

# Harlem Night

Friends of the Library sponsors soiree for writer Zora Neale Hurston

"You can read my writing, but you can't read my mind."

In honor of a Harlem Renaissance and the writer who spoke these words, Winston-Salem State University's Friends of the Library hosted an evening of music and food at its annual fund-raiser, Harlem Night, on Nov. 8 in WSSU's Anderson Center.

An evening with Zora Neale Hurston: A Soiree, was the theme for this year's Harlem Night 2002. The annual event raises money for the C.G. O'Kelly Library.

While patrons ate dinner, from which proceeds were made for the library, Hurston's life was presented in a short film production created by the North Carolina School of the Arts. The McNeill Banquet Hall was decorated in blue and white, the colors of Hurston's sorority, Zeta Phi Beta, Inc.

"The atmosphere was ecstatic. People were eager to be taken back to their roots with Zora Neale Hurston's folklore," said Aaron Hudson, a senior mass communications major.

The event kicked off during the silent and live auctions, which provided the primary means of fundraising. CDs, gift packs, wall hangings, paintings and autographed works by African-American writers such as Maya Angelou were some of the items that were auctioned. Proceeds from

**Nicole Ferguson, Katie Gore, Stephanie Price, Darryl Smith, Shameaka Williams, Shonda Davis, Daysha Lynei Williams-Scruggs and Camillia Conley all contributed to these stories.**

the auction will be used to buy books for the library.

After the live auction, a production by musician and WSSU instructor Lorenzo Meachum and the students in his Oral Interpretation Literature class, brought to life the legacy of Hurston.

"We started putting the production together by picking out lines and stories. The script was a mix of old fashioned writing and gospel," said Meachum.

Meachum, who has been involved with the Friends of the Library fundraiser since 1993, said the event was crucial to the library.

"I think the central and pivotal place on a college campus is the library. It's a central resource," said Meachum.

Another member of the Ram family, Coach C.E. "Bighouse" Gaines, said he's aware of the importance of fundraising for the library.

"I was on the Senior Services Board for the Friends of the Library. These people have to raise a lot of money," said Gaines. "I think it is a very good program and it is here for a very good reason."

Supporters of the fundraising event included WSSU students, faculty and members of the Winston-Salem community.

According to some first time supporters, Friends of the Library is an organization they plan on supporting.

"I was very impressed. I'll come again," said Lynwood Turner.

Turner and his wife, Leah, were guests of Dr. Joyce Williams-Green, associate provost for information resources.

Turner was especially adamant about the support of the library for one particular reason.

"The fact that it's a predominately African-American university is great. Any time you can come out and support those institutions, it's a good thing to do."

The goals of this year's event included raising funds to sponsor the "Developing Twenty-first Century Research Scholars' Program," buying books and media for new and expanding instructional programs, and to make the library compliant with the American Disabilities Act standards by buying technology for physically challenged students. The event raised more than \$7,000.

Friends of the Library has already begun planning next year's fundraiser, whose theme will be focus on Lorraine Hansberry.

Raising money to buy books and equipment for Winston-Salem State University's C. G. O'Kelly Library is always an important task for Dr. Mae L. Rodney and the Friends of the Library.

Rodney, the director of Library Services, along with library staff and alumni, organized Friends of the Library (FOL) to generate support for the library. FOL has been sponsoring an annual benefit for the library since 1985. So far, the group has raised money to get WSSU computers connected to the Internet, books, record players and a television for the library.

Extra support for the library's programs is needed because the state's budget could not be relied upon to build a quality research collection.

Private funding helps the library buy what it needs because during the past 10 years, the state's general higher education fund decreased from 15.25 percent to 10 percent.

Proceeds from each fundraising event will go toward a variety of projects and an expansion of the library's collections.

## FINLAND, from page 9

Class lectures, however, were spent assessing the different models that represented how a company could go global or transnational.

"The best part [about taking classes in Finland] was having professors who were international businessmen," said Towns.

As far as living arrangements went, Towns described his quarters as a "living community" because although students made up the majority of the tenants, families lived there as well.

As a whole, Towns said he enjoyed his experience so much because Finland was a very laidback place where he learned how Europeans felt about Americans.

He added that their government, "takes care of its people. There's 0 percent homelessness, students are paid to attend school and most of all, the

people aren't driven by capitalism."

Towns advised business and economic majors to study abroad because, in his opinion, everything is global these days.

"Keep up with financial news, read [the *Wall Street Journal* in particular] and live globally," said Towns.

He admitted that he is trying to hitch a ride on the "global train" as well because if students do not start focusing their attention beyond the classroom and even America, they will be left behind.

"Over there," he said. "The people spoke many different languages like Russian, Norwegian, German and even Spanish and French."

These are the same people who Towns predicts will take over the world business market if

American students do not step up for the challenge.

As for Towns, he looks forward to having a successful career in accounting and "enjoying life."

## ANGELOU, from page 9

official message from the office of Gov. Mike Easley repeatedly emphasized that we were "fortunate to have a treasure in Winston-Salem such as Maya Angelou."

As Angelou entered the stage, everyone on stage soon exited, leaving the entire stage to Angelou.

She began her message with the singing of a negro slave song influenced by the book of Genesis.

"I am so excited," Angelou said in her signature rich, deep voice. "I can hardly stand it."

"To be at WSSU, to be honored by my community by my neighbors ... I chose Winston-Salem as home, and Winston-Salem chose me."

Between performing the poetry of Paul Lawrence Dunbar, Langston Hughes, Toni Morrison and other great poets, she brought to life personal

anecdotes of her seventy four years of life. Angelou delivered a message described as "inspirational" by one student.

"You need to know someone was there before you, called out their name before you, and was lonely before you," she said.

"And you need to know that same person before you survived and thrived with passion, with pride, and dared to laugh."

Angelou ended her delivery by discouraging the practice of prejudice.

"My darlings, my sisters and brothers, I thank you for all you've done to encourage this honor for me."

"I represent the African-American, the White American, the Asian American, the Spanish speaking, the Native American, the gay, the straight, the pretty, the plain. It is my intention to represent all. Thank you for coming willingly and loving me."

After Angelou's speech,

Martin, Miss WSSU Rolanda Patrick and Mr. Ram Corey Ruffin presented the poet with gifts. A standing ovation lasted for several minutes.

WSSU gladly welcomed Angelou, but several students were dismayed that this was Angelou's first appearance in such a long time at WSSU.

"I thought it was a great message," said Ruffin. "But for her to be right here in Winston-Salem was like a slap in the face."

"Don't get me wrong, she deserved her day. I just think this shouldn't have been the first time she made an appearance in my five years here."

Safari Jeffries, a junior mass communications major, agreed. He said he appreciated the message despite his feelings concerning the timeliness or lack of her visit.

Dr. Maya Angelou Day will be a recognized holiday in Winston Salem every Nov. 6.