

Tiffany McMichael looks through the lens of a camera on a soundstage at NCSA.

NCSA student wins lofty honor for screenwriting

BY COURTNEY GAILLARD
THE CHRONICLE

Tiffany McMichael has always loved movies. Her dream of becoming a screenwriter led her to the N.C. School of the Arts, where she recently won a \$9,000 Grand Fellowship for her screenplay "Noise" from the PRISM Generation Next program.

"It's cool. I enjoy it. The money is really nice, but I was really surprised," said McMichael, who is originally from Spartanburg, S.C. She is a senior studying cinematography in the School of Film-making at the NCSA. She plans to use the money for graduate school and a trip to Europe.

McMichael's script, which dealt with two sisters forced to connect during their mother's alcohol rehabilitation, was chosen out of 14 entries. Taniya Hossain, a student at New York University,

received the \$4,000 prize for her television script.

"I used to work at a juvenile alcohol rehabilitation center, so I kind of built upon my experiences there," said McMichael, who considers David Lynch, who directed "Mulholland Drive" and TV series "Twin Peaks," to be one of her favorite filmmakers.

The PRISM Generation Next program encourages college-level film and television students to depict the nature of addiction through creative works. The program is an extension of the Entertainment Industry Council Inc. - a nonprofit organization founded by the entertainment industry - which focuses on health and social issues. Eleven schools from around the country competed in this year's PRISM program.

McMichael isn't discouraged by the very few black female screenwriters who exist in the industry today.

She said her goal is to make films that will generate emotion in viewers.

"You get pressure being two types of a minority. I don't necessarily want to make a black film or a female film or a Christian film because I'm a Christian. I want to make a movie for an audience," said McMichael.

She characterized her writing style as dramatic, so don't look for her to write any comedies in the future.

"I just want to make movies that make people go out and see them and want to live in those worlds for two hours," said McMichael, who will graduate in May and is planning on pursuing a master's degree in Australia.

The award-winning screenplay is already in need of a rewrite, said McMichael, who still doesn't consider it to be a perfect script - even though it was good enough for some industry pros.

News Clips

Compiled from staff wire and submitted reports

Police chief announces promotions

Chief Linda Davis of the Winston-Salem Police Department announced the promotion of eight employees effective Dec. 8 and 9.

- Lt. David C. Clayton was promoted to captain.
- Sgt. David J. Perry and Sgt. Bryan S. Blakley were promoted to sergeant.
- Cpl. Douglas A. Nance and Cpl. Kenneth W. Bishop were promoted to sergeant.
- Vickie L. Myers was promoted to identification director.
- Chad C. Higgins was promoted to senior public safety communications operator.
- Jackie L. Linville was promoted to senior administrative assistant.

The promotional ceremony was held Dec. 4 at the Public Safety Center Auditorium, 725 N. Cherry Street.

N.C.'s DNA database expands

North Carolina increased its ability to use DNA evidence to catch criminals beginning Dec. 1, Attorney General Roy Cooper said. A new law mandating DNA profiles from all felons and some misdemeanor offenders went into effect. Those profiles will be added to the state's existing DNA database, giving investigators better chances of catching repeat offenders.

Cooper, who pushed the General Assembly to make North Carolina the 29th state to include all felons in its DNA database, also has joined with the N.C. Sheriff's Association to make sure law enforcement officers are ready to take the new samples. November training sessions in Smithfield and Morganton included 62 sheriffs and more than 200 sheriffs' officials.

"This DNA evidence will help us crack more cases and stop repeat offenders," said Cooper. "The expanded database will improve our ability to catch and convict criminals, especially in cases without a suspect."

Samples taken from offenders are submitted to the State Bureau of Investigation, which operates the state's DNA database. The SBI will process the submissions and add the DNA profiles to the approximately 40,000 that are currently in the database. Prison officials are expected to take 30,000 samples and local authorities another 10,000 in the first year under the new law, which would double the size of the database.

At Cooper's request, state lawmakers provided more experts for the SBI lab to analyze DNA evidence. Five agents will be added to handle analysis of samples from the new law, and another six new analysts will work to analyze rape kits and other untested evidence collected by local law enforcement across the state.

Denise Franklin named assistant manager at WFDD

Denise Franklin, news director of 88.5 WFDD, has been given additional duties of assistant station manager.

Station manager Jay Banks announced. Franklin's duties will supplement those of the station manager in the areas of membership marketing, programming, research and implementation, among other special projects. She will continue as news director.

Franklin joined 88.5 WFDD as an interim host in early 1999. She returned to the station in 2001 as senior news host and editor, responsible for the operation of the news department before being named news director in 2002. She



Franklin

founded and hosts "Voices and Viewpoints," an area program featuring Piedmont Triad people, often less publicly known, who are accomplishing significant achievements nationally and internationally.

"Denise Franklin is a highly capable leader and has worked hard to improve our news coverage and staffing, in addition to playing a key role regarding many managerial matters at the station," Banks said. "As 88.5 WFDD faces a more complex and competitive public radio marketplace, Denise's energy and focus will help our staff position the station for ongoing success."

Franklin is a graduate of Wichita State University and has worked in broadcast journalism for more than 20 years.

School of Education to offer study skills clinics

Four study skills clinics for middle school students and their parents will be offered in February and March by the School of Education at The University of North Carolina at Greensboro.

The sessions will run from 7-8:30 p.m. on the following Mondays:

- Feb. 2 - for parents only.
- Feb. 23 - for parents and students.
- March 1 - for students only.
- March 15 - for parents only.

The cost is \$35 per person per session except for the Feb. 23 session when the \$35 fee admits both a parent and a student.

The clinic will cover organizational skills, test taking, note taking, written language strategies, reading comprehension, SQ3R Study Skills Method, time management and prompt writing. In addition, time will be spent on various strategies related to the required eighth-grade N.C. competency test.

To register, contact Melinda Ryan in the school's Center for Educational Studies and Development. Call (336) 334-3400 or e-mail mjtrost@uncg.edu.

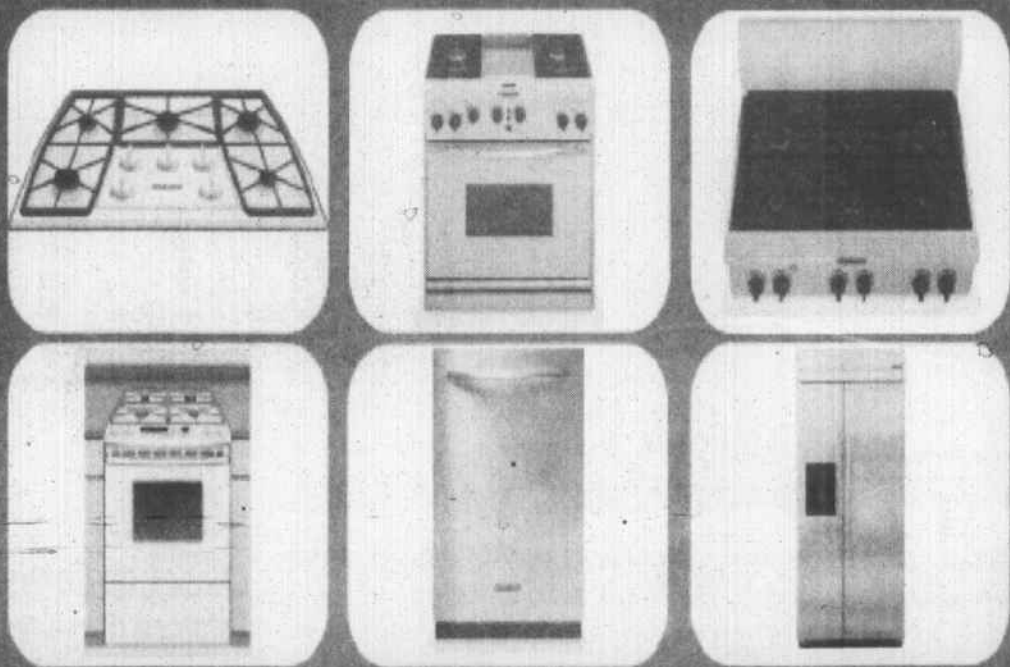
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