

# ARTS & LIFESTYLE

## Of Interest ...

### Neill named an emeritus member of NCSA Board

D. Samuel "Sam" Neill has been named an emeritus member of the North Carolina School of the Arts (NCSA) Board of Trustees.

Neill is an attorney with a general civil transactional practice (real estate, wills and estates) in Hendersonville. He also is involved in a variety of business enterprises.

Neill served for 12 years on the University of North Carolina (UNC) Board of Governors. For two of those years he served as its chairman. Currently he serves on the boards of the Western North Carolina (WNC) Economic Development Commission (Advantage West), Flat Rock Playhouse, and as chair of both the Arts Center of Henderson County and the WNC Film Commission.

Neill joined the NCSA Board of Trustees in 1999 as an appointee of the Board of Governors of the University of North Carolina. He and his wife, Nancy, live in Hendersonville.

### Writing legend John Irving will read at UNCG Jan. 17

Novelist John Irving won't be holed up at the Hotel New Hampshire the night of Thursday, Jan. 17. He'll be farther south, reading at The University of North Carolina at Greensboro.

The reading begins at 8 p.m. in Elliott University Center auditorium. UNCG's MFA Writing Program and The Greensboro Review are sponsoring the event, which is free and open to the public.



Irving

Irving was born in New Hampshire. He studied at universities in the U.S. and Europe and published his first novel, "Setting Free the Bears," at 26. "The World According to Garp," published in 1978 to phenomenal acclaim, established him as one of America's

most inventive novelists.

During the 1980's Irving wrote "The Hotel New Hampshire," "The Cider House Rules" and "A Prayer for Owen Meany." In these novels his originality and striking vision came to the fore, along with his trademark subjects - feminism, religion, wrestling, sex and New England life.

More recent novels include the complex bestseller "A Son of the Circus," the dark and funny novel "A Widow for One Year" and "The Fourth Hand," a black comedy.

Irving was inducted into the National Wrestling Hall of Fame in Stillwater, Okla., in 1992. In 2001 he was elected to the American Academy of Arts and Letters. He lives in Vermont and Toronto.

### Symphony New Year's events

The Winston-Salem Symphony is "Puttin' On the Ritz" at its annual New Year's Eve celebration on Monday, Dec. 31. The concert, part of the Symphony's Plugged-In Pops series, begins at 7:30 p.m. at Reynolds Auditorium.

The Symphony will be joined by vocalist Jenn Raithel Newman and the Neos Dance Theatre for a fun evening of light classics and Broadway and popular tunes. As a special treat, Maestro Robert Moody will join Ms. Newman to sing selections from Kurt Weill's Street Scene and Lerner and Loewe's Gigi. In addition, several lucky couples will be selected from a drawing to dance the last waltz of the year on stage with the orchestra, and there are other surprises in store for concert goers as well.

Tickets prices range from \$15 to \$50 and group discounts are available. For tickets, call the Symphony's Box Office at 336-725-1035.

After the concert, those who want to continue the celebration can head over to the Piedmont Club, located in the BB&T Building at 200 West Second Street, where a New Year's Eve party - open to the public - will be in full swing. The evening will include dessert, with a huge array of luscious Club-made desserts, a Viennese coffee station, champagne specials and a cash bar - plus hats, horns, confetti, and dancing to the King of Hearts Band until 1 a.m.

The cost is \$25 per person and reservations are required by calling 336-724-7077.

### Timberlake donates desk to High Point Museum

Christmas came early to the High Point Museum. Bob Timberlake, local artist and furniture designer, donated a study desk and chair to the North Carolina Furniture Heritage Project. A warm, antiqued cherry finish characterizes the desk, crafted in cherry solids, cherry veneers, and solid hardwoods, hand distressed and worn for an antique appearance.

"This desk represents Bob Timberlake's commitment to the community and demonstrates that his company shares our vision for North Carolina furniture heritage," Ellen Denker, director Furniture Heritage Project, said.

Bob Timberlake, Inc. produces a variety of home furnishings including furniture, lighting, mirrors, rugs, paint and building products. His furniture collections, The World of Bob Timberlake and An Arts and Crafts Collection from Bob Timberlake, are manufactured by Lexington Home Brands in Lexington.

The North Carolina Furniture Heritage Project is a collecting commitment intended to preserve the history of furniture manufacturing in North Carolina. A furniture history exhibit at the High Point Museum will coincide with the city's 150th Anniversary Celebration in 2009-2010.

## Triad artists receive \$10,000 fellowships

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

Four Triad artists—including a poet, a fiction writer, a jazz composer and a songwriter—are recipients of the North Carolina Arts Council's 2007-08 North Carolina Fellowship Awards.

Receiving an award of \$10,000 are: Brian Crocker, a Greensboro fiction writer; Jeffrey Dean Foster, a singer/songwriter from Winston-Salem; Steve Haines, a jazz composer from Greensboro; and Barbara Presnell, a poet from Lexington.

"Fellowships allow us to acknowledge the important work that artists create in our communities," said Mary B. Regan, Executive Director of the North Carolina Arts Council. "Professional artists enhance our culture and enliven our economy, and they deserve acclaim and affirmation for the positive impact they make in the lives of North Carolinians."

Approximately 16 artists, including composers, songwriters,



Foster



Haines



Presnell

playwrights, screenwriters, writers of fiction, poetry, literary nonfiction, literary translation and spoken-word artists, statewide received fellowships. Recipients were selected during a panel comprised of experienced artists and arts professionals.

Each artist receives an award of \$10,000, up from \$8,000 the

previous year, which allows the artists to concentrate on the creative process or a specific project. The Artist Fellowship program operates on a two-year rotating cycle by discipline. Since the program's inception in 1980, more than 475 artists have received awards.

Crocker was a 2006 Gulf

Coast Review Fiction Award Finalist. His work appeared in the Mississippi Review and AAA Living last fall. His current work includes a book of fiction and a memoir.

In addition to his work as songwriter and musician, Foster has been painting houses in

See Artists on A11

## DISNEY'S DREAMERS MEET STEVE HARVEY



PRNewsFoto/BET

Four students, Kelsie Shawver, from left, Jeanessa Perry, Russell Haylock and Jacquelyn Austin, selected for Disney's Dreamers Academy with Steve Harvey met the actor and comedian for a behind-the-scenes look at the makings of the BET Celebration of Gospel, which will be hosted by Harvey in Los Angeles. The group was given the star treatment as Harvey's special guests during show rehearsals. They were selected by a panel of judges following a nationwide search for 100 Dreamers. They will join other imaginative teens for a weekend of unprecedented access to Walt Disney World Resort where professionals like Harvey and BET founder Bob Johnson will share their success secrets during the weekend of January 17-20, 2008.

## Footsteps of luminaries to be added to Hall of Fame

CHRONICLE STAFF REPORT

The "Footsteps" of 11 more civil rights luminaries will be added to the International Civil Rights Walk of Fame in Atlanta next month.

The 2008 inductees include Writer Maya Angelou; Sen. Edward W. Brooke, a former member of Congress from Massachusetts; Georgia lawmaker Tyrone L. Brooks, Sr.; late entertainer Sammy Davis, Jr.; businessman and civil rights legend Jesse Hill, Jr.; former NAACP leader Dr. Benjamin Hooks; attorney Clarence B. Jones; radio host Tom Joyner; former Jamaican Prime Minister Michael Manley; entrepreneur Herman Russell, Sr.; and civil rights legend Dr. Wyatt Tee Walker.

The induction ceremony will be one of the featured events of the Annual Trumpet Awards and is scheduled for Jan. 12, at the Martin Luther King, Jr. National Historic Site.

The International Civil Rights Walk of Fame was created to give recognition to those brave soldiers of justice who sacrificed and struggled to make equality a reality for all. This extraordinary display has become one of the most visited tourist attractions in the city of Atlanta and has enriched the heritage of the civil rights movement. The shoes used to create the footsteps will also be on display during the unveiling program.



File Photo

Winston-Salem resident Maya Angelou signs books at a local library.



Herman Russell, Sr.

The Walk of Fame, now in its fifth year, is sponsored by the Trumpet Awards Foundation, Inc.,

and was created and designed by Xerona Clayton, founder and executive producer of the renowned Trumpet Awards.

"This is a lasting monument to those whose contributions are testaments to the fact that human progress is not always foreseeable nor is it automatic," said Clayton. "It must be fought for and earned through dedication and sacrifice."

The footprints of people such as Atlanta Mayor Shirley Franklin, Congresswoman Maxine Waters, Stevie Wonder, Julian Bond, Rosa Parks, Jesse L.

See Footsteps on A12

## NCSA's McManus honored for her work

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

North Carolina School of the Arts (NCSA) student Alaina McManus of Charlotte has been named a finalist in the Kirkus Reviews 2007 Teen Book Video Awards.

McManus attended the awards celebration and screening at the Tribeca Cinemas in New York City on Monday, Nov. 26. She is a college junior studying cinematography in the School of Filmmaking at NCSA.

The Teen Book Video Awards is an annual competition for young filmmakers. Students from across the country compete to create book videos



McManus

for three of the hottest teen books of the year. Out of dozens of students who applied, nine filmmakers were chosen by a panel of judges from Random House, Expanded Books and The Nielsen Company (parent company of The Book Standard and Kirkus Reviews) to create video for one of three books: The Alchemist, by Michael Scott; Runemarks, by Joanne Harris; and Love, Stargirl, by Jerry Spinelli.

Three book videos, including one by McManus for "The Alchemist," were chosen as the best for each specific book and were screened at Tribeca. Winners were chosen based upon various criteria including best adapted screenplay from the novel, cinematography skills, and use of actors, costumes and set design.

A graduate student from Columbia University was chosen as the overall winner of the event. He received \$1,000, while McManus and the other finalist, also from Columbia, received \$250.

McManus directed a cast and crew composed of North Carolina School of the Arts students. She told *The Book Standard*: "The book definitely lent itself to the visual and was very cinematic. We had fun visual effects to work with and it was very challenging."

Five other teams of NCSA students led by John Roberts ('07) of Raleigh; Jonathan Sikes ('07) of Raleigh; Sergey Rahkmanov ('09) of Gibsonton, Florida; Marco Garcia ('09) of Alpharetta, Georgia; and Nicolas Gonzalez ('10) of Barcelona, Spain, also competed and were named semi-finalists.