

ARTS & LIFESTYLE

Of Interest

Author/Wake Forest alum to speak in Lexington

Emily Giffin, author of the popular novels like "Something Borrowed," "Heart of the Matter," and her latest, "Where We Belong," will speak at the Edward C. Smith Civic Center in Uptown Lexington on Friday, Nov. 2 at 7:30 p.m.

She will highlight her years in North Carolina as a student at Wake Forest University, her occasional visits to Lexington and her interesting experiences in the book and movie industries.

Friends of the Lexington Library is sponsoring the event. Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$5 for students. Proceeds of the Nov. 2 event will support the Friends of the Lexington Library Building Fund. Members of the Friends organization are invited at no cost to a reception honoring Giffin, which will begin at 6:30 p.m. in the Civic Center ballroom. Giffin will meet and talk with guests and sign copies of her books, which will be available for sale.

A Chicago native, Emily Giffin graduated summa cum laude from Wake Forest and the University of Virginia School of Law.

Now the author of six bestselling novels, Giffin has been dubbed a "modern day Jane Austen" (Vanity Fair) and a "dependably down-to-earth storyteller" (New York Times). "Something Borrowed" was released in 2011 as a major motion picture starring Kate Hudson and Jennifer Goodwin.

Tickets can be purchased online at http://www.smithciviccenter.com/buy_tickets or in person at the Civic Center box office, the Lexington Library and Pandora's Books. For further information, call 336-249-7875 or email info@smithciviccenter.com.

Strauss to perform

The Community Arts Café and Ardless Productions will host a performance by guitarist/songwriter Walter Strauss on Saturday, Oct. 20 at 8 p.m. at the Café, 411 W. 4th St.

From West Africa to Australia to Scotland, Walter Strauss weaves seemingly disparate musical strands and disciplines into a seamless whole. His interpretations of world music are showstoppers. Critics say the California guitar maestro's songs are full of the groove and fire of an African dance party, the dynamics and textures of a string orchestra, and the back-porch soul of American roots music.

In addition to touring solo in the US and Europe, Strauss has collaborated with wide-ranging talents, including a duo with 2010 Grammy-winning Malian kora player Mamadou Diabate, guitar virtuoso Alex de Grassi, maestro multi-instrumentalist Joe Craven and eclectic songsters The Burns Sisters. He is currently working on a duo project with Sidiki Diabate, son of the legendary kora master Toumani Diabate.

Tickets for his performance are \$10 in advance and \$12 the day of the show and can be purchased in person at the Café, by calling 336-793-8000 or online at <http://communityartscafe.com/wstrauss.html>.

New UNCSA Trustees

Isaac H. Green is among the new members of the Board of Trustees of the University of North Carolina School of the Arts.

He is president and chief executive officer of Piedmont Investment Advisors and serves as Piedmont's chief investment officer and portfolio manager of its Strategic Core product.

Green has more than 25 years of investment experience. He previously served as executive vice president and managing director of Loomis Sayles' Value Equity Management Division. He was responsible for 25 investment professionals who managed seven products with more than \$10 billion in assets. Green joined Loomis as a portfolio manager in 1993. In 1995, he became managing partner of the Detroit office and was elected a director of the firm.

Green received his A.B. in economics and history from Duke University, and his M.B.A. in finance and business economics from Columbia University. He began his investment career as a securities analyst with N.C. National Bank.

Seven others also joined the Board last week. They are: Noel "Skip" Dunn, chairman emeritus at Aon Global; Justin Eure, a science writer for the U.S. Department of Energy's Brookhaven National Laboratory; Quin Gordon, a New York-based theatre director and teacher; Justin Poindexter, a composer and guitarist who has been featured in award-winning films and albums; Michael Tiemann, an open source software pioneer; Carrie Vickery, a member of the inaugural class at Elon University School of Law and founder of the Elon Law Democrats; and Ryan Wineinger, a creative artist with Walt Disney Imagineering in Orlando, Fla.

Free admission offered to new play

CHRONICLE STAFF REPORT

"Mama's Girls," the latest stage play by award-winning playwright Garrett Davis, addresses the challenges faced by one family as they care for their aging mother.

The play tells the story of five sisters living in five different cities who are forced to come together to take care of their mom. "Mama's Girls" is supported by AARP's Prepare to Care program, an initiative that helps support caregivers, and has been touring nationally since May.

"As many of the play's attendees provide care for loved ones and others in the community on a regular basis, 'Mama's Girls' will not only entertain, but inspire," said AARP NC State Director Doug Dickerson. "The play will provide useful information which they can apply in their everyday lives."

The play will be performed in Winston-Salem on Sunday, Oct. 14 at 4 p.m. at Winston-Salem State University's Dillard Auditorium as part of the school's slate of Homecoming Activities. Admission is free, but attendees must obtain a ticket by calling the Gdavis Production Office at 336-448-



The cast of "Mama's Girls."

1805. The production features Tony nominee Samantha McSwain, Julie Logan from the Tri-City Singers, LaTonya Simms of the play "Forget Me Not," R&B singer Keisha Williams and Kynya Milam of the play "The Lord Will Make a Way."

This production is written, directed and co-produced, along with AARP, by Winston-Salem resident Davis, CEO and founder of Gdavis Productions and the nationally-acclaimed Forget Me Not Project, which pushes Alzheimer's awareness.

"This project is very special to me.

AARP understands the importance of caregiving and the needs of those who provide care," Davis said. "Informing audiences through the performing arts during this tour has had a very positive impact on people, especially in the minority community. I am very pleased and honored to present one of my productions to the Ram Nation."

To learn more about AARP's Prepare to Care program, go to www.aarp.org/family/caregiving/. For the complete tour schedule for "Mama's Girls," go to www.garrettdavis.us/schedule.

Spirits from the Past



Victor Mooney, right, executive director of U.S.-based South African Arts International, Ltd. prays before releasing a wreath into the New York Harbor last month to pay homage to those buried in the nearby NYC African Burial Ground. Mooney is on a global mission to raise funds to erect an African Burial Ground National Monument in Lower Manhattan near Duane and Elk streets, where some estimate that between 15,000-20,000 burials occurred in what was known as the "Negroes Burial Ground" in the 1700s.

Chart-toppers to help Aggies mark Homecoming

CHRONICLE STAFF REPORT

The 2012 edition of the Greatest Homecoming on Earth - a title that N.C. A&T State University has long given its slate of Homecoming events - will be highlighted by some of today's hottest music stars.

On Saturday, Oct. 27 at 7:30 p.m. - hours after the Aggies take on Norfolk State, R&B crooner Trey Songz and rapper 2 Chainz will headline a Student Government and Student Union Activities Board-sponsored concert at the Greensboro Coliseum. The concert will also feature rappers Young Jeezy and Big Sean and up-and-coming singer Elle Varner.

"During the summer, we



Trey Songz

put together a survey and we asked the students who they desired. We tried to give them what they wanted, keeping our budget in mind," said Precious Bradley, vice president of external affairs of the SGA. "We wanted to welcome everybody home, so we

wanted to appeal to all Aggies, in all age groups," she said.

Tickets for the general public start at \$40. Go to ticketmaster.com or call 1-800-745-3000 for tickets.

Other A&T musical highlights include a gospel showcase on Monday, Oct. 22 featuring Donald Lawrence and Tye Tribbett in the Corbett Sports Center from 7:30 - 9:30 p.m.; and an Island Reggae Jam at War Memorial Baseball Stadium at 5 p.m.

Tickets for the gospel show are \$17.50 for the public. They are available through the A&T Ticket Office. Call 336-334-7500 for more information. The reggae event is free.

Free screening to benefit charities

CHRONICLE STAFF REPORT

BB&T Ballpark will host a free screening of the film "Puss in Boots" on Saturday, Oct. 13 at 7:30 p.m.

Nature's Select Premium Turf Services, Inc. in collaboration with The Wharton Gladden Foundation and the Winston-Salem Dash, are sponsoring the event as a benefit for the The Bethesda Center for the Homeless, Family Services, Winston-Salem Rescue Mission and Second Harvest Food Bank.

This event is open to all, but RSVPs are needed and requested by logging on to www.NaturesSelect.com. For entry, at least one canned good item per person is strongly requested. Family Services representatives will be on hand to collect used mobile phones to hand out to battered women for use in case of an emergency. The Wharton

Gladden Foundation will be collecting monetary donations on behalf of the charities. Nature's Select will sell exclusive Dash blankets with proceeds benefiting the participating charities. Gates open at 6:30 p.m. There will be music and special entertainment before the film starts.

Like last year's event, the goal of the screening is to encourage family interaction while raising awareness of homelessness and hunger. Several key community figures, including Mayor Allen Joines and City Council Members James Taylor and Derwin Montgomery, will be present. Media personality Busta Brown will host the event.

Last year's screening drew about 1,700 people and raised several hundred dollars and collected 1,700 pounds of food for Second Harvest Food Bank.

Pieces by artists from around the globe on display at Diggs

CHRONICLE STAFF REPORT

Diggs Gallery pays homage to iconic American, African, Haitian, Japanese and European artistry in "By Special Request," an exhibit on view through Nov. 2.

"The 69 works featured survey the multiplicities of culture and the unique historical perspectives of the 56 artists represented," said Belinda Tate, gallery director and curator of the exhibit. "The depth of material, breadth of medium, diversity in cultures and scope of genres represented in 'By Special Request' offer an excellent resource for teaching, learning and engaging the exploration of the arts for those at WSSU as well as the community-at-large."

Work by Americans Walter Edmonds, Preston Sampson, 6," is included in the Turner, Sheila Pree Bright, Eric McRay, John Biggers, Jacob Lawrence, David Driskell, Willie Birch, Hughie Lee-Smith, Lois Mailou Jones, Malcolm Morley, Leon Woods, Verne Hart, Vandom Hinnant and Maya Freelon-Asant are on display, along with pieces by international artists Utagawa Kuniyoshi (Japan), Artis Lane (Canada) Auguste Brouet (Europe) and Haitians Calixte Henri, Murat Brierre, A.B. Jean, Sisson Blanchard, Pierre Augustin, Joseph Jean Laurent and Gesner Armand.

An IRIS print by the late, great Gordon Parks; chromogenic prints by cutting-edge photographers Hank Willis Thomas and Sheila Pree Bright; and traditional black and white photographs of brick maker George Black and his family by Susan Mullaly are also on view. In addition, "By Special Request" highlights contemporary African artists Bruce Onabrakpeya (Nigeria), Hamid Kachmar (Morocco), Sokhaya Charles Nkosi (South Africa), Bayo Ogundele (Nigeria), Kerima Ahmed (Ethiopia), Samuel End (Ethiopia) and Daudies TingaTinga (Tanzania).

The exhibition was made possible through charitable gifts to the WSSU collection by John and Vivian Hewitt, Robert Brown, Gordon Hanes and Charles Guice and a generous loan from collector and gallerist Cheryl Sutton.

The exhibition is free and open to the public. The Gallery is open Monday through Friday from 11 a.m. - 5 p.m. It is located on the lower level of the O'Kelly Library on the campus of Winston-Salem State.



Photo courtesy of Sheila Pree Bright