seniors, including student athletes from Florida A&M University, Hampton University and Tuskegee University.

As the nation's only all-star game showcasing the basketball talents of student athletes attending HBCUs, the HBCU All-Star Game will provide a platform for participating student athletes to demonstrate their skills before a national audience including representatives of the National Basketball Association (NBA), the NBA Developmental League, various professional minor leagues, and international teams.

"Recognizing HBCUs long tradition of producing elite talent like Charles Oakley, Ben Wallace and Avery Johnson, we have worked to create a platform to formally showcase and celebrate the hard work, dedication and successes of HBCU men's basketball," said Russell Clark, executive director of the HBCU All-Star Game.

As the official launch of the HBCU All-Star Game, the 2011-12 HBCU All-Star Game Watch List identifies the 32 top-ranked players in HBCU men's basketball. Watch list players include: Center Kyle O'Quinn of Norfolk State University, Center Travis Hyman of Bowie State University, and Guard Ivory White of Alabama State University. The complete watch list is available at www.HBCUAllStarGame.com.

The top-22 players from NCAA Division I and II schools in the CIAA, SIAC, MEAC, SWAC and other HBCUs will be selected to participate based upon their performance during the 2011-12 season. Forgoing the traditional east-versus-west format, the HBCU All-Star Game selection committee will systematically divide

participating players between Team Heritage and Team Legacy to ensure a competitive balance.

In addition to the HBCU All-Star Game, professional scouts and collegiate coaches will challenge players in three days of an NBA-style combine, skill-building practices and scouting interviews. The combine will be conducted by Basic Athletic Measurement (BAM) Testing, which is the official testing organization for the NBA Combine in Chicago and the Portsmouth Invitational Tournament.

"This is fantastic opportunity not only for the players but for scouts who might not be able to regularly evaluate talented players attending small colleges. It gives these scouts an opportunity to see the best of the best and potentially find that diamond in the rough," said Ryan Blake, senior director of NBA Scouting Operations.

The HBCU All-Star Game is an HBCU Sports Consulting, LLC property founded in 2011 for the sole purpose of recognizing, showcasing and celebrating HBCU men's basketball's long tradition of excellence.

For more information, visit us on the web at www.HBCUAllStarGame.com.

Russell A. Clark
Executive Director

(770) 333-9808 office
(770) 333-9806 fax

***The Raleigh-Wake Chapter of the
Winston-Salem State University
National Alumni Association
PO Box 24826
Raleigh NC 27611-4826***

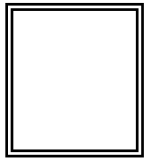
E-Mail:
rwwssu@raleighwakewssu.org

Association Motto:
"Linked together in unity. Serving together with purpose."

We're on the Web!

Visit us at:
www.raleighwakewssu.org

The Raleigh-Wake Chapter of the
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PO Box 24826
Raleigh NC 27611-4826



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