

WINSTON  
SALEM  
STATE  
UNIVERSITY

FORTY

— UNDER —

40

ALUMNI  
AWARDS

*Induction of the 40 under 40  
Inaugural Class*

**Friday, September 13, 2013 • 7:00 p.m.**

SPECIAL *Thank You* TO OUR  
**FORTY UNDER 40** COMMITTEE MEMBERS



SIOBAHN DAY



MARQUES JOHNSON



ANDREW JONES



JONATHAN MURRAY



HAVEN POWELL



# FORTY UNDER 40 GALA PROGRAM

*Induction of the 40 under 40 Inaugural Class*

ORDER OF THE EVENING

*Siobahn C. Day '05 & Jonathan Murray '04*

WELCOME

*Haven Powell '08 & Andrew Jones '08*

GREETINGS

*Donald Julian Reaves, Ph.D.  
Chancellor, Winston-Salem State University*

*Patti Sanders-Smith '76  
Vice President, National Alumni Association*

INVOCATION

*Marques Johnson '04*

DINNER  
7:15pm – 7:45pm

PRESENTATION OF THE  
INAUGURAL 40 UNDER 40 HONOREES

*Siobahn C. Day '05 and Jonathan Murray '04*

SPECIAL PRESENTATION

*Anthony Jones '07*

PATRON RECOGNITION

*Michelle M. Cook  
Vice Chancellor for University Advancement &  
Executive Director of the Winston-Salem State University Foundation, Inc.*

CLOSING REMARKS

*Mr. Gregory Hairston '83  
Director, Alumni Relations*

ALMA MATER

*Chris Robinson Group*



DONALD JULIAN REAVES, PH.D.

CHANCELLOR

I am absolutely delighted to see our younger alumni receiving such well-deserved recognition at the “40 Under 40” awards program. Through this event and other activities such as those sponsored by The Young Alumni Council, Winston-Salem State University is benefiting from the engagement of an increasing number of alumni.

The “40 Under 40” whom we are recognizing this evening have certainly made significant contributions where they work and where they live. Each of our honorees is fulfilling the vision we have for the University – to develop graduates of distinction known for leadership and service in their professions and communities.

For example, Dr. Maisha Kelly Freeman, Class of 1997, used her degree in chemistry as the foundation for becoming a leading scholar and practitioner in pharmacy. Tajuan Mills, 2006 graduate in business, has been recognized by his employer, BB&T, for his financial planning practices and also for his volunteer work in providing life and job skills for young adults in Forsyth County. Merid Berhe graduated in 2009 with a degree in political science and economics and was named among the top 100 Leaders of Tomorrow at the St. Gallen Symposium in St. Gallen Switzerland in 2011. Valonda Brinton Calloway, a 1994 mass communications graduate, has excelled in her broadcast career, but also continues to support her passion for dancing as a teacher with at the North Carolina Dance Institute. Anthony Jones went from a business administration graduate in 2007 to the law school at The College of William & Mary and is now serving as an in-house counsel for Lowe’s Companies, Inc.

While all of our honorees have distinguished themselves in various careers, they share two things in common. Each was involved in the life of the university while they were on campus and used their experiences to develop the knowledge, skills and leadership abilities that have supported them along the way. Also, each one has continued to contribute to the communities where they live and work by volunteering for a wide range of organizations that affect the lives of many people.

So, it is obvious that our “40 Under 40” honorees took the motto of Winston-Salem State University seriously and they have definitely lived out the commitment “Enter to Learn. Depart to Serve.”

Donald Julian Reaves, Ph.D.  
Chancellor, Winston-Salem State University

WINSTON-SALEM STATE UNIVERSITY  
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Winston-Salem State University is a constituent institution of the University of North Carolina  
*An Equal Opportunity Employer*



Dear Honorees:

On behalf of all Winston-Salem State University alumni across the country, I proudly and enthusiastically congratulate you on being named one of the inaugural “40 Under 40” award winners for our great university. Clearly, the WSSU tradition of Excellence is alive and well. I doubt that every university in this country can identify 40 high-achieving alumni under age 40, let alone people matching the impressive record that each of you have assembled in your careers and the community.

I am proud and honored to be leading our national alumni at the time we are instituting these awards. In my estimation, we can never do too much to recognize the great work of our young alumni. While longevity and seniority are celebrated – and rightly so – we must realize that it is the youngest among our alumni who have the greatest opportunity to stretch our legacy far into the future.

When Simon Green Atkins laid the framework for our institution he envisioned graduates who would enter society ready, willing and able to contribute right away. You are the embodiment of that principle and of what sets Winston-Salem State University apart from all others. Being able to make significant achievements at such a young age is exceptional, though part of Winston-Salem State’s noble mission. Understand that more will be expected of you as you grow in your life and work experiences, and we look forward to celebrating more of your achievements in the future.

Today, so much of what we hear about the under 40 generation is that they are not as driven or as committed or even as prepared as previous generations to assume the leadership mantle. But as I travel about, and as I constantly meet impressive young WSSU alumni, I realize that nothing could be further from the truth. Indeed, as this award dictates, we have young leaders who are more than prepared to take the baton and many of them just happen to be graduates of WSSU. Even in my conversations with our more seasoned alumni, I am always hearing about the exciting exploits of our youthful alumni from around the country. It is impressive and encouraging.

The signs of a great university are success and achievements by students across all eras and through all generations. What you have accomplished, and your fine representation of Winston-Salem State University in your youth validates our University’s legacy as a bedrock of higher education that has stood the test of time and much change on the educational landscape to remain true to its commitment to excellence. Undoubtedly, the legacy that defines Winston-Salem State through the decades is continuing and thank you for exemplifying our school’s principles and ideals in such an outstanding way in your current endeavors.

Finally, in closing, I would like to issue a challenge to our young honorees to reach back within the communities where they are serving now to others from the Winston-Salem State family who are “under 40” and bring more of them into the national alumni fold so that our institution can continue to prosper and grow for generations to come.

Again, congratulations to you all!

*Gordon Everett Sr.*  
President, WSSU National Alumni Association



**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**  
**WASHINGTON, D. C. 20515**

MELVIN L. WATT  
12TH DISTRICT, NORTH CAROLINA

September 5, 2013

Dr. Donald J. Reaves  
Chancellor  
Winston-Salem State University  
601 S. Martin Luther King Jr. Drive  
Winston Salem, North Carolina 27110-0001

Dear Dr. Reaves:

I am honored to provide greetings to the students, alumni, faculty, staff and others who are attending the Winston-Salem State University Office of Alumni Relations' Inaugural 40 Under 40 Awards Gala. It is my privilege to welcome everyone to this special event and to join you in recognizing some of the university's outstanding young alumni.

Winston-Salem State University (WSSU) is a premier institution of higher education in the 12<sup>th</sup> Congressional District of North Carolina. I am proud to have had that opportunity to represent WSSU for over twenty years in the U.S. House of Representatives. The young men and women that are being honored at this inaugural gala are a testament to the university's commitment to excellence and proven tradition of developing leaders. I commend the honorees for their civic, professional and social accomplishments and the WSSU faculty and staff for nurturing and refining their talents.

I encourage you to keep up the good work and best wishes for a successful gala.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Melvin L. Watt", written in a cursive style.

Melvin L. Watt

MLW/tjj



# *City of Winston-Salem*

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR ~ ALLEN JOINES

September 14, 2013



Greetings from the Office of the Mayor!

As Mayor of the City of Winston-Salem, I am pleased to welcome Attendees of the inaugural "**40 Under 40 Awards**" Gala!

I understand that the honorees are all under the age of 40; have made significant contributions in their respective professional fields; and have been chosen by a committee of their peers.

We look forward to the future accomplishments of these graduates; and, share in the pride of their families and loved ones for the honor bestowed on them tonight.

Congratulations and best wishes for a wonderful celebration!

Best regards,

Allen Joines  
Mayor

[pal]

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A L U M N I  
A W A R D S

*Induction of the 40 under 40 Inaugural Class*





## **GREG L. ARNOLD, JR.** | 2009, SPORT MANAGEMENT

While at WSSU Mr. Arnold held internships with LeBron James, Michael Jordan, Nike, and Jordan Brand. After graduating he worked with the Indianapolis Colts and later took a job with US Sports Management. At US Sports Management he works as an Athlete Agent/Director of Basketball Division, as well as assisting with other areas of the firm, recently having a big role in Michael Vick's autobiography *Finally Free*. Greg is a certified NBPA athlete agent (NBA) and is growing his brand daily.

Greg has used his sports and entertainment background to enter into the fashion industry with his own brand Gre-Dee Arts, which is an accessories company that specializes in handmade custom pieces. Mr. Arnold has created custom pieces for celebrities such as Rihanna, Chris Brown, Kevin Durant, Omarion, Nick Cannon, Vashtie, Wale and many others.



## **SEAN A. BELLAMY** | 2005, ELEMENTARY EDUCATION

Mr. Bellamy is an elementary educator in the District of Columbia Public School System where he currently teaches first grade. He earned his M.A. Ed in Curriculum and Instruction at The George Washington University. One of his ultimate goals is to open an academy for K-2 students committed to kinesthetic and creative scholarly exploration that builds on students' life experiences.

Additionally, Mr. Bellamy is the creative mind behind "bemade," a styling, consulting, embellishment, accessory and garment construction business. His creations have been seen on numerous pageant stages gracing local and national titleholders.



## **MERID BERHE** | 2009, POLITICAL SCIENCE AND ECONOMICS

Mr. Berhe is an International Business Consultant at Development Finance International, Inc. He develops and executes strategic advisory services to multinational companies pursuing investments in emerging markets. Combining his knowledge of business and international affairs, Mr. Berhe assists corporate clients navigate complex business environments by providing financial forecasts, market assessments, management consultation, economic risk analysis, and developing a multistep strategy to enter and capture revenue share in high growth markets. In 2012 he was awarded his MA in International Affairs from the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy, Tufts University.



## **JOHN BURTON JR.** | 1998, MASS COMMUNICATIONS

Mr. Burton is a Principal and Senior Communications Consultant with The Burton Group where he leads the company's events, marketing, public relations and consulting efforts, including the strategic development and maintenance of clients from Charlotte to Los Angeles. A number of clients have appeared in local and national media such as *Jet Magazine* and the Howard Stern Show and have been the recipients of industry awards.

He earned his Masters of Divinity from the Fuller Theological Seminary in Pasadena, California. He is the founder of Be Good Be Blessed and the former Assistant Chaplain for the Los Angeles Clippers. He plans to continue work in communications, marketing, and ministry and to possibly pursue Ph.D. in communications psychology.



## **VALONDA CALLOWAY** | 1994, MASS COMMUNICATIONS

Ms. Calloway has put her degree in mass communications to good use, serving as the host of “My Carolina Today” a lifestyle television program airing on WNCN out of Raleigh. She interviews guests about health, beauty, fitness, and food. Ms. Calloway performs community service in a number of venues including mentoring high school girls through the Delta GEMS program of the Raleigh Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority; working at the Food Bank of Central and Eastern NC; being a guest speaker at schools, universities, churches, and sports teams; and volunteering as a cheerleading coach.



## **SANTIBA CAMPBELL, PH.D.** | 2001, PSYCHOLOGY

Dr. Campbell earned her M.A. and Ph.D. in social psychology from the University of Delaware. She is an Assistant Professor of Psychology at Bennett College. Her research addresses the factors that determine whether, in the face of perpetual threats posed by racism and racial discrimination, Black Americans maintain positive psychological health, achieve success and reach personal goals, or adopt negative self-images and other destructive behaviors.

She is a proud member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. She volunteers with the South Iredell Branch of the NAACP Mooresville and the Mooresville Public Library. Dr. Campbell served as a volunteer at the Democratic National Convention in Charlotte where she assisted with hospitality for delegates from Hawaii, Iowa and Massachusetts. She is proud to have played a role in helping to re-elect President Obama.



## **THEODIS “THEO” CHUNN** | 2010, MASS COMMUNICATIONS

Mr. Chunn works at Winston-Salem State University where he provides mentoring, coaching, and supervision for Resident Advisor staff and strives to develop a safe, secure, comfortable environment conducive to academic excellence and student development and personal growth. Mr. Chunn earned his M.S. in Higher Education from Walden University and is currently pursuing his Ph.D. in Higher Education Leadership from Walden University.

One of his proudest accomplishments is establishing a nonprofit organization called TCJ Motivations, Inc. that has motivated over 200 young men in North Carolina since 2009. He also volunteers with Big Brothers Big Sisters, the Tau Chi Chapter of Alpha Phi Omega, and serves as an advisor to the Talented Tenth Male Mentoring Organization.



## **MARCUS COX** | 1993, POLITICAL SCIENCE

Mr. Cox serves as Market President, Bank of America for Fayetteville, North Carolina. He leads a market team that delivers the company’s corporate social responsibility strategy locally. He also serves as a senior client manager for Bank of America Global Commercial Banking Business Banking Group. Active in civic and community affairs, he has volunteered on several boards including the Child Advocacy Center, The Arts Council of Cumberland County, The Boys and Girls Club of Cumberland County, and Second Harvest Food Bank of Southeast North Carolina. He aspires to become a world-renowned chef and open community pantries across the United States to help feed the hungry.



## **HON. DONALD CURETON JR.** | 2000, POLITICAL SCIENCE

The Honorable Donald Cureton, Jr. is a District Court Judge for District 26 in Mecklenburg County where he presides over court proceedings involving juvenile, criminal, family, and civil legal actions. He earned his J.D. from the Howard University School of Law in 2003. Judge Cureton participates in multiple community partnerships developed to improve courthouse operations. His goals include being re-elected to his seat in 2014 and to increase mentoring and pro-social opportunities in community for juveniles involved in court proceedings. He volunteers as a mentor at local schools and appears as a guest speaker at commencement ceremonies, fraternities, and sororities. In addition, he is a member of the NC Bar Association BarCARES Program and serves on the Mecklenburg County Bar Professionalism and Lawyer Life Committee.



## **DARIEN DAVIS** | 2007, FINANCE

Mr. Davis is an Associate in Investment Banking with Credit Suisse. He earned his MBA from the Fuqua School of Business, Duke University in May 2013. After graduating from WSSU he worked for four years at IBM in a variety of corporate finance roles. After receiving his MBA he transitioned to the financial services industry where he provides strategic advisory services to clients in the metals and mining, aerospace and defense, and transportation and logistics industries. Mr. Davis volunteers with Junior Achievement, Greater Boston Kappa Charities Scholarship Committee, Sponsors for Educational Opportunity, and as a coach and mentor for the Manny Wilson Youth Basketball League, Pee-Wee Division.



## **RAOUL DAVIS** | 2002, POLITICAL SCIENCE AND PSYCHOLOGY

Mr. Davis is the CEO of Ascendant Group, which focuses on CEO branding and helping CEOs and executives increase their visibility by developing a brand strategy and executing it in the following ways: public relations, securing book deals, growing their social media presence, booking strategic speaking engagements, and developing strategic alliances. Mr. Davis is the Former Chairman of Board of Directors of Life in Christ Cathedral of Faith, Entrepreneur Program Teacher for the Life in Christ Cathedral of Faith, and a volunteer for Hurricane Sandy Relief for Operation Hope.



## **JEREMIAH ERBY** | 2006, BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION & ECONOMICS

Mr. Erby currently works at JP Morgan as a Strategy Planning Analyst for Commodities. He serves as the primary contact for financial reporting of information to the corporate team aligned with metals business partners in London. His biggest accomplishment while at JP Morgan is that he created Competitor Analysis and Performance Metrics reports for the CFO and Regional Director to ensure proper risk reporting. Mr. Erby attended the University of Chicago and earned his MBA in 2011. He enjoys serving as a mentor to rising ninth grade students in the Student Sponsor Mentor Program.



## **LARKIN FRAZIER** | 2000, BIOLOGY

Mr. Frazier earned his MBA in Healthcare Management from Walden University. He currently serves as sales director for Universal Hospital Services where he is responsible for managing sales revenue of \$30 million dollars and EBITDA of \$9.5 million. He has geographical responsibility for seven sales representatives, two clinical managers, and four account executives in Tennessee, Kentucky, Indiana, and Illinois. After graduating from WSSU he served as an Army Captain from 2000-2004, then as a clinical sales representative and later a manager of sales training for Johnson & Johnson. He is deeply dedicated to mentoring young business professionals from Tennessee State University in order to prepare them with interviewing skills and professional presence for corporate America.



## **MAISHA KELLY FREEMAN, PHARM.D** | 1997, CHEMISTRY

Dr. Freeman is an Associate Professor and Director at Samford University Global Drug Information Service (SUGDIS) where she provides leadership for the drug information specialists, drug information resident, and staff. Dr. Freeman strengthens SUGDIS' relationship with clients and develops and revises SUGDIS operating policies and procedures.

Dr. Freeman earned her Master of Science in Pharmacy in the Applied Pharmacoeconomics track at the University of Florida and her Doctor of Pharmacy with honors from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. She serves as an advisor for the Student National Pharmaceutical Association, volunteers at the Perry County Health Fair, and is a reviewer for scientific journals.



## **TYYAWDI HANDS, J.D.** | 1996, POLITICAL SCIENCE

Judge Hands is always willing to take on a challenge. She was the first person in her family to attend college and worked full time to pay for tuition and living expenses. She earned her J.D. from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill School of Law. She now serves as Mecklenburg County District Court Judge for the 26th judicial district where she is the county's Lead Domestic Violence judge and presides in domestic violence, criminal, child support and civil courts.

Her most significant accomplishment was giving birth to her two sons, and she is proud to balance being a mommy and wife with being a public servant. She is one of Charlotte's 50 most Influential Women of 2013, a recipient of the 2012 Lawyers' Weekly Women of Justice award, 2010 Black Political Caucus' Political Award, 2007 Mecklenburg County Bar's small firm pro Bono award, the 2008 Leukemia and Lymphoma Society Woman of the Year, and the 2002 WSSU Alumni Achiever Award.



## **KEITH HARRIS** | 2000, BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION & MIS

Mr. Harris serves as a Technology Consultant IV in which he manages teams of system administrators in Argentina and Malaysia. He provides technical direction on projects for multiple Fortune 500 clients of HP involving active directory, group policy and virtualization. He also is an Adjunct Instructor at Miller-Motte College, teaching students how to achieve their goals of a career in IT. In this position he is able to share his knowledge and experience with students to help them start careers in IT. In 2013 he earned his MBA in IT Management in Western Governors University in Salt Lake City, Utah. He is very involved with the Harbor House Ministries in Oxford, NC.



## **MYEISHA HARRIS** | 2007, REHABILITATION STUDIES

Ms. Harris is a Social Worker with Mecklenburg County Department of Social Services. She conducts comprehensive initial assessment to recognize barriers to employment including substance abuse, mental illness, education, and learning disabilities that may hinder an individual's success. She provides ongoing counseling and social work services that will eliminate obstacles and allow the individual to achieve their employment goals. She is due to complete the Master of Arts in Clinical Mental Health Program at The University of North Carolina at Charlotte this fall. Ms. Harris has volunteered for the Special Olympics North Carolina, Safe Alliance, Community in Schools Charlotte-Mecklenburg Safe Journey and Adolescent Parenting Program and several other programs. She attributes her success to the positive educational experience she received at WSSU which inspired her to further her education to better serve the community and helps those in need.



## **KEVIN HENDERSON** | 2001, COMPUTER SCIENCE AND MINOR IN MATH

Mr. Henderson earned his MBA from Wake Forest University and is a Senior Technical Account Manager in the Microsoft Premier Services division. He has been awarded the Circle of Excellence Gold Club Award for outstanding performance which recognizes the top 5% of Microsoft employees within the company globally each year. Mr. Henderson is a member of the National Black MBA Association Charlotte Chapter and serves as the Vice Chair of Blacks at Microsoft North Carolina where he oversees the operations of the North Carolina chapter which includes several community and diversity initiatives related to introducing minority high school and college students to careers in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM).



## **CAPTAIN GENO HERRON** | 2003, NURSING

Currently, Captain Herron is actively engaged in earning his doctorate from the United States Army's Program in Anesthesia Nursing. This program is rated best in the nation by *U.S. News & World Report*. Captain Herron exemplifies the WSSU motto, "Enter to learn. Depart to serve," having completed multiple deployments in support of the Global War on Terrorism. Once he becomes a board certified Nurse Anesthetist he will continue his Army career at a military treatment facility. Captain Herron is the recipient of the Air Medal, the Army Commendation Medal with Four Oak Leaf Clusters, the Afghanistan Campaign Medal with Bronze Star, the Iraqi Campaign Medal with Bronze Star, the Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, the National Defense Service Medal and the Army Service Ribbon.



## **SHONTADRA HILL** | 2007, MANAGEMENT INFORMATION SYSTEMS

Ms. Hill is a Requirements Analyst for the Social Security Administration. She earned her Masters of Information Science concentration in Strategic Information Management from North Carolina Central University, where she graduated magna cum laude. Ms. Hill attributes much of her success by the amazing educators she worked with during her time at WSSU. Ms. Hill serves as troop leader for the Girl Scouts of Central Maryland, flag coach for Woodlawn High Marching Band and the Social Security Administration Combined Federal Campaign (CFC) coordinator. Ms. Hill is a member and the Corresponding Secretary of the WSSU Baltimore Alumni Chapter, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. and World Overcomers Christian Church.



**ORIELLE ELLIS HOPE** | 1997, SOCIOLOGY

Ms. Hope is the Director of Human Resources, Quality Improvement and Training at Top Priority Care Services. She is responsible for directing and implementing human resource and quality improvement functions across site locations, including the oversight of training and development activities. In 2006 Ms. Hope was awarded her M.S. in Human Resources from NC A&T University. She has volunteered with the Winston-Salem Society for Human Resource Management, the Winston-Salem Jaycees, and Goodwill Industries.



**ANTHONY JONES, ESQ.** | 2007, BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION & MINOR IN MATH

Mr. Jones received his law degree from the College of William and Mary School of Law in 2010. He serves as an Associate Counsel at Lowe's Companies, Inc. His primary responsibilities include working with IT/IP Legal Group in maintaining and protecting trademark and copyright portfolios for the company. Since graduating from WSSU his key accomplishments have been: getting married; graduating law school; passing the North Carolina Bar; and gaining employment with a Fortune 50 company. Mr. Jones gives back to his local community by volunteering as a mentor with T.I.M.E. Youth Mentorship Program.



**NIKITA WILLIAMS LINDSAY, MD** | 1996, BIOLOGY

Upon graduation from WSSU Dr. Lindsay enrolled in The Brody School of Medicine at East Carolina University, where she received the Medical Doctorate with honors in 2000. She is a General Pediatrician who performs daily sick and well care for children from birth to 22 years of age. Dr. Lindsay is deeply involved in Haiti Outreach Ministries, where she leads yearly medical mission trips that serve hundreds of people. In 2012 she was honored with the Community Involvement Award by Carolinas Healthcare System. She is an active member of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority Inc., Delta Zeta Chapter in Charlotte, NC and serves as chairperson of the annual Rites of Passage Program providing scholarships and mentorship for middle school young ladies.



**JOSHUA LOCKHART** | 2010, CHEMISTRY

Mr. Lockhart is the Education and Training Liaison for The Bowen Group where he provides information and service to military spouses as a vital part of the Spouse Education and Career Opportunities (SECO) Program, a United States Department of Defense funded program through Military OneSource. One of his proudest accomplishments is serving in leadership positions with the nonprofit Partnership for the Future (PFF). The mission of the board is assist PFF in providing high-potential high school students from challenging circumstances in the metro-Richmond area with tools and experiences necessary to attain a college degree. He is pursuing his Masters of Education degree at the Regent University in Virginia Beach, Virginia and has the ultimate goal of becoming president of a university.



## **BRIAN “B DAHT” MCLAUGHLIN** | 2006, MASS COMMUNICATIONS

Mr. McLaughlin’s main goal in life is entertaining the masses on a daily basis by being a morning radio personality for 102 JAMZ , founding the Freestyle Funny Comedy Show, and serving as the WSSU PA Announcer. The Freestyle Funny Comedy Show is a four-man group that performs a 90-minute comedy show, filled with improv, stand-up comedy, and new sketches. This four-man movement of funny has performed at over 25 colleges, and look forward to their 100-College Tour in 2014.

B DAHT says that he enjoyed his six years at WSSU, but would only contemplate returning for two reasons: to dodge these student loans and to pledge Alpha. On a more serious note, he founded a nonprofit organization called the D.A.H.T Foundation – Daht Attempting to Help Teens—where he travels across the state talking to kids between the ages of 13-19 with the goal of assisting them in making good decisions and creating successful futures.



## **TAJUAN MILLS** | 2006, BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

Mr. Mills works at BB&T as a Wealth Private Advisor responsible for identifying, soliciting, servicing, and delivering a broad range of financial products and services such as retail deposits, asset management deposit accounts, retail credit, mortgage loans, insurance, investments, and comprehensive financial planning for private banking clients.

He earned the BB&T Annual Sterling Award in 2011 and 2012 and was awarded the BB&T Wealth #1 Private Advisor honor. In 2012 the YMCA named him for the Adult Achiever Award. He serves on various boards including the Business Resource Group, Piedmont Triad Regional Council, and the Men at the Lunch Table (MALT) Board. Mr. Mills volunteers with the YMCA Black Achievers, WSSU’s Return to Serve, and the CIAA Student Athlete Forum.



## **DERWIN MONTGOMERY** | 2010, POLITICAL SCIENCE

Pastor Montgomery has made some incredible accomplishments since graduating in 2010. He is the youngest pastor ever for the 95-year-old First Calvary Baptist Church where he leads the spiritual and business operations of the church. He was elected to the Winston-Salem City Council in 2009, making him the youngest city council member in the state. In his role on the City Council he works with community agencies to provide services, recruits business and development to the area, responds to constituent needs.

He is a member of the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. and volunteers with the Power of One Fund, Downtown Winston-Salem Partnership, RiverRun Film Festival, and the Piedmont Triad Film Commission. His aspiration is to continue to serve the city and the state through civic and spiritual engagement.



## **ALECE OXENDINE** | 2008, ENGLISH/ MASS COMMUNICATIONS

Ms. Oxendine is the Outreach and Development Manager at the nonprofit Rooftop Films in Brooklyn, New York where she oversees all marketing efforts and outreach for their summer outdoor film festival. She serves on the film selection committee, the grant selection committee, and oversees the membership program and fundraising drive. She is a juror for the Reel Sisters Film Festival and assists up-and-coming filmmakers with their digital media strategy.

Ms. Oxendine graduated from Columbia University with her graduate thesis work on debunking the myth of authenticity using the Native American image. She has served as a juror and panelist for several film festivals including RiverRun, On My Block, and Reel Sisters. Her ultimate goal is to be an Executive Director of a major film festival.



## **LATOYA PERRY** | 2009, BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

Ms. Perry received her Master of Arts in Elementary Education from George Mason University. She is the Director of Teacher Leadership for Southwest Detroit Lighthouse Academy where she is responsible for managing the teaching staff, providing professional development, observation feedback, and yearly evaluations. The academy serves over 350 children who live in low-income areas and ensures that students receive rigorous arts-infused instruction every day.

Ms. Perry played a key role in creating the curriculum and structure of the school. She is a recipient of the KIPP DC: Promise Academy Excellence in Teaching Award. In the future, Ms. Perry wants to earn her Ph.D. in education leadership and create and open charter schools in high-need areas.



## **DEIDRA ARTIS PHYLL** | 2005, MANAGEMENT INFORMATION SYSTEMS

After earning her BS, Ms. Phyll worked briefly for the Pepsi Bottling Company before beginning her career at the Internal Revenue Service (IRS). She works as an Information Technology Security Specialist Department of Treasury-IRS where she safeguards taxpayer and employee information and assesses security threats and vulnerabilities. She is pursuing her MS in Information Assurance, at Capitol College in Laurel, Maryland. She has performed community service with the WSSU Baltimore Alumni Chapter Recording Secretary, Girl Scouts of America, Beta Gamma Sigma Alumni Chapter, Greater Bethlehem Temple and the Helping Hands Community Project in Baltimore.



## **JAMIE PORTER** | 2009, ELEMENTARY EDUCATION

Ms. Porter graduated from Virginia State University with a Master of Education in Counselor Education. She works in Richmond Public Schools as an Early Reading Intervention Teacher where she provides reading intervention to students in addition to their regular classroom instruction. Ms. Porter also serves as secretary and on the scholarship committee for Richmond Metro Alumni Chapter of WSSU. She volunteers at the GRACE Center Ministry-Fifth Street Baptist Church and Family Refugee Mentor/Tutor-Commonwealth Catholic Charities. Her future aspirations include starting a college access program that exposes students to post-secondary options beginning in middle school; publishing and implementing her grief program with schools and counseling agencies that help children grieve the loss of a loved one; and providing counseling services geared towards working with a diverse population of clients with emphasis on advocacy, diagnosis, and assessment.



## **CARLOS PRIVETTE, DDS** | 1994, MOLECULAR BIOLOGY

Dr. Privette is the owner of Dr. Privette & Associates, PA in Cary, North Carolina, which provides dental care to patients in the Raleigh area. He received his Doctor of Dental Surgery from Meharry Medical College and Masters in Public Administration from Walden University.

His passion of being engaged in the community began while he was at WSSU as he served as the Vice President of the Student Government Association from 1993-1994. He volunteers with Helping Hand Mission and the Food Bank of Raleigh and also mentors three dental school students in North Carolina and Tennessee. Dr. Privette is a member and Basileus of Xi Mu Mu Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. and serves on the Review Committee for the North Carolina Dental Society. In 2012 he was named the Citizen of the Year for the Xi Mu Mu Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc.





## **CHERRELLE SMITH, MD** 2008, CLINICAL LABORATORY SCIENCE

Dr. Smith completed her M.D. program at Meharry Medical College in Nashville, Tennessee in 2012. She is now a Resident Physician at North Carolina Children's Hospital in Chapel Hill where she is in her second year of her pediatric residency program. She is also receiving training as a ward physician at Moses Cone Hospital in Greensboro and Wake Med in Raleigh.

In addition to volunteering at pediatric health fairs in elementary schools, coaching cheerleading competition teams, and helping with backpacks for kids' efforts Dr. Smith works following organizations to ensure the health and welfare of children and adults in the region: Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, March of Dimes, Ronald McDonald House, American Cancer Society, Habitat for Humanity, Piedmont Health Services and Sickle Cell Agency Volunteer, Children's Museum of Winston-Salem.



## **ROBERT STEPHENS** 2008, POLITICAL SCIENCE

Mr. Stephens is the Manager of Community Partnerships for Teach for America in Dallas, where he manages the relationships between organizations and Teach for America in Dallas and Fort Worth, Texas. This includes nurturing existing relationships and creating initial connections with individuals and organizations.

He earned his Masters of Public Policy at George Mason University. His volunteer service includes serving as a mentor for Teach for America in Washington, DC as well as working with Freestyle Youth Center, and Metro Teen AIDS Washington, DC. Mr. Stephens plans to remain in the education reform movement and transition to public service with the ultimate goal of serving the people of North Carolina with honor and integrity.



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## **TOMMY J. TYSON** 1996, ELEMENTARY EDUCATION

Mr. Tyson is an Educator and New Teacher Mentor. After earning his B.S. he went on to Appalachian State University where he received his Masters in Educational and Media Technology in 2002 and his Ed.S. in Higher Education Administration in 2006.

Mr. Tyson engages in community service projects within Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc. and the March of Dimes, and has mentored African-American boys through the "Champion Boys Program" in Atlanta. Mr. Tyson has earned numerous honors including the Phi Beta Sigma Education Award, C.E. Gaines Hall of Fame, *Triad Business Journal* 40 under 40, Teacher of the Year, and Kappa Delta Pi Honor Society. He is working on his doctorate in Educational Leadership from North Central University in Prescott, Arizona.



## **CORINE WARREN** 1995, ELEMENTARY EDUCATION

Ms. Warren earned her Master of Library Science from NC Central University. She is an Executive Intern with the Sandhills Leadership Academy where she serves as a Principal Intern at Brentwood Elementary School in Fayetteville, North Carolina. The Sandhills Leadership Academy focuses on developing its interns work as principals in K-12 turnaround schools. She aspires to attain an executive position in a high-needs school and to earn her Doctorate in Education Supervision. Ms. Warren has won the J. W. Coon Elementary School Teacher of the Year, 2010 Miss Alumni WSSU, and the Cumberland County Schools Media Coordinator of the Year. In her free time she tutors, coaches softball, and raises scholarship dollars for deserving students.



## **DARRYLL WILLIAMS, D.C.** | 2004, MOLECULAR BIOLOGY

Dr. Williams earned his Doctorate of Chiropractic at the Sherman College of Chiropractic and is now a chiropractic physician at The Joint...the chiropractic place. He is also the President of NC Chiropractic, P.C., a company that manages all of the doctors that work out of The Joint.

Dr. Williams' mission is to bring affordable chiropractic care to the masses. After living in South Carolina, he is thrilled that his job at The Joint in Greensboro has brought him closer to WSSU because he wants to improve the lives of all involved at his alma mater. In his free time Dr. Williams coaches and referees Little League Football.



## **MATARYUN "MO" WRIGHT** | 2001, POLITICAL SCIENCE

Mr. Wright is currently President and Founder of the RAMA Companies and its subsidiaries, RAMA Consulting Group, The Linden Café, and Milan Development, LLC. He serves as the Chief Executive Officer at RAMA and leads its efforts in client prospecting, operations and client relations. He earned his Masters of Public Administration with a focus on organizational and workforce development at The Ohio State University.

Mr. Wright gives back to the community through numerous organizations including the National Black College Alumni Hall of Fame Foundation (Atlanta, GA), National Forum for Black Public Administrators, Columbus Urban League, Columbus Metropolitan Club, Huntington National Bank Business Advisory Committee, United Way of Central Ohio, WSSU National Alumni Association, and Trinity Baptist Church.

## **ALEXIS HUTCHINSON** | 2007, SPORTS MANAGEMENT

Ms. Hutchinson is the Assistant to the Commissioner of the NCAA, Jacqie Carpenter, who is the first African-American female commissioner in the history of the NCAA. Ms. Hutchinson assists Commissioner Carpenter with the Board of Directors, sponsors, and managing sixteen conference championships and events. Her success is no surprise since she has been involved in athletics ever since she set foot on the WSSU campus in 2003. Upon arriving she became the Sports Information Student Assistant, Assistant Athletic Director for Media Relations where she helped with media guides, post-game interviews, game stories, and statistics. She also provided support to the Associate Athletics Director with events management. Her leadership, dedication, and passion for intercollegiate athletics make her a shining example to other women in the field.

## **RENEE TISDALE** | 2009, POLITICAL SCIENCE

Since graduation Ms. Tisdale has served as a Human Resources Professional for Marriott International and a Talent Acquisition Specialist for Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools. She is devoted to WSSU and to letting people know that some of the most talented graduates in the world come from HBCUs. Ms. Tisdale is a go-getter who made her way into the corporate world with her Masters in Political Science and has become an Executive Manager within four years of graduating. She is devoted to giving back to her community and has spent over 5,000 working with African Americans and Latinos about how to break into the job market. She is currently pursuing her MBA and has won several awards for her outstanding recruiting efforts for the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools.

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