

ARTS & LIFESTYLE

Of Interest ...

Governor clears NCSA change

On Aug. 8, Gov. Mike Easley signed into law the bill that changes "North Carolina School of the Arts" to "The University of North Carolina School of the Arts."

The name change was sent to the governor for his signature in July, after it won approval by the N.C. General Assembly. On July 9, the bill (Senate Bill 2015) passed in the House by the overwhelming margin of 115 to 1. The bill had already passed unanimously in the Senate, on June 24.

"This is a great and historic moment for our School," said North Carolina School of the Arts Chancellor John Mauceri, who recently celebrated his second anniversary at the School. "While the School's leadership had unanimously supported (and indeed, suggested) the name, the U is the tip of the iceberg."

The University of North Carolina School of the Arts is the first state-supported, residential school of its kind in the nation. Established as the North Carolina School of the Arts by the N.C. General Assembly in 1963, UNCSA opened in Winston-Salem ("The City of the Arts") in 1965 and became part of the University of North Carolina system in 1972.

"It is emblematic, in every sense, of a larger and, for us, deeply important shift in the attitude of our university and state leaders toward the School of the Arts," Chancellor Mauceri continued.

Folks tuning in to WXII

During the July ratings period, WXII 12 became the highest rated midsize NBC affiliate in the nation. The station has frequently ranked near the top in the category, but last month it reached the top.

"This is a big achievement for the entire WXII 12 team and a great stepping stone as we enter into what could be one of the most watched Olympic games in recent history," said WXII 12 General Manager Hank Price.

The station announced that in local ratings race, it is continuing to grow. Viewership was up for the 6 a.m. and 6 p.m. newscasts, while the 5 p.m. newscast is the Triad leader for the time period. The station's weekend morning news' ratings have grown 29 percent from July 2007.

Contest will earn winner opera tickets and much more

Visit Winston-Salem will be promoting a contest that will earn a lucky winner a weekend for two will include accommodations, tickets to opening night of "The Light in the Piazza" and gala tickets, admission to the Sloan exhibit at the Reynolda House Museum of American Art, admission to an Italian car show at the museum and dining certificates for local Winston-Salem restaurants.

The sweepstakes is a promotions for "The Light in the Piazza," a Tony-winning opera that will be staged at the Stevens Center on Oct. 10, 12 and 14. The opera is set in 1953 and centers around Margaret Johnson, and her daughter Clara, the family of a tobacco executive in Winston-Salem. Clara and Margaret leave their native Winston-Salem for a trip to the Italian countryside and shortly after arriving, Clara sparks an immediate romance with a local Italian. The opera will charm its audience into a memorable evening filled with romance.

To enter to win "The Light in the Piazza" sweepstakes, go to www.visitwinstonsalem.com through Sept. 15. Winners will be announced Sept. 26.

A&T Lunch and Literature

Back by popular demand, North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University will host its Lunch and Literature, Wednesday, Aug. 27 at 12:30 p.m. at F.D. Bluford Library - seminar room, 256-258.

By request, this year's selection will be a non-fiction work entitled, "The Tipping Point: How Little Things Can Make a Big Difference" by Malcolm Gladwell.

On The New York Times bestsellers list for over 150 weeks, Gladwell puts an interesting twist on the simple notions of cause and effect. He explores the question: fads and epidemics, what do they have in common? And the potentially massive implications of small-scale social events.

Attendees should bring their brown bag lunch and enjoy an afternoon of lively discussion. Also, check out the Lunch and Literature BLOG at <http://lunchandliterature.blogspot.com/>. For additional information, call 336-285-4180.

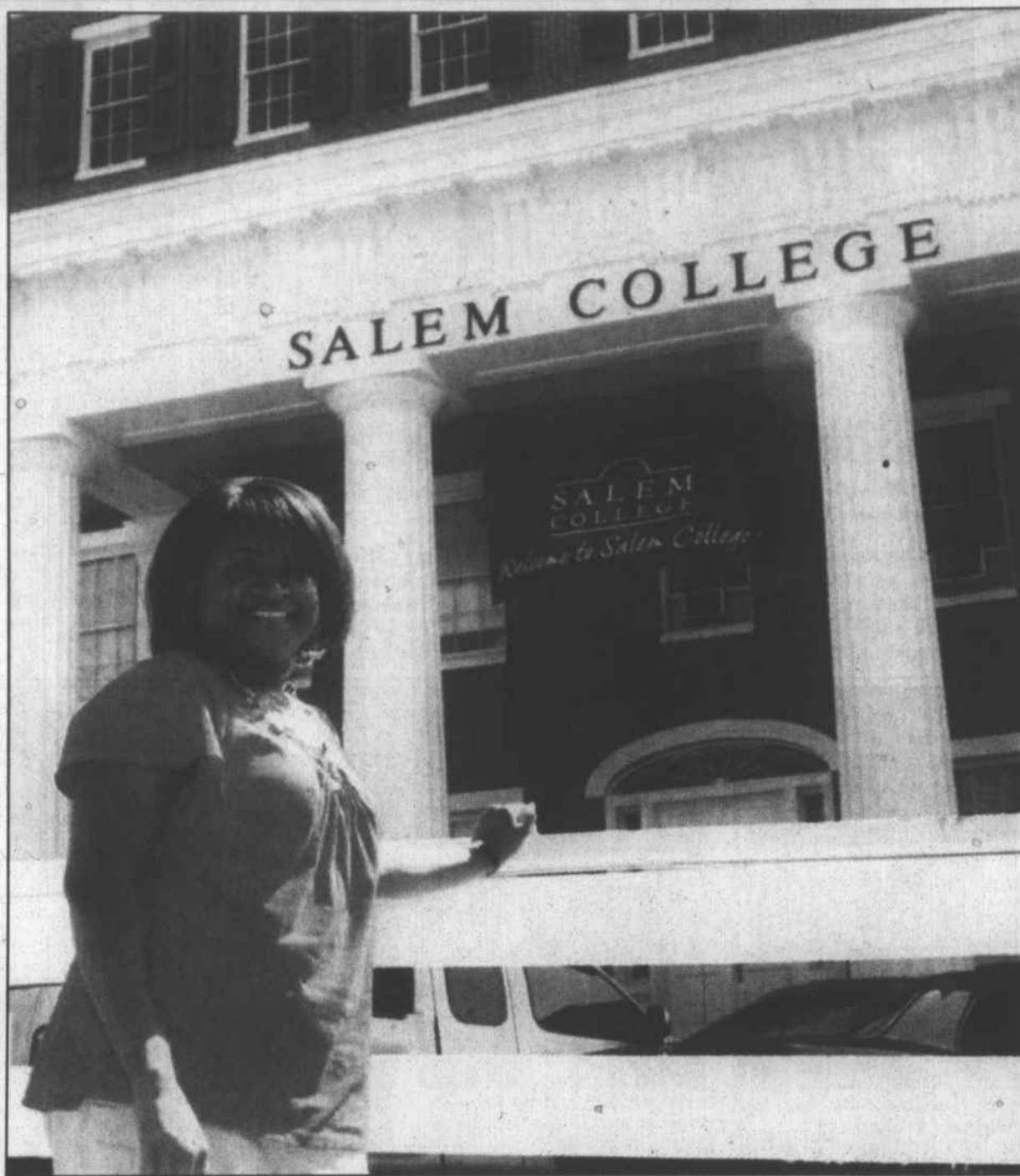
Reefer Madness auditions

The Winston-Salem Theatre Alliance will hold auditions for the campy, cult classic, "Reefer Madness: The Musical," at its scene shop, 1011 Northwest Blvd., on Saturday, Aug. 23 from 10 a.m. - Noon.

Those trying out for parts are asked to bring a prepared song; an accompanist will be provided. Auditionees will learn a short movement combination. Rehearsals will begin Monday, Aug. 25.

Performances are October 17-19, 23-26, and 30 and Nov. 2. Call 336-274-0350 for more information. "Reefer Madness: The Musical" will be directed by Jamie Lawson, with music Direction by Travis Horton and choreography by Mary Barnhardt, Sarah Barnhardt, Emily Snow, and Jamie Lawson. Roles are available for seven men and eight women.

"Reefer Madness: The Musical," is inspired by the 1936 movie of the same title.



Sydney Davis stands on the picturesque Salem campus.

Photo by Jason Pitt

Expanded role for Davis

Salem English department will add A&T graduate

CHRONICLE STAFF REPORT

Sydney Davis will be spending time in front of a Salem College classroom this fall.

The city native has joined the school's English Department. Salem College Dean Ann McElaney-Johnson announced Davis' expanded duties at the school last week.

Davis joined the Salem staff last year when she was hired as director of the campus writing center. She will continue to lead the center - which provides tutors, workshops and other services for Salem students - when she begins teaching.

Davis comes well prepared for her new duties.

She earned a bachelor's degree in political science and a master's in English and African-American literature from N.C. A&T State University. She taught English composition, humanities, African-American literature and film and culture at her alma mater from 2004 until she arrived at Salem last year. Davis has also lectured on argument-based research at Guilford Technical Community College.

A member of the National Council of Teachers of English and the National Student Affairs Administrators in Higher Education, Davis is currently pursuing her doctorate in educational leadership and cultural studies from UNC - Greensboro. She is slated to graduate in 2010.

Vixen, Grammy winner will be at Charlotte festival

CHRONICLE STAFF REPORT

The list of authorities and celebrities slated to be on hand for the upcoming Charlotte Literary Festival keeps on growing and growing.

The annual festival will take place Sept. 6 at the Charlotte Convention Center. The event regularly attracts thousands of fans. That number may grow this year as a result of the growing guest list.

Susan L. Taylor of Essence magazine will be there. Taylor is also an author, business-owner and motivational speaker.

Charlotte resident Omar Tyree - whose bestsellers include "Flyy Girl," "Boss Lady," "A Do Right Man" and his latest, "The Last Street Novel" - has also been confirmed.

Taylor, Tyree and all of the featured festival guests will lead discussions and hold book signings.

Known as both famous and infamous, Karrine Steffans, a former music video actress who penned a popular book about her sexual liaisons with some of Hollywood's biggest stars, will attend the festival. Since her memoir,

See Festival on A11

Exhibit allows visitors to step into AIDS tragedy

CHRONICLE STAFF REPORT

Greensboro's Westover Church is gearing up to host a unique educational exhibit designed to show visitors the devastation of the AIDS pandemic as experienced by the children.

From Sept. 4 - 8, the church will be home to "World Vision Experience: AIDS - Step Into Africa," a multimedia, interactive exhibit that illustrates AIDS' ugliness.

World Vision, a Christian relief and development organization, first launched the exhibit in 2005. Since then, it has been staged around the nation and beyond. A prototype of the show was featured at the 2006 Global AIDS Conference in Toronto and



One of the rooms in the "Step Into Africa" exhibit.

World Vision Image

in New York's Grand Central terminal. Exhibit visitors actually walk

through a 2,340 square foot replica of an African village and experience the effects of the AIDS

WSYAI members to take part in Open Mic

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

Members of the Winston-Salem Youth Arts Institute (WSYAI) will perform original works at the Winston-Salem Writers' Open Mic Night on Tuesday, Aug. 19 at 7 p.m. at Billy Bob's Silver Diner, 1650 Hanes Mall Blvd. Open Mic Night gives area writers the opportunity to read

their work before a live audience.

The goal of WSYAI, co-founded by Nathan

Freeman

Ross Freeman, is to develop young authors who publish, stage and film their experiences. Freeman, a Winston-Salem Writers member, is a director and script writer who teaches playwriting and acting. WSYAI brings professional artists together with youth seeking franchise and non-violence in an at-risk and violent world.

The appearance of WSYAI writers at Open Mic has generated a lot of interest within Winston-Salem Writers mainly because it will help broaden the base of its participants and encourage writing from young authors.

The WSYAI group will perform under the direction of Freeman, Caesar Weston and Lynn Rhoades.

Winston-Salem Writers, founded in 2005, is one of the fastest growing writer organizations in North Carolina. Admission is free to Open Mic Night.

Those interested in the event, can call 336-354-6190 or email info@waswriters.org.

SOMETHING FISHY



Photo by David Joy/Winston-Salem Theatre Alliance

Gray Smith and Tim Swift (left) are ready to bring laughter to local audiences again. The pair will star in "Greater Tuna" at SECCA Aug. 15 - 17 and Aug. 21 - 24. The comedy is a prequel to last year's Winston-Salem Theatre Alliance hit, "Tuna Christmas." The comedy focuses on a typical day at Tuna, Texas radio station, OKKK. Tickets are \$14 for adults and \$12 for seniors/students, and group rates are available. Reserve tickets by calling 336-768-5655.

pandemic in a real way. Visitors are given a headset to listen to a personal audio track relating the story of one of four real children.

To date, more than 105,000 people have visited the exhibit. The Greensboro stop is part of an 80-city national tour, which is expected to draw 200,000.

The exhibit is free and open to the public. It will be available at Westover Church from 1 - 7 p.m. on Sept. 4; 10 a.m. - 8 p.m. on Sept. 5; 11 a.m. - 6 p.m. on Sept. 6; 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. on Sept. 7; and 10 a.m. - 8 p.m. on the final day, Monday, Sept. 8. Westover Church is located at 505 Muirs Chapel Road in Greensboro.

For more information, call 336-299-7374.