

ARTS & LIFESTYLE

Of Interest ...

Attendance has been high at new Rhodes Center

The new Milton Rhodes Center for the Arts is being called a success on its six-month anniversary.

The multi-purpose arts, entertainment and events venue is home to Sawtooth School for Visual Arts, two gallery/exhibit spaces (Womble Carlyle Gallery and Davis Gallery), two major event spaces (Reynolds Place and Mountcastle Forum) and the 300-seat Hanesbrands Theatre.

To date, more than 31,000 individuals have attended a function, performance, class, workshop or exhibit at The Center.

"If we include the 7,500-plus individuals who attended the Grand Opening festivities including the Gala, ribbon cutting, and Community Weekend events, and the approximately 3,400 that attended classes at the Sawtooth School during summer 2010 prior to the building's official opening, the facility has seen more than 42,000 people come through its doors," said Arts Council Chief Operating Officer Richard Emmett. "By almost any measure, we consider our first six months of operation a resounding success and thank the people of Winston-Salem for their outpouring of support," Emmett added. "Stay tuned to hear more about the great things we have in store at the Milton Rhodes Center for the Arts for the rest of this year and 2012."



Emmett

Wilmington student wins state poetry contest

Marty McCarthy of Eugene Ashley High School in Wilmington won the North Carolina Poetry Out Loud competition recently. The high school senior will be on his way to Washington for the national finals starting Wednesday, April 27.



McCarthy

Twenty-nine high school students participated in this year's Poetry Out Loud statewide competition. The second place winner was Toby Ziemba of Cedar Ridge High School in Hillsborough.

About 9,800 students across N.C. took part in some level of the state-wide recitation program funded by the National Endowment for the Arts and the Poetry Foundation.

The semifinals and the final competition were held Saturday, March 5, at the N.C. Museum of History in the auditorium. The winner of the state competition receives \$200 and an all-expenses-paid trip to Washington, D.C., for the national championship. State winners' schools also receive a \$500 stipend to be used for purchasing poetry books. The runners-up at the state level receive \$100, with their schools receiving a \$200 stipend for buying poetry books. The N.C. champion will be vying for a \$20,000 college scholarship.

UNCSA elected to USITT Board

University of North Carolina School of the Arts (UNCSA) School of Design and Production Dean Joseph P. Tilford has been elected to the Board of Directors of the United States Institute of Theatre Technology (USITT).



Tilford

USITT is the association of design, production and technology professionals in the performing arts and entertainment industries. USITT has approximately 4,000 members from the United States, Canada and 40 other countries.

Last year, in celebration of its 50th anniversary, USITT chose Tilford as one of two designers to highlight in special exhibits.

Beach Music Hall of Fame to induct first class

Coastal Carolina University in Conway, S.C. will host the first-ever Beach Music Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony. Eight legendary beach music artists and 10 songs will be inducted at the ceremony, scheduled for 6 p.m., Sunday, May 15, in CCU's Wheelwright Auditorium.

The artists are Hank Ballard and The Midnighters, Ruth Brown, The Clovers, Fats Domino, The Drifters, Louie Jordan, Amos Milburn and Big Joe Turner. Songs to be honored include "Sixty Minute Man," recorded by The Dominoes; "Shake, Rattle and Roll," recorded by Big Joe Turner; "Ain't That a Shame," recorded by Fats Domino; "The Great Pretender," recorded by The Platters; "Green Eyes," recorded by the Ravens; "Mama He Treats Your Daughter Mean," recorded by Ruth Brown; "Nip Sip," recorded by The Clovers; "One Mint Julep," recorded by the Clovers; "White Christmas," recorded by The Drifters; and "Drinkin' Wine Spo-Dee-O-Dee," recorded by Sticks McGee.



Ruth Brown



McMillan's tribute to the Greensboro Four, "Four Dreambuilders."

Local artist achieves stardom at 85

CHRONICLE STAFF REPORT

The burgeoning career of renowned North Carolina artist James C. McMillan takes center stage with two major exhibitions covering his prolific 60 years in art. Opening simultaneously at the African American Atelier Inc. and Bennett College in Greensboro, these exhibitions follow the artist's acclaimed West Coast debut at the Bakersfield Museum of Art in California in 2009.



McMillan

An art prodigy, McMillan attended Howard University at 15 years of age, graduating with a BA in fine arts. He was the first African American student accepted at the noted Skowhegan School of Art in Maine; he later studied at the prestigious Académie Julian in Paris, France. He achieved eminence as an art professor and chair of both art departments at Bennett College and Guilford College.

McMillan is like many African American artists born in the early 20th Century whose work has been largely undiscovered. Now at age 85, he is being recognized and brought to national attention by virtue of this retrospective.

His work explores a variety of media, artistic movements, and styles that defy simple categorization and serve as an emotional archaeology of the universal human condition: dehumanization, loss and renewal. Painting, drawing, traditional and abstract sculpture and printmaking will be featured, representing an oeuvre ranging from the 1940s to the present.

"That universal theme of individual tragedy, loss and revitalized hope is manifested in the brilliant art of a man with a special vision," says Bennett President Dr. Julianne Malveaux. "By taking time to discov-

See McMillan on A9

'Color Purple' singer to perform

CHRONICLE STAFF REPORT

Actress/singer Maria Howell will perform in Winston-Salem on April 1 and 2.

The Winston-Salem State University alumna is best known for her memorable role as the choir girl in the movie "The Color Purple" and as the expectant mother in Tyler Perry's "Daddy's Little Girls."

The not-for-profit Winston-Salem Performing Arts Alliance is presenting the concerts, which will take place in WSSU's Dillard Auditorium at 7:30 p.m. each night.

The Friday, April 1 event will feature world-renowned jazz violinist Kersten Stevens and the



Howell

drama production "Not My Child," written by local playwright Sharon Evans, directed and choreographed by Elliott D. Lowery and

starring Howell. The production will start at 8:05 p.m.

On Saturday night, a jazz concert featuring Howell will take place. Other performers will include Ernest Johnson & the Phase Band; Michael Thomas & Envision.

Tickets for this event will be \$25 per night or \$45 for VIP tickets for all performances, including a reception following Saturday's performance at the Delta Fine Arts Center.

Tickets may be purchased at Sweet Potatoes, 529 North Trade St., or Fairway Home Care, 534 North Liberty St. For additional information, call 336-608-6133.

MOTOWN IN D.C.



Official White House Photo by Samantha Appleton
First Lady Michelle Obama greets, from left, John Legend, Smokey Robinson, Berry Gordy and Bob Santelli in the Old Family Dining Room of the White House before the Motown Music Series student workshop on Feb. 24.

Feminist Cooper to be remembered

CHRONICLE STAFF REPORT

Trailblazing feminist educator Anna Julia Cooper will be honored this weekend in Raleigh.

A tribute program will be held at Saint Augustine's College Chapel on March 19, at 1 p.m. An unveiling and dedication of a N.C. Highway Historical Marker (from the N.C. Department of Cultural Resources) for the activist will follow at 3 p.m. at the corner of East and Edenton Streets in Raleigh. Fittingly, the program will also serve as a launch event for a new YWCA mentorship program. The Pathways to Empowerment program is designed to help pregnant and parenting teen moms.

Cooper, in "A Voice from the South," published in 1892, wrote what is considered "the first book-length feminist analysis of the condition of African Americans." Throughout her life, she advocated for racial and gender equality with equal fervor.

She was born in about 1858 to Hannah Stanley, a slave in the household of Dr. Fabius J. Haywood in Raleigh. She enrolled at Saint Augustine Normal School and Collegiate Institute on tuition scholarship in 1868 at age 10. There, she first encountered gender discrimination and became an advo-

cate for gender and racial equality. She completed high school and took college courses at Saint Augustine's until graduating in 1877, and also married George A. C. Cooper that year. In 1884, she earned a B.A. in mathematics from Oberlin College.

After receiving the M.A. in mathematics from Oberlin in 1887, Cooper took a position at the prestigious Preparatory High School for Colored Youth in Washington, D.C. She eventually became principal of the "M Street School," later Dunbar High School. In Washington, she honed her writing and oratory skills as an advocate for gender and racial equality.

In "A Voice from the South," Cooper wrote, "Not the boys less, but the girls more." The collection of essays addresses education, segregation, woman's suffrage, poverty, and also examines the portrayal of African Americans in literature. She provided a firm underpinning for the black feminist movement. Her book also underscored the importance of African American folklore, and Cooper co-founded the Washington Negro Folklore Society. She enjoyed international acclaim for her writings and speeches and advocated for social change. She began work on a doctorate degree at Columbia University, which she completed at the Sorbonne in Paris in 1925.



Cooper

Slate of 2011 RiverRun films announced

CHRONICLE STAFF REPORT

The 13th Annual RiverRun International Film Festival, April 8-17, will screen 57 features and 61 shorts from 32 countries.

Key selections for this year's festival include the world premiere of director Paul Bonesteel's "The Day Carl Sandburg Died" and a work-in-progress screening of "The Wonder Year," a film directed by Kenneth Price and that documents the life of music producer 9th Wonder. Both Price and 9th Wonder are Triad natives.

"It's an exciting year for RiverRun," said RiverRun Executive Director Andrew Rodgers. "We've got a really great lineup of films in this year's program, and we're happy to once again welcome lots of talented filmmakers from around the world to Winston-Salem for the event."



Rodgers



9th Wonder does his thing.

Flowizm Photo

See Films on A9