

ARTS & LIFESTYLE

Of Interest

WSSU's Bristow starring in new film

Vonii Bristow, a sport management major at Winston-Salem State University (WSSU), wants to pursue an acting career and that dream got off to a good start when he was tapped for a significant role in a new feature film, "Find A Way."

The faith-based movie was inspired by the life of Harry Cohen, a quarterback and football captain at Williams High School in Burlington who died in August 2011. It highlights the challenges that are brought on by tragedy and individual temptation, as well as how they are fought. Bristow, who says acting is his passion, jumped at the opportunity to be a part of the project.



Bristow

"A gentleman in my acting class contacted me about the possibility of auditioning for a role in an upcoming film. I followed up with his suggestion and had the opportunity to audition for Burgess Jenkins, the director of the film. After auditioning, I was offered the role," Bristow said.

He considers the movie to be a great opportunity for him and one that has had a profound impact on his life.

"The film inspired me to continue to chase after my dreams and desires, and to surround myself with uplifting people," Bristow added. The film will debut in Burlington January 4-6 at Williams High School at 6 and 8 p.m.

Learn more at <http://www.corneliusmuller-productions.com>.

Donor to match gifts to Festival Stage

An anonymous donor has pledged to match two-to-one any new gifts to Festival Stage of Winston-Salem between now and Jan. 31, 2013.

Festival Stage is a non-profit professional theatre in residence at Winston-Salem's Hanesbrands Theatre, where it performs three productions each year.

As part of the challenge, the donor will match any new dollars up to \$18,000, including gifts from first-time donors and from previous donors who have not yet made a gift this fiscal year. The match will also apply to increases in giving from current donors. Gifts must be designated for the annual fund, which is used for a variety of operating expenses. If the challenge is met, Festival Stage will raise a total of \$27,000.

"A matching challenge gift like (this) is wonderful for an organization like Festival Stage because it allows donors to maximize the effects of their gifts, no matter their amount," said Festival Stage's President and CEO Wil Elder. "We are incredibly grateful to the donor who not only supported Festival Stage, but made it possible for others' gifts to have a larger impact. We couldn't fulfill our mission of providing New York-quality professional theatre in the City of Arts and Innovation without this support from our community."

Gifts can be made online at www.festival-stage.org, by calling 336-841-2273 or by mail to PO Box 20152, Winston-Salem, NC, 27120-0152.

Country artists to present songwriting workshop

The Nashville Songwriters Association and Community Arts Cafe, 411 West Fourth St., will host a songwriting workshop on Saturday, Jan. 19 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Cafe. A concert and open mic session will follow the workshop, which will be led by Rick Beresford and Deanna Walker.

Beresford teaches commercial songwriting at Belmont University and is full-time staffer at the Nashville Songwriters Association International's song camps and workshops. His songs have been recorded by such artists as George Jones, Don Williams, Mickey Gilley, the Everly Brothers, John Conlee, BJ Thomas, Brenda Lee and Elizabeth Eckert.

Walker is the founder and director of the Blair Songwriting Program at Vanderbilt University, where she teaches college-level advanced songwriting critique workshops as well as intro to songwriting and music theory classes.

The \$99 registration fee includes the workshop and concert. Register at <http://www.communityartscafe.com/ecscworkshop.html>.



Beresford

Much-needed improvements slated at Diggs

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

For the first time since it opened in 1990, the Diggs Gallery on the campus of Winston-Salem State University (WSSU), will undergo major renovations designed to improve its ability to attract new exhibits and increase its impact on education.

The project, which will exceed \$200,000, began in November, and it is anticipated that the renovations will be completed in the spring of 2013.

"We are delighted that we are finally able to pursue some significant upgrades to the facility and much credit goes to Provost Brenda Allen for jumpstarting our recession-stalled renovation plans," said Belinda Tate, director of the gallery. "We will be adding advanced security cameras and improved lighting, which will have a tremendous impact on the caliber of works we will be able to attract for the university's permanent collection and temporary exhibitions, which can help grow our relevance to a larger art universe. Plus, we will be able to continue to provide audiences with exhibits



that run the gamut from traditional to cutting edge."

The renovations are designed to create a fresh look for Diggs and one that is different from other galleries in the area. While a new climate control system was added more than 10 years ago, the gallery has continued with its black ceiling and outdated lighting. When the renovations are complete, the gallery will have an espresso-colored engineered hardwood floor, refurbished walls and a lighter ceiling to create the look of a more open and contemporary art

space. In addition to the work in the gallery, a conference room wall will be removed to create more reception space and there will be new carpet in the hallway.

Beyond just the changes to the space, the gallery is documenting its entire collection to identify additional objects that can be used in WSSU public spaces and classrooms. The goal is to make artwork more accessible for faculty and students through the Internet and more visible outside of the gallery walls.

Music of the Season



WSSU Photo by Garrett Glenn

D'Walla Simmons-Burke, director of choral and vocal studies at Winston-Salem State University, addresses the crowd during the Dec. 2 "Songs of the Season" concert in the school's K. R. Williams Auditorium. The annual holiday concert, which Simmons-Burke conducts, features all of WSSU's acclaimed musical groups, including the WSSU Choir, the University Women, Schola Cantorum and the Burke Singers.

Anonymous donor leaves another sparkling gift for Salvation Army

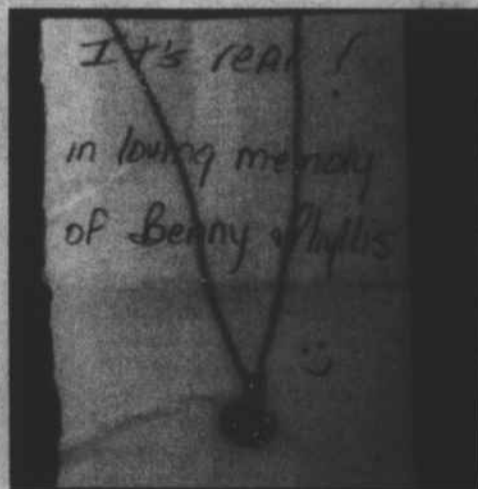
CHRONICLE STAFF REPORT

For the second year in a row, a valuable piece of jewelry was dropped into a Salvation Army of Winston-Salem red kettle, and agency officials believe the same anonymous donor as last year was responsible for the most recent donation.

A white gold and diamond necklace was placed into the kettle at the K&W Cafeteria on East Hanes Mill Road last week. The item was wrapped with a note that reads, "This is real. In loving memory of Benny and Phyllis." Last year around the same time, the Salvation Army received a pricy diamond ring in a red kettle at a different K&W Cafeteria location with a note saying the exact same thing.

"We are grateful that someone entrusted us with something so valuable," said Major James Allison, area commander for The Salvation Army of Winston-Salem. "While this is a great help, our Red Kettle campaign Triad-wide is still \$38,000 behind where we need to be at this point."

Money raised during the Red Kettle



Submitted Photo

An unknown donor left this in a Salvation Army red kettle.

Campaign allows The Salvation Army to help tens of thousands of individuals with rent and utility assistance, food and shelter at Christmas and throughout the year.

A SWEET EXCHANGE

Pre-K students send holiday treats across the country

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

The Child Development Center at Davidson County Community College is sending out sweet greetings this holiday season. The pre-K class at the Center is participating in the Gingerbread Exchange, a gift-swap of personalized gingerbread men between schools across the country.

The pre-K class worked together to decorate 15 individual gingerbread men to send to each of the 15 schools in its group. The holiday shipments also included a letter about their school, children and teachers as well as a class picture.

"This project has allowed the pre-K children to gain a better understanding of different states, schools, and cultures; all while giving them a creative outlet to express themselves through their individual gingerbread creations," says Sydney Crutchfield, assistant pre-K teacher for the Center.

To supplement their gingerbread-



DCCC Photo

The kids of DCCC pre-K class.

themed gift exchange, the students also created a story using their own ideas, words and illustrations, called "Gingerbread's Adventure to China." The story is displayed outside the pre-K classroom.

The Gingerbread Exchange was created by a teacher in Texas to connect class-

rooms across the country in a shared spirit of generosity and fellowship during the holiday season.

So far, the pre-K class has received eight responses from schools in Arizona, Colorado, Georgia, Illinois, Ohio, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania and Washington, D.C.



NCCU Photo

James E. Shepard

Davis releases much-anticipated Shepard book

CHRONICLE STAFF REPORT

Dr. Lenwood G. Davis, a retired Winston-Salem State University history professor, recently released his latest book, "Selected Writings and Speeches of James E. Shepard, 1896-1946: Founder of North Carolina Central University."

In the book, Davis, a North Carolina Central University alum-

nus, reveals aspects of Shepard that few knew. He wore many hats, including those of minister, politician, pharmacist, entrepreneur, world traveler, civil servant and business-



Davis

man. Shepard was also one of the founders of North Carolina Mutual Life Insurance Company, the world's largest African American-owned life insurance company, and Mechanics and Farmers Bank of Durham. In addition, he served as president of both the International Denominational Sunday School Convention and the North Carolina Teachers Association.

Shepard made history when he founded NCCU, where he also served as president. The school was the first state-supported liberal arts college for African Americans in the United States.

Davis' book is the first and only collection of the writings and speeches of Dr. Shepard.

"This book was a labor of love because it was about the founder of my alma mater," said Dr. Davis, who has also taught at Livingstone College, Portland State University, Ohio State University, the University of Delaware and Montclair College.

The Beaufort native earned an undergraduate and MA degree, both in history, from NCCU and a doctorate in history from Carnegie Mellon University. Davis is the author of 23 books, including "I Have A Dream: The Life and Times of Martin Luther King Jr.," "A Travel Guide to Black Historical Sites and Landmarks in North Carolina," "A Paul Robeson Research Guide" and "African Americans in Winston-Salem/Forsyth County: A Pictorial History."

Autographed copies of the book can be ordered from the author by sending him an email to davislenwood@yahoo.com.