

# ARTS & LIFESTYLE

## Of Interest ...

### Salem Orchestra to perform works by Salem composers

The Salem College School of Music will present "Tooting Our Own Horns: Salem's Music and Musicians," a concert by the Salem College Chamber Orchestra, on Sunday, May 6 at 7:30 p.m. in Hanes Auditorium, located in the Salem Fine Arts Center. The concert is free and open to the public.

This concert will feature music composed and arranged by Salem College faculty Doug Borwick, Charles Skilton and Charles Vardell, as well as Civil War music arranged by Edward Leinbach and Amelia van Vleck.

Conducted by Donna Rothrock, assistant professor of music education at Salem, the concert will showcase senior performance majors.

For more information, please contact the School of Music at (336) 721-2636, or visit [www.salem.edu](http://www.salem.edu). The Salem College School of Music offers concerts, workshops and general music education.

### Professor wins NEH grant

You've probably heard of Emily Dickinson, the secluded and eccentric "Belle of Amherst." But the name of another great poet, Anne Finch, may escape you.

Dr. Jennifer Keith, an associate professor of English at The University of North Carolina at Greensboro, has won a \$40,000 National Endowment for the Humanities Fellowship to complete a critical edition of Finch's poetry. She hopes to bring Finch to the attention of a wider audience.

Finch, a British writer who lived from 1661-1720, was an aristocrat, a court insider in the court of Mary of Modena (wife of James II). Finch married a courtier of James II only to follow her husband into exile when James abdicated and William and Mary took the throne.

Before this "Glorious Revolution," Keith said, "it seemed like [Finch and her husband] had the world as their oyster." Afterwards, as "non-jurors" who refused to swear allegiance to the new monarchs, they encountered financial hardships as he was banned from official appointment.

"She had the luxury of maintaining a leisured life, but it certainly changed abruptly," Keith said.

Remarkably for the 18th century, Finch's husband often acted as her secretary, transcribing many of her poems. Despite her estrangement from London court society, she wrote prolifically, producing about 250 poems. All of those poems, including many alternate versions, will be included in Keith's edition.

"We can say that her life is quite extraordinary." Finch and her husband oversaw publication of a volume of her poetry that appeared in 1713. By necessity she left out any politically dangerous material.

The NEH grant will help to replace a portion of Keith's salary during the 2007-2008 academic year, allowing her to write and research. Keith, who came to UNCG in 1997, expects the book to appear around 2010.

### Magazine debut at Hanes Mall

North Carolina Signature, the newest publication from the publishers of Our State magazine, will be hosting the Signature event as a part of the official launch of the magazine.

The event will be at Hanes Mall on Saturday, May 5, from 12 - 4 p.m. It will take place in the Belk Court on the mall's lower level, and will include entertainment by Martha and the Moodswingers. Event exhibitors include Turchin Properties, UNCG Theatre department, My Bryan MBA program, Merri Mail and Sociale Gourmet.

North Carolina Signature magazine debuted in March 2007 with the second edition arriving on newsstands in May. The magazine focuses on the six major North Carolina regions: Asheville, Charlotte, Greenville, the Triad, the Triangle, and Wilmington. North Carolina Signature is designed to motivate North Carolina-lovers from near and far to get out and discover the style and distinction of the state. Each issue will feature nine recurring departments that explore one-of-a-kind shops, inspired style, notable Tar Heel homes, luxury downtown living, great restaurants, wonderful wines, quick getaway destinations and more.

Door prizes will be given away throughout the event and include Carlyle & Co. gift cards and Hanes Mall gift cards. Attendees will receive a complimentary copy of the brand new edition of North Carolina Signature magazine!

### Stars salute Ella Fitzgerald

LOS ANGELES (AP) - "You can only be an innovator once ... and I hate that," joked Patti Austin backstage at a tribute to Ella Fitzgerald.

Austin joined host Natalie Cole, Wynonna Judd, Nancy Wilson and other singers and musicians covering tunes by Fitzgerald at the "We Love Ella: A Tribute to the First Lady of Song" on Sunday night.

The tribute, held at the University of Southern California's Galen Center, marked what would have been Fitzgerald's 90th birthday April 25. The singer died in 1996.

Backed by USC's Thornton Symphony and Jazz Orchestra, instrumentalists George Duke, James Moody and Jon Faddis covered Fitzgerald's classic 1950s recording "Lady Be Good." Newcomer Lizz Wright cooed "Lullaby of Birdland."

Saxman Dave Koz riffed with "American Idol" Ruben Studdard on "Do Nothing 'Til You Hear From Me," and a capella act Take 6 bopped to an original tune inspired by Fitzgerald's stylings.

"We Love Ella," produced by Phil Ramone and Gregg Field for Thirteen/WNET New York, airs June 6 on PBS.

## Jazz summit coming to NCCU this summer

Speakers and performers will headline event

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

DURHAM - North Carolina Central University (NCCU) in partnership with the African American Jazz Caucus (AAJC), an affiliate of the International Association for Jazz Education (IAJE), has scheduled the inaugural NCCU/AAJC (NAJRI) Annual Summer Jazz Festival/HBCU Summit June 20-23 on the NCCU campus.

The summit will be a four-day event consisting of interdisciplinary workshops, panels, and seminars designed to address the needs of HBCU educators, students and the community. Two particularly important panel topics will address "The Media and Jazz" and "The Church/Community and Their Relationship to Jazz."

There will be performances by internationally renowned guest artists: pianist Kenny Barron, trumpeter Jimmy Owens, bassist Larry Ridley and the Jazz Legacy Ensemble featuring saxophonist Ira Wiggins, the American Dance Festival Dancers and vocalist



Kenny Barron



Jimmy Owens



Larry Ridley

Lenora Helms' ensemble featuring saxophonist Antonio Hart.

The jazz festival will showcase the exceptional talents of the NCCU Vocal Group and NCCU Big Band, nightly jam sessions and a photo exhibit of jazz greats by renowned documentary photographer Jim Alexander.

A.B. Spellman, and Elizabeth City native who is recently retired from the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) as deputy director for programs, will be one of the

speakers. Spellman has a varied and influential career as a writer, cultural critic, educator, arts visionary and administrator.

Cedric-Hendricks will also be a featured speaker. He has served for several years as an assistant to the Honorable Congressman John Conyers, (D-MI). Conyers put forth the 100th Congress, House Resolution 57 declaring Jazz, a valuable national American treasure.

Barron is the younger brother

of tenor saxophonist Bill Barron. His talent first came to wider recognition when he took the piano chair in the 1960s Dizzy Gillespie quartet. He has worked with hundreds of well-known musicians including Yusef Lateef; James Moody; Joe Henderson; Freddie Hubbard; Buddy Rich; Ron Carter; Chet Baker; Benny Carter; Stan Getz; Regina Carter; and Ornette Coleman.

See Jazz on A11



Keith



The students of "College Hill, Season Four."

## Millions tuning in to "College Hill"

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

BET's reality show "College Hill" has set a ratings benchmark.

Now in its fourth season, this season's eighth episode, which aired two weeks ago, became the most-watched original series telecast in BET history with a 1.7 rating. But even that mark was topped by last

week's show, episode nine, which broke the previous record by a margin of 8 percent. The numbers mean that more than two million households were tuned in, which is quite impressive for cable television.

Produced by Edmonds Entertainment and BET, the series, which follows the goings-on of a group of real-life college student, is cable's

top original series among black households.

In episode nine, the after-effects of the stiletto conflict were still felt throughout the cast as Vanessa was ultimately asked to leave the posh Virgin Island digs where the students live. Viewers can watch as the drama unfolds every Tuesday night at 10 p.m. on BET.

## UNCG to host N.C. Writers' Network Conference

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

The University of North Carolina at Greensboro will host the annual N.C. Writers' Network Spring Conference Saturday, June 2.

The event, a collaboration between the Writer's Network and the Center for Creative Writing in the Arts at UNCG, marks the first time the conference has been held in Greensboro. Many area writing faculty will take part, and Fred Chappell, professor emeritus of creative writing at UNCG and past poet laureate of North Carolina, will deliver the keynote address.

This conference will feature all day workshops with Quinn Dalton (fiction) and Marianne Gingham (memoir). In addition, attendees will have access to intensive courses in poetry (Stuart Dischell and Carolyn Beard Whitlow), creative nonfiction (Lee Zacharias) and fiction (Michael Parker). Editors from Press 53, Main Street Rag Press, International Poetry Review and the Greensboro Review will provide a panel about what it takes to get published.

Two conference events are free and open to the public:

- Keynote address by Fred



Chappell at 11:15 a.m.

• Faculty reading and book signing at 4:15 p.m.

The Writers' Network serves writers at every stage of development through programs that offer ample opportunities for professional growth in skills and insight. The network builds audiences for literature, advocates for the literary arts and for literacy, and provides information and support services. For further information, or if you are interested in becoming a member, call (919) 967-9540.

The Center for Creative Writing in the Arts at UNCG fosters the efforts of those who believe in the power of the crafted

word to transform and improve. The beginning wordsmith and the established word master, the student and the professional alike will find in the center a place from which to draw strength, encouragement and support in producing their work and in finding the opportunity to share it with others.

The conference will take place in the Elliott University Center on campus from 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Workshop attendance is limited to registrants only. Early registration is \$110 for Writer's Network members, \$145 for non-members. Walk-in registration is \$135 for members, \$165 for non-members. For more information or to register for the conference, log on to [www.newwriters.org](http://www.newwriters.org) or call (919) 967-9540.

## Opera again welcomes Bonnie Poindexter

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

Bonnie Poindexter has returned as interim executive director of Piedmont Opera. Poindexter previously served as interim director in 2006.

"With her former 22 year leadership of the March of Dimes and interim directorships at the Arts Council of



Poindexter

Winston-Salem and Forsyth County and Sawtooth Center for Visual Art, Bonnie brings a wealth of experience to Piedmont Opera as we prepare for our historic 30th season," said Gail Phillips, president of the Piedmont Opera board of directors. "Although Bonnie is an interim director, the board anticipates that she will be here for an extended period and looks forward to working closely with her and the rest of our professional staff on upcoming productions."

Piedmont Opera's recently-concluded 29th season was one of the most successful seasons in the company's long history, featuring critically and financially successful productions of "La Boheme," "Amahl and the Night Visitors," and "Cosi fan tutte," as well as its Magnolia Ball fundraiser.

To better position the company to continue and expand upon the great successes of the 2006-2007 season, Piedmont Opera's board of directors has elected to restructure the company's management effective April 18. Poindexter returns to replace former executive director John W. Fichtel. James Allbritten will continue to serve as artistic director and resident conductor. A.J. Wolff will continue to serve as business manager, Jaclyn Bradley as box office manager and John Toia as production manager.

To celebrate its 30th season, Piedmont Opera will offer performances of three beloved operas during the next year: "La traviata" in October; "Amahl and the Night Visitors" in December; and "Die Fledermaus" in April, 2008.

For more information about Piedmont Opera and tickets to the 30th anniversary season, visit [www.piedmont-opera.org](http://www.piedmont-opera.org) or call (336) 725-7101.