



Submitted Photos

Dr. Tom Frank's students work in Happy Hill Cemetery.

Below: Maurice Pitts Johnson (third from right) poses with Dr. Frank and his students.

WFU students help cemetery reclamation effort

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

On Saturday morning, March 23, Wake Forest University students in Dr. Tom Frank's history class were involved in a unique history lesson as they assisted the Happy Hill Cemetery Friends with their efforts.

Dr. Frank, a member of the board of Preserve Historic Forsyth, and his students (Abigail Brown, Laera Coats, Thomas Hale, Jessica Lockhart, Lindsey Rogers, Peter John Timerez and Amelia Wohl) used probe rods to locate underground footings for tombstones that have been lost over the years. They worked in an area of 9,000-square-feet marked with string in 10-foot squares. In addition to the probe work, they also cataloged the text of the above ground tombstones found in each square. The notes and mapping will be compiled in a report documenting their underground discoveries.

The probing project was coordinated by local

architect David Gall, who is also on the Preserve Historic Forsyth board and is a dedicated member of Happy Hill Cemetery Friends.

In another section of the cemetery, men from Rising Ebenezer Baptist Church, including William "Rock" Biting, Charles Douthit, Elijah Jones, Ted Petree and Willie Williams, worked to cut a fallen tree and haul it away.

Happy Hill Cemetery Friends President Maurice Pitts Johnson and her team are continuing their efforts to improve the appearance of the historic cemetery. Currently the group is engaged in several pursuits:

- Locating the families of those interred in the cemetery

- Finding people who may have knowledge about the trustees or churches who owned the parcels that comprise the cemetery

- Encouraging more volunteer help from the community to join the

Friends in their reclamation efforts. It is an ongoing project, and lots of help is needed.

The next work session will be on Saturday, April

6 from 9-11 a.m.

For information, call Maurice Johnson at 336-721-1081 or Jean Moses-Petree 336-721-1288.



Bennett's Ryan finalist for UNCF scholarship

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

Bennett College's Justine Ryan '15 was a finalist for the prestigious Luard Morse Scholarship, making her one of four deserving students to hold this national distinction.

Awarded to a student of a United Negro College Fund (UNCF) institution, the scholarship allows its recipient the opportunity to study at a university in England for the 2013-2014 academic year. A stipend for transportation and living expenses is also provided. Ryan's love for theatre first attracted her to Luard Morse.

"I thought it would be a great opportunity to have the great fortune to study and further develop my theatre techniques in London. Also, I wanted to have a better understanding of why they sometimes look down on American actors and how I can help change that," she said.

This theatre enthusiast admits that while she was confident with her appli-

cation, being a finalist came as a bit of a surprise.

"When I received the call, it was a couple of days before my birthday, and I was extremely excited and couldn't believe I had gotten this far," Ryan said.

The next step of the process was an interview in New York City. Ryan learned, soon afterward, that she did not receive the Luard Morse Scholarship; however, she was honored to have made it so far in the competition.

"Whether I got it or not, I always knew that I was blessed to have been one of the four finalists. It was a great experience, and, all in all, I count it a blessing to have been given the opportunity," she said.

A native of Richmond, Va., Ryan is a theatre and interdisciplinary studies major with a minor in global studies. Also, a travel enthusiast, she previously went abroad to study Arabic in Beirut, Lebanon.



Ryan

Best-selling author to speak

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

Dr. Eben Alexander, the internationally-acclaimed author of "Proof of Heaven: A Neurosurgeon's Journey into the Afterlife," is coming to the Triad for his first speaking engagement since the publication of his book.

The Winston-Salem native will speak on May 2 at Reynolds Place in Milton Rhodes Art Center. He will be delivering "A Message of Hope" about his near-death experience.

Alexander has appeared on "The Oprah Winfrey Show," "The Dr. Oz Show," "ABC World News with Diane Sawyer" and the Katie Couric show. His book has remained atop the New York Times Best-Seller List for several weeks.

His appearance is a benefit for Heartstrings, a local nonprofit that provides peer-based grief support groups and one-to-one support for Triad families who have experienced the loss of a baby from conception to one year of age.

A meet and greet and cocktail reception with Dr. Alexander will be held at 6 p.m. He will speak at 7:30 p.m.

For tickets and/or more information, go to www.heartstringsupport.org.



Alexander

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