

ARTS & LIFESTYLE

Of Interest ...

Fred Chappell releases new book of poetry

Fred Chappell, former N.C. Poet Laureate and professor emeritus of English at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro, has released his latest poetry collection, "Shadow Box," through the Louisiana State University Press.

Chappell, born in Canton, N.C., taught at UNCG from 1964-2004. He has won numerous writing awards, including the Bollingen Prize in Poetry, the Aiken Taylor Award, the T.S. Eliot Prize and the Roanoke-Chowan Award for Poetry.

Chappell's wife of 50 years, Susan Nicholls Chappell, will join him to read from "Shadow Box" as part of UNCG's Founders Day celebration Monday, Oct. 5. The reading begins at 4 p.m. in the Faculty Center on College Avenue.

The reading, free and open to the public, is sponsored by the UNCG Center for Creative Writing in the Arts. A book signing and reception will follow.

Despite strict dress code, Beyonce will perform in Malaysia

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia (AP) – Beyonce Knowles says she will perform in Malaysia in October, two years after canceling a show in this Muslim-majority country after protesters threatened to disrupt the concert because of her sexy image and clothing.

The R&B superstar's upcoming show is already drawing the ire of conservatives in this country, where female performers are required to cover up from the shoulders to knees with no cleavage showing.

Knowles said on her Web site that she will take the stage at a stadium in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia's biggest city, on Oct. 25. "Beyonce, for the first time ever has decided to make Malaysia part of her 'I am.' World Tour," her Web site said.

Knowles canceled a planned concert two years ago, following protest threats by Malaysia's opposition Islamic party. At the time, her talent agency said the show was called off due to a scheduling conflict.

Instead, she went to Indonesia, which has less stringent rules about how performers should dress and behave.

Sabki Yusof, youth vice head of the Pan-Malaysian Islamic Party, said Sunday that they would send a protest note to the government over the concert. He said it was the government's "responsibility to protect the people of Malaysia" from what he described as immoral Western influences.

Artists such as Avril Lavigne and Gwen Stefani have performed in Malaysia under similar protest threats by conservative Muslims, forcing the artists to don attire that revealed little skin.

Michelle Obama makes style list

LOS ANGELES (Reuters) – British actress Kate Winslet lead the pack of People magazine's 10 best-dressed women of 2009, with U.S. first lady Michelle Obama chosen for "best accessible glamour."

Although the list does not have numerical ranking, Winslet, 33, who won an Oscar in February for playing a dour Nazi in "The Reader," was deemed to be the best-dressed woman on the red carpet on 2009 "with her unique brand of sexy sophistication, modern Hollywood glamour and those enviable curves."

People named Reese Witherspoon as having the "best short dresses," "High School Musical" actress Vanessa Hudgens as best hippie chic, and Freida Pinto, the Indian star of Oscar-winning movie "Slumdog Millionaire," for having the best use of color.

Brad Pitt, "Twilight" actor Robert Pattinson, and Bradley Cooper of "The Hangover" and "Nip/Tuck" fame were among the best-dressed men of the year. People said their attention to details like a scarf, pin or skinny tie "took their looks beyond basic."

Winfrey/Perry film takes top honor at Toronto Film Fest

TORONTO (Reuters) – "Precious," a film based on the novel "Push" by Sapphire, won the top award at the Toronto International Film Festival Saturday, giving the Oprah Winfrey/Tyler Perry-produced film some early momentum heading into Oscar awards season.

The film, a gritty tale of the abuse and redemption of a teenage girl in Harlem, captured the festival's People's Choice award, which is voted on by filmgoers. Last year it went to best picture Oscar winner "Slumdog Millionaire."

Critics have roundly praised "Precious" since its debut at the Sundance Film Festival in January, and audiences in Toronto warmly received the film, which is directed by Lee Daniels and will hit theaters in November.

"I made this film for every person out there who ever looked in the mirror and felt unsure about the person looking back," Daniels, who is traveling in Spain, said in a statement read out at an awards reception in Toronto.

In addition to "Slumdog Millionaire," past winners of the award that have gone on to win the best picture Oscar include "American Beauty" and "Chariots of Fire."

WFU to launch documentary program

CHRONICLE STAFF REPORT

One of the nation's top 10 documentary film programs is moving to Wake Forest University.

Formerly based at the University of Florida, the Documentary Institute is following Sandra Dickson, who joined the Wake Forest faculty this summer. Dickson, a nationally-known documentary filmmaker and educator, has co-directed The Documentary Institute for 12 years. She will now co-direct Wake Forest's new undergraduate and graduate Documentary Film Program with Mary Dalton, an associate professor of communication.

Dickson has served as writer and co-director of eight television documentaries, five of which aired nationally on PBS. She and her co-directors won the 2006 Erik Barnouw Award for her film "Negroes with Guns: Rob Williams and Black Power." The esteemed Barnouw Award has also gone to notables such as Ken Burns and Bill Moyers.

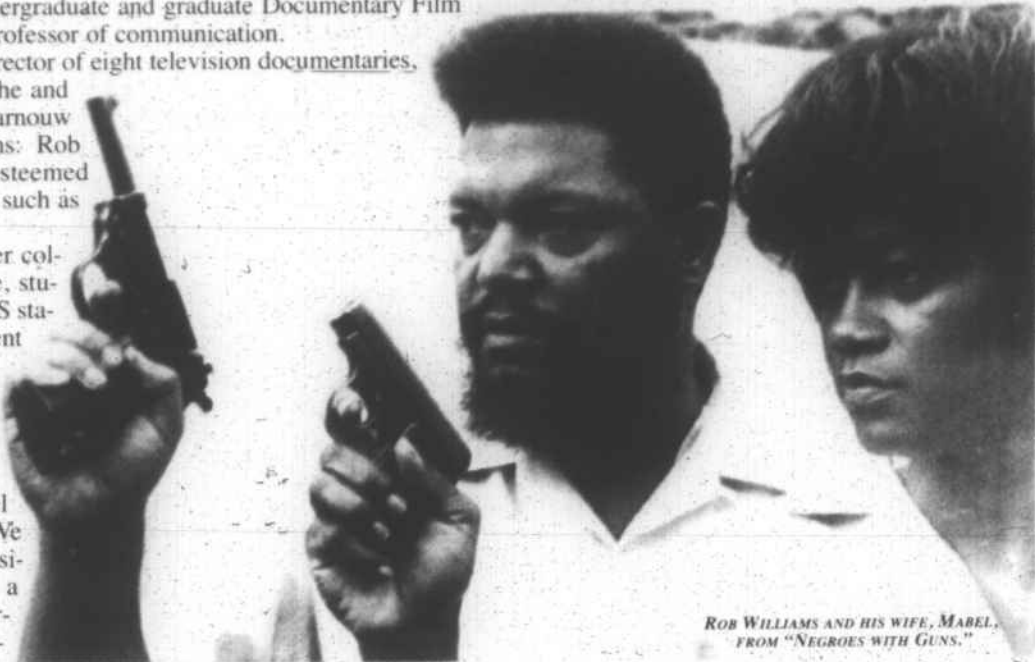
Under the direction of Dickson and her colleagues at the Documentary Film Institute, students produced films that have aired on PBS stations and cable networks and earned student Emmys. Graduates of the program are working for National Geographic, PBS and prestigious documentary production houses such as Cabin Creek Films and Big Mouth Productions.

"We are excited to move this top-level program to Wake Forest," Dickson says. "We will be part of a top-ranked national university with a strong intellectual tradition and a keen sense of social responsibility—the perfect environment for creative and responsible storytelling."

Dalton, who teaches courses on film and television, has produced a number of documentaries, including the award-winning "Martha in Lattimore."

"We want students who have diverse points of view and are passionate about telling stories that matter," Dalton says. "Involving such students in documentary filmmaking will fulfill Wake Forest's responsibility to educate the whole person, mind, body and spirit."

The new Documentary Film Program is slated to begin in fall 2010 with undergraduate classes, a two-year Master of Arts degree and a three-year Master of Fine Arts degree. Dickson will bring two of her colleagues from the University of Florida, Cindy Hill and Cara Pilson, to Wake Forest.



ROB WILLIAMS AND HIS WIFE, MABEL, FROM "NEGROES WITH GUNS."

Talented Marcus Johnson will play Winston

All of his jazz discs have made Billboards' Top 20

CHRONICLE STAFF REPORT

Jazz man Marcus Johnson, who has shared the stage with singers like Erykah Badu and Chaka Khan, will headline a night of smooth sounds at the Arts Council Theatre on Saturday, Oct. 3 at 8 p.m. The concert is latest offering from Winston-Salem-based Post Entertainment, which has been responsible for bringing a number of acclaimed jazz acts to the city.

Johnson's latest funk-infused CD, "Poetically Justified," was released in June and quickly scaled up the Billboard Jazz Chart, landing at #4. The disc, Johnson's 11th solo release, features guest stars like Miles Jaye, Najee and Maysa of the group Incognito.

The Ohio native was raised in Washington, D.C. and is a graduate of Howard University. While studying for his law degree and MBA at Georgetown University, Johnson recorded, produced and distributed his first disc, "Lessons in Love." He sold a staggering 40,000 copies of the CD on his own.

Over the last decade, a slew of other releases have followed, including "Chocolate City Groovin'," "Coming Back Around," "Urban Groove" and "Smooth Jazz Christmas." All of his releases have cracked the Billboard Jazz Top 20. Johnson has performed at noted jazz venues around the globe, including the Capital Jazz Fest, Bermuda Jazz Fest, Atlantic Artscape, Huntington Beach Jazz Fest, The National Smooth Jazz Awards and the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts.

Johnson, who now has earned his law and business degrees from Georgetown, also runs Marimelj Entertainment Group LLC (MEG), which, in partnership with BET co-founder Bob Johnson (no relation), opened a Washington, D.C.-based recording studio, Studio 8121, and music publishing company.

Ticket prices are \$25 in advance and \$30 at the door. For more information or for tickets, go to www.postjazz.com.



Marcus Johnson

Duo will give free concert

CHRONICLE STAFF REPORT

Celist Kenneth Law and pianist Stephen Buck will perform tomorrow (Friday, Sept. 25) at 3 p.m. in the Dillard Auditorium of Winston-Salem State University's Anderson Conference Center.

Law and Buck are members of the acclaimed chamber music group Ensemble Argos. The free concert is being presented by WSSU's Fine Arts Department.

Law is an associate professor at the Petrie School of Music at Converse College in Spartanburg, S.C. In addition to his membership in Ensemble Argos, Law is also a member of the Converse Trio and Conversant. He is the former cellist of the Maia Quartet, the Lyra Quartet and the Ritz Chamber Players. He serves as the principle cellist of the Spartanburg Philharmonic.

Law has been featured on orchestral and chamber music recordings on the New Albion and Telarc record labels and was featured on the nationally-



Musician and educator Kenneth Law.

televised NAACP Image awards as a member of the Ritz Chamber Players.

Buck recently made his Carnegie Hall debut through Artists International. He serves on the faculties of the State University of New York at Purchase and the Hoff-Barthelsohn Music School in Scarsdale, N.Y. He has given numerous concerts throughout the United States and in Europe, where he has performed and taught at music festivals such as the Adriatic Chamber Music Festival in Southern Italy and AlpenKammerMusik in the Austrian Alps. In addition to performing with Ensemble Argos, he also performs with a two piano and two percussion groups and in numerous concerts with his wife, pianist Tanya Bannister.



Buck

Eastern North Carolina music to get more attention thanks to grant dollars

CHRONICLE STAFF REPORT

A program that promotes and preserves the black music tradition of Eastern North Carolina has won funding to further its efforts even more.

The African American Music Trail project is expected to receive more than \$250,000 in funding, through a partnership between the North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources and the North Carolina Department of Transportation.

The "Trail" project, spearheaded by the N.C. Arts Council, will bring greater visibility to African American music traditions from eastern North Carolina. It tells the story of musicians and singers then and now representing North Carolina to the world through their internationally acclaimed music. The project's focus is Edgecombe, Greene, Jones, Lenoir, Nash, Pitt, Wayne and Wilson counties.

Earlier this year, N.C. Arts Council designated \$75,331 in grants that will help sustain the project.

"We have believed for many years that African American music in eastern North Carolina should be celebrated," says Mary B. Regan, executive director of the North Carolina Arts Council. "These musicians reflect their home communities and their sounds transcend time and place. They are an integral part of our state's heritage and are bringing economic growth to both large and small communities."

Many music greats hail from the area, including Kinston natives and brothers, Melvin and Maceo Parker, musicians known for their work with the late James Brown, who was famous for calling on "Maceo" during live performances. Gospel great Bishop F.C. Barnes hailed from Wilson. He is best known for the



Music legend and North Carolina native Roberta Flack.

classic, "Rough Side of the Mountain." Bill Myers and music legend Roberta Flack are also from the Wilson area. They both were a part of the popular 1960s group the Monitors.

Additional funds from the DOT will allow the next phase of the project to move forward including the development of interactive kiosks, maps and a travel guidebook. These efforts will connect the rich musical traditions with the traveling public and boost cultural tourism revenues.

The newly-announced funding will allow visitors to better access the area's musical traditions. Two interactive kiosks – one in Wilson and the other in Kinston, will include information about local musicians and venues of interest. Maps that promote trail sites will be available at welcome centers and area visitor centers. The project is expected to be completed in 2011.