

ARTS & LIFESTYLE

Of Interest ...

Mertz earns IB award

Dr. Margaret Stover Mertz, executive director of the Thomas S. Kenan Institute for the Arts, has earned an award from the International Baccalaureate honoring her exemplary service to the organization.

The International Baccalaureate (IB), which is headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland, offers high quality programs of international education to a worldwide community of schools. IB's three programs for students aged 3 to 19 help develop the intellectual, personal, emotional and social skills to live, learn and work in a rapidly globalizing world. There are more than 616,000 IB students at 2,316 schools in 127 countries.

Mertz was honored at the 40th annual meeting of the Board of Governors for the International Baccalaureate in Atlanta. Mertz was the IB's Chief Examiner for music from 1995 through 2000, and the Group 6 representative at the Diploma Review Committee 2000-2005. In 2004, she became Vice-chair of the Examining Board, and was simultaneously a member of the global Professional Development Committee and the IB North America Professional Development Committee.

Mertz began her involvement with IB in 1991 when she accepted a job of instructor in music at the Armand Hammer United World College of the American West in 1991. She eventually assumed the responsibility of setting assessment standards worldwide and taking on a leadership role in developing curriculum. The Thomas S. Kenan Institute for the Arts builds partnerships to support creative projects, many of which are associated with the North Carolina School of the Arts.

Auditions to be held for Anderson's "Remus"

The Flonnie Anderson Theatrical Association (FATA) is inviting local actors and actresses interested in performing in the original musical comedy "Remus" to attend auditions on Saturday, May 31 from 11 a.m. - 2 p.m. at Wentz Memorial United Church of Christ, 3435 Carver School Rd.



Anderson

Written and directed by Anderson, the musical fable is based on the famed "Uncle Remus Tales" by Joel Chandler Harris.

The tales are taken from African folktales brought to the New World by slaves, who primarily settled in the Southeastern United States.

"I am looking for the young and young at heart to help bring this show to life once again," said Anderson. "It's a fun show with a series of serious messages that the young and the not so young can relate to."

Those interested in auditioning for a role in the musical are asked to bring their theatrical biography, to prepare a song, and to be prepared to read a part from the musical upon request. The cast will be comprised of male and female actors and actresses ranging in age from 12 to 65.

For more information about the audition or to schedule an audition time slot, call 336-776-8046.

Janet Jackson announces tour

NEW YORK (AP) — Though going out on tour means connecting with fans, it can also mean long hours, high stress, and sleepless nights. Janet Jackson says she's looking forward to all of it.

"I love all of that, all of that pressure, I really do," Jackson told The Associated Press on Monday as she gears up for a North American tour to kick off in September.

The tour, which opens in Vancouver, British Columbia on September 10 and includes dates in New York and Washington, is Jackson's first in seven years. But the singer, who just turned 42 last week, said she hadn't planned on waiting for so long.

"I was supposed to go on tour with the last album," said Jackson, referring to the 2006 CD "20 Y.O." But the singer said her record label wanted her to wait for her latest CD, "Discipline."

Jackson's shows have always been heavy on choreography and glitzy sets. But she promised fans some surprises this time around.

While only a few dates have been announced for the Live Nation tour, Jackson expects to take the "Rock Witchu" tour (named, by the way, for a song on her new album, not for her brother Michael's famous hit) worldwide. Tickets go on sale June 7.

Hudson to launch album in fall

LOS ANGELES (Reuters) — Oscar-winning "American Idol" castoff Jennifer Hudson plans to release her self-titled debut album in September, with the first single, "Spotlight," hitting U.S. radio outlets in June, her label said on Monday.

"Spotlight," described as a song about insecurities within a relationship, was composed by R&B songwriter and vocalist Ne-Yo, who co-produced along with the Norwegian production duo known as Stargate.

Additional contributors on the album include Timbaland, Robin Thicke, the Underdogs, Diane Warren and Christopher "Tricky" Stewart.

Hudson's debut is being released through the SonyBMG label Arista Records, with "Spotlight" hitting the airwaves on June 9. The song will be made available for digital download the following day.

She next appears in the upcoming film adaptation of the HBO TV series "Sex in the City" and on its soundtrack, due May 27, as well as "The Secret Life of Bees," which hits U.S. theaters on October 17.

NCSA alum Tazewell, others earn Tony nods

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

North Carolina School of the Arts alumnus Paul Tazewell, who studied in the School of Design and Production, has been nominated for another Tony Award.

Tazewell, who received a Bachelor of Fine Arts from NCSA in 1986, was nominated for Best Costume Design of a Musical for "In the Heights," which received a total of 13 nominations including Best Musical. Tazewell has been nominated for a Tony twice before: for "The Color Purple" in 2006 and for "Bring in 'Da Noise, Bring in 'Da Funk" in 1996.

The Tony nominations were announced last week and will be presented live on CBS on Sunday, June 15.

Many NCSA alumni are associated with nominated shows this year. They include:

- Ryan O'Gara, is associate lighting designer for "In the Heights," which was nominated for 13 awards, including Best Lighting Design of a Musical (Winston-Salem native Howell Binkley, an ECU alumnus, was nominated as lighting designer). O'Gara is also associate lighting designer for Tony nominated shows "Cry-Baby," "Gypsy" and "Xanadu."

- Karole Armitage was the choreographer for "Passing Strange," which was nominated for seven awards, including Best Musical.

- Rebecca Naomi Jones plays Sherry/Renata/Desi in "Passing



Paul Tazewell sits near one of his designs.



Actress Rebecca Naomi Jones

Strange," which was nominated for seven awards, including Best

Musical. • Isaac Klein is the assistant director of "Gypsy," which is nominated for seven awards including Best Direction of a Musical. The director is Arthur Laurents, who holds an honorary doctorate from NCSA.

• Jennifer Ferrin stars as Annabella Schmidt/Pamela/Margaret in "The 39 Steps," which was nominated for six awards including Best Play.

• Grady Bowman is the assistant dance captain, as well as swing and understudy, on the revival of "South Pacific," which was nominated for 11 awards including Best Revival of a Musical and Best Choreography.

• Brandon Kahn was a production assistant on "South Pacific," which was nominated for 11

See Tonys on A11

WFU librarian wins award

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

Susan Sharpless Smith, head of information technology at Wake Forest University's Z. Smith Reynolds Library, has been selected by the Association of College and Research Libraries (ACRL) to receive its 2008 Instruction Section (IS) Innovation Award.

The award annually recognizes a project that demonstrates creative, innovative or unique approaches to information literacy instruction or programming.

Smith will receive a \$3,000 cash prize and commemorative plaque June 29 during the American Library Association's annual conference in Anaheim, Calif.

Smith was chosen for her participation as an "embedded librarian" in a sociology course called "Social Stratification in the Deep South." The 2007 summer course included a two-week bus tour from North Carolina through South Carolina, Georgia, Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana and Tennessee to examine first-hand the race, class and gender issues that have long divided the region.

Smith helped students create online blogs, upload photographs and maintain an interactive course Web site throughout the trip. "This library-academic partnership project demonstrates how librarians can make a positive and dramatic impact on a program," said Susan Beck, IS awards committee chair and collection development coordinator at the New Mexico State University Library. "The embedded instruction program from Wake Forest University serves as a model for true collaboration between librarians and faculty."

Earl Smith, Rubin Professor of American Ethnic Studies and professor of sociology, and Angela Hattery, associate professor of sociology, had taught the course twice before and noted the pronounced difference made by Smith's presence as an embedded librarian.

"The course was 10 times better with the technological input from Susan," Hattery said. "She was able to design technology that allowed us to implement course goals that

See Smith on A11

File Photo

IT AIN'T OVER 'TIL JESSYE SPEAKS



UNC Photo

UNC Chapel Hill Chancellor James Moeser congratulates Jessye Norman on her honorary doctorate. The opera legend also served as the speaker for Carolina's May commencement. The outdoor ceremony was cut short due to rain, but not before Norman told a crowd of 15,000 to "resolve to become acquainted with the teachings of your heart, your soul's music. And imagine, if you will, the harmony this could bring to our world."

Jones receives honorary degree

BY CHERYL WITTENAUER THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

ST. LOUIS — Music impresario and long-time humanitarian Quincy Jones added another title last Friday to his long resume.

The composer, arranger and conductor was awarded a doctorate of humane letters from Washington University. He was nominated by African American Studies Professor Gerald Early, who wrote the liner notes to Jones' 2001 retrospective boxed set, "Q: The Musical Biography of Quincy Jones."

Jones patted his heart, raised his fist to the sky, and blew kisses to the audience in thanks for their wild applause and a standing ovation.

The 27-time Grammy Award winner composed scores for 35 films and produced the best-selling album of all time, Michael Jackson's "Thriller." He told The Associated Press after Friday's ceremony, "you just try to do your best."



Early

"I've just turned 75 and I feel like I'm just beginning."

He said in an interview he's working to produce three albums and score nine films, including one in Brazil. But he said his "No. 1 project" is a children's relief effort in Cambodia through his foundation.

"Every kid in the world has the right to eat, the right to an education," Jones said, bemoaning the millions whose right is not fulfilled.

"I have seven children of my own. I really care."

He said he also will remain, along with Oscar-winning director Ang Lee, as an artistic adviser to the Beijing Olympics. Steven Spielberg abandoned the post in February in protest of China's role in the Darfur conflict.

"I'm not a finger pointer," Jones said, but added he's doing his part to apply pressure on China. He wants the country to reassess its policy in Darfur and do more to stop global climate change.



Music legend Quincy Jones.

File Photo