

Livingstone starts fund-drive events in anticipation of Tom Joyner effort

CHRONICLE STAFF REPORT

Livingstone College will hold several events in conjunction with the school being named the August School of the Month by the Tom Joyner Foundation.

During August, Joyner, who hosts a popular nationally-syndicated radio talk show, will lobby for financial support for the Salisbury-based school.

Each year the Dallas, Texas-based Tom Joyner Foundation, established by Joyner in 1997, chooses 11 historically black colleges and universities to help with fund-raising through gifts from corporations, foundations, alumni, donors and friends. Joyner is a Tuskegee University alumnus and his foundation - operated by his sons Thomas Jr. and Oscar, who are also HBCU alumni - has raised millions of dollars for black colleges.



Joyner

Joyner and his foundation have already given to Livingstone. This spring, Joyner - on the "Christmas Wish List" segment of his morning show - gave continuing education student Nakia Rhyne a new Dell laptop computer that she asked for in a letter to the show.

All funds raised by the foundation and the college in August will be used for scholarships and school-related supplies for deserving students at Livingstone. Between 95 and 98 percent of Livingstone students need some kind of financial assistance during their matriculation. Livingstone's Tom Joyner Foundation campaign goal is \$200,000.

Last Saturday, Livingstone jumped-started the fund-raising efforts with a prayer breakfast hosted by the school's academic affairs wing. Participants were asked to donate \$10 to take part in the event.

From 7-11 p.m. on July 25, the Division for Institutional Effectiveness and Technology will host a black-tie affair with music by Dr. Chuck Beattie (aka "Dr. Blues"), Helen Rifas on harp and Yolanda Murrell on violin. The cost is \$100 per person. The event will be held in the Aggrey Student Union. IET also will hold a Louisiana-style fish fry and a walk-a-thon from 1-6 p.m. on July 26 on campus.

Joyner and his radio crew will be in Winston-Salem Aug. 8 to draw interest for the fund campaign for Livingstone.

Donations to Livingstone through the Tom Joyner Foundation can be made throughout and after August. Checks can be mailed to the college at 701 West Monroe Street, Salisbury, NC 28144. "Tom Joyner Foundation" should be indicated on the memo line.

Income tax certification class coming to Triad

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

A tax preparation service will offer an orientation class leading to professional certification July 21 at 6:30 p.m. in the DCU auditorium on the campus of Dudley Products in Kernersville.

The orientation class, offered by the Beaumont, Texas-based ComprTax, is designed for individuals who are in the market for additional income or who are seeking opportunities for self-employment.

Participants will earn professional certification status upon completion of the regular class.

There is no charge for the orientation class, but registration is encouraged (336) 996-4704.

Students

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America is not a classless society," said Smith.

Beginning on July 28, the students will spend two weeks traveling by bus from Atlanta to Mississippi learning about life in the South. The bus will double as both transportation and classroom on the road, complete with audiovisual equipment. Laptop computers will allow the students to record or access information during the trip. Students will earn three credits for taking the course and they will compile demographic profiles of the communities they visited.

Following the paths of civil rights history, students will make stops in Birmingham, Selma, Tuskegee, Hattiesburg and Memphis. Students will also tour the Mississippi State Penitentiary at Parchman in Mississippi, the hotel where Martin Luther King Jr. was assassinated, The Tuskegee Institute as well as meet Richard Rubin, author of the class's textbook, "Confederacy of Silence."

Angela Hattery, associate professor of sociology at Wake, said the trip is taking the class onto the road in order to gain more insight into race, class and equality at this point in time.

"It's not just a history class. We're going to go the sites and see what happened, what's happened since then and find out how the community has dealt with and continues to deal with issues of race, class and equality since the 1950s and 1960s," said Hattery.

Ministers, activists and ordinary citizens from each of the communities, said Hattery, will meet with the students to share their personal accounts of life in the South.

Arts take center stage at church in summer

BY T. KEVIN WALKER
THE CHRONICLE

Dozens of pre-teenagers staged a mini-Broadway review Saturday at Mount Zion Baptist Church. They were the latest batch of kids to matriculate through the church's respected summer arts camp.

Saturday's performance was billed as a Salute to the Performing Arts and gave camp participants a chance to show their parents and others what they have learned over the last six weeks. The kids sang, danced and showcased their knack with musical instruments.

Gladys Whitworth Bray is the director of the camp. She said that four years ago when the camp was founded, Mt. Zion wanted to offer a different kind of summer experience for children. Bray - a retired science teacher who taught at an arts school in Washington, D.C. - believes the arts is a subject that nearly every child is lacking.

"We use the arts not only to educate but to instill discipline. The kids who are into the arts very rarely get into trouble," Bray said.

The camp is not all about the arts. Campers also get lessons in math, social studies and reading. For the arts component, Bray recruited an able band of arts professionals to teach the children in a variety of disciplines. Local jazz singer Janice Price Hinton, a long-time member of Mt. Zion, schools the children in voice and acting. Terrill Shepherd, a rising senior music education major at Winston-Salem State University, teaches piano and recorder (a small wooden



Students form a disjointed line to hug Janice Price Hinton.

Photo by Kevin Walker

or plastic flute-like instrument). Albert Strong IV, a recent jazz studies graduate from N.C. Central Uni-

versity, teaches trumpet and percussion. Strong and Shepherd are in their early 20s and both became

interested in music in their teens. Bray hopes their presence will influence the campers.

"(Shepherd and Strong) are giving back. (The campers) will give back too. All it takes is for someone to get behind them," Bray said.

In an era where hip-hop is king, Shepherd has gotten campers' attention by drawing parallels between the rhythms in rap tunes and those in "Mary Had a Little Lamb" (a song the campers were required to learn).

"You have to find different ways to get the kids motivated when the music is not rap or R&B," said Shepherd, who hopes to be a symphony conductor. Shepherd has already worked with Winston-Salem Symphony Conductor Peter Perret, a man Shepherd calls his mentor.

Strong, who will attend graduate school at Northern Illinois University this fall, said that to truly appreciate the music that is popular today, young people need to understand and embrace the music of the past.

"Most of us do not pay homage to the music from our past," said Strong, who aspires to record jazz music. "I appreciate music from our past, so I think I can appreciate hip-hop and modern music more."

The Mt. Zion Summer Arts Camp is scheduled to wrap up next week. But Bray said the camp may continue for the next month if enough campers sign up for the extra session. For more information about signing up for the camp, call 722-2325.

Happy Hill community reunion to be held

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

The William C. Sims Recreation Center will present the 10th annual Happy Hill Reunion this weekend.

On July 18 at 1201 Alder Street, the community service program will begin at 7 p.m., honoring: Cary Cain, former president of Southside Community Development Corp. (CDC); Kay Lord, Habitat for Humanity; Housing Authority of Winston-Salem (HAWS); New World Cappadocia Outreach Center Inc.; James Basta, volunteer piano teacher at Sims Recreation Center; and dedicated husband and wife team Jerry and Ruby Hinson.

On July 19 at the William C. Sims Recreation Center and Happy Hill Park, the second stage of the Happy Hill Reunion will begin at 10:30 a.m. It will start with a people parade at the top of Gill Street for peace and love. There will be a peace balloon lift for deceased children and adults around the city.

The following entertainment is scheduled at Happy Hill Park on July 19: children's talent show; Line of Judah, Dr. Cynthia Winthrop (Simply Cynthia, singer from Mableton, Ga.), Joe Robinson, Peace of Mind, Boss Drummers, C-Nauts Spilled Ink and other performers.

There will be vendors, games,



Founders Ben Piggott and Rock Bitting with the 1998 Happy Hill Reunion Committee.

video games and a horseshoe tournament sponsored by William C. Sims Recreation Center and Rising Ebenezer Baptist Church.

People also are encouraged to bring picnic baskets to bring people together.

On July 20 at 9 a.m., there will be Happy Hill community worship service at True Temple Holiness Church. Pastor Gaither and Pastor Wilkins will come together to do this worship service in Happy Hill. The church is beside the Sims Recreation Center.

Founders of the Happy Hill Reunion, William "Rock" Bitting and Ben Piggott, wish to thank everyone who supported them.

Happy Hill is the oldest African-American community in Winston-Salem.

'Miss Evers' Boys'

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version of "The Vagina Monologues" featuring celebrities such as Mo'Nique and Vanessa Bell Calloway. The production raised nearly \$10,000 for L.A. women's shelters. Her YettaYoung Productions also has brought to the stage the Keith Antar Mason play "For Black Boys Who Have Considered Homicide When the Streets Were Too Much" and Ntozake Shange's "For Colored Girls Who Have Considered Suicide When the Rainbow Is Enuf," which was staged in Washington, D.C.

Young, a Fisk University graduate, "stepped out on faith" and into the cut-throat world of entertainment after she was downsized from her Washington, D.C., social service job in 1998.

As a West Coast theater director, Young has had much success (and a slew of NAACP Theatre Award nominations), considering that Hollywood is a world away from the traditions of the Great White Way.

"L.A. is not really a theater town," Young said. "A lot of people out here want to be on television or in films."

Young held extensive auditions for the seven actors that make up the cast of "Miss Evers' Boys." She said the cast is a rare find in Tinseltown, where everyone has stars or dollar signs in his eyes.

"They are hard working. They are hungry, and that is exciting. They are not jaded in any way by this business."

Shonnese C.L. Coleman plays the title role in the play. The role is a dream come true for the actress who cut her teeth on the stages of New York playing memorable characters such as Sojourner Truth and Harriet Tubman.

"I was really interested in getting into a role that I could study," Coleman said. She spent time researching Eunice Rivers and wound up having great respect for the nurse. Over the decades, however, some have questioned the role of Nurse Rivers, because at some point she did discover what the government was doing but held her tongue. Coleman said her character is caught between a rock and a hard place.

"I feel she is a victim as well. She was following her oath as a nurse by following the doctors' instructions," Coleman said.

The various dimensions of the character have given Coleman fodder as an actress.

"It has challenged me to go places I have never explored before," said Coleman, who has starred in close to a dozen stage productions and played the lead role in the Showtime short film "Rain."

This will be Coleman's first time at the NBTF. She has been a longtime fan of the festival and is

excited about the possibility of seeing other festival plays. Coleman hopes people are just as excited about "Miss Evers' Boys." She bills it as both entertaining and educational, heart-wrenching and historical.

"I think we need to see things like this so we can see what has happened in our history, because if we don't know our history, we will make the same mistakes," Coleman said.

Young said the play is not all about tragedy and despair. There are elements of humor, dancing (the lead male character is an aspiring

professional dancer) and love. Young also said that people who have seen the HBO movie based on the play will get a new perspective from the stage.

"Because we are doing it on stage, we are forced to be more creative, so if you have seen the movie, you will get something different," Young said.

"Miss Evers' Boys" will be staged at the Arts Council Theatre at 8 p.m. on Aug. 5 and at 3 p.m. and 8 p.m. on Aug. 6 and Aug. 7. Tickets are \$35. For tickets, call 723-7907 or log onto www.nbtf.org.

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