

ARTS & LIFESTYLE

Of Interest ...

Moscow Festival Ballet to perform 'Swan Lake'

The Moscow Festival Ballet will perform "Swan Lake" on Tuesday, April 7 in the University of North Carolina at Greensboro's Aycock Auditorium as part of the University Concert & Lecture Series.

Tickets for the 8 p.m. performance are \$28-\$35 and can be purchased from the University Box Office at (336) 334-4849 or online at boxoffice.uncg.edu.

Written by Russian composer Peter Tchaikovsky, "Swan Lake" tells the story of Prince Siegfried and his search for love. He finds it in Odette, the Swan Queen, but a plot by an antagonist interferes with their blossoming affection.

The Moscow Festival Ballet was founded 20 years ago when Sergei Radchenko, the legendary principal dancer of the Bolshoi Ballet, pursued his vision for a dance company that would meld the highest classical elements of the great Bolshoi and Kirov Ballet companies in an independent new company within the framework of Russian classic ballet.

The ballet has toured extensively, including two tours of Europe and multiple visits to the United States. During the 2008-09 season, the company will return to America for a 17-week tour.

Miss UNCF crowned in G'boro

Brittnie L. Morris, a senior majoring in biology at Wiley College in Marshall, Texas, is the winner of its 51st Annual Miss National UNCF (United Negro College Fund) competition. A native of Los Angeles, Morris received a \$3,000 scholarship. An active member of the Wiley College student body, her affiliations include the Pre-Alumni Council and Project Stop Now.



Brittnie L. Morris

The winner of the Miss National UNCF crown is determined by the amount raised by students at UNCF member colleges and universities. This year, under Morris' leadership, students from Wiley College raised a total of \$45,000 for UNCF. Morris was crowned Miss National UNCF at the annual joint conference of the UNCF National Alumni Council (NAC) and

its subsidiary organization, the UNCF National Pre-Alumni Council (NPAC), which was held in Greensboro, Feb. 5-8.

"I'm thrilled to have been chosen to represent Wiley College and UNCF as Miss National UNCF," Morris said after receiving her crown. "But it's an honor shared by all the Wiley College students whose hard work and contributions to UNCF won the competition for us. And we're all proud that we are able to help the next generation of UNCF students get the college education that means so much to all of us."

Morris will serve as an official UNCF representative at national events, including "An Evening of Stars," the annual UNCF national television special. She will also attend regional UNCF events such as the Chicago Black & White Ball, the Atlanta Mayor's Masked Ball, the Indianapolis Classic and the Maya Angelou "Women Who Lead" Luncheon in Charlotte.

NanoDays 2009 at SciWorks

SciWorks will celebrate NanoDays 2009 with an event on March 28 from 12 - 3 p.m. Faculty and students from the Center for Nanotechnology and Molecular Materials at Wake Forest University and Forsyth Technical Community College will be at SciWorks for the event, which will feature live atomic force microscope demonstrations, lectures and SciWorks' own NanoLab for children.

NanoDays is organized and funded through The Nanoscale Informal Science Education (NISE) Network. NISE Net is a national community of researchers and informal science educators dedicated to fostering public awareness, engagement and understanding of nanoscale science and technology. SciWorks admission prices are: adults \$10, students (6-19) and seniors \$8, children (2-5) \$6. Children under 2 years are free. SciWorks is located on Hanes Mill Road just off University Parkway or Highway 52.

Parisian theme Community Day at Reynolda House is Saturday

Reynolda House Museum of American Art is inviting the public to its "Americans in Paris Community Day Festival" on Sunday, March 29 from 2 to 4 p.m. Visitors are invited to tour the historic house and the current exhibition, "American Impressions: Selections from the National Academy Museum," at its only venue outside New York. The event is free.

The afternoon will feature a variety of activities, including art projects for children, entertainment by the Forsyth Country Day School Concert Choirs, strolling accordion players and mimes, storytelling, balloons, and a calliope playing music outdoors. Local artists will be sketching and painting on the lawn, and Caffé Prada will sell special French pastries and glaces.

The Parisian theme of Community Day is based on the museum's current exhibition, "American Impressions," which features the paintings of American artists from the late 19th and early 20th centuries, who traveled to France to study with the French Impressionists in and around Paris.

Freeman to guide writers during upcoming workshop

CHRONICLE STAFF REPORT

Playwright Nathan Ross Freeman and author Leigh Somerville McMillan will lead a Writing and Publishing Retreat on Saturday, April 4 at Blessings, 823 Reynolda Road.

The event is designed for both novice and experienced writers. Various topics will be covered and the event will include information about how to self-publish.

Freeman is a published author, award-winning film and stage director, and acclaimed university lecturer and teacher. He was awarded 2007 B.E.S.T. Outstanding



Nathan Ross Freeman

Faculty Award at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte as a member of the Intensive Writing Faculty. He is currently the 2008 Visiting Writer at Salem College, where he teaches creative writing, introduction and intermediate poetry and screenwriting. As a spoken word educator he serves as the founding artist director of Authoring Action (formerly The Winston-Salem Youth Arts Institute).

McMillan is the long-time Scene & Heard columnist for The Winston-Salem Journal. She will talk about the world of print-on-demand publishing and how she published her new

book, "It All Started With a Dog," through iUniverse.

Proceeds from the Writing and Publishing Retreat will benefit Authoring Action, which has used the power of writing and the arts to engage and train young people since 2002.

Writing and Publishing Retreat will be from 9:30 am to noon. Blessings is across from Hanes Park in the West End. Reservations are required by going

to www.StudioMcMillan.com or calling 336-631-8571. The event costs \$35, which is tax-deductible.

GARAGE THEATER



Photo by Will Abner

The award-winning punk rock musical "Hedwig and the Angry Inch" will be staged at The Garage, 110 W. 7th St., from March 27-29. There will be four shows in all. The Obie-winning Off-Broadway musical tells the story of "internationally ignored song stylist" Hedwig Schmidt. The production is produced, designed and performed by students and staff associated with the University of North Carolina School of the Arts. Cast members pictured from left are Nick Bailey, Spencer Trinwith, Alex Aucoin, Andrew Wells Ryder, Aleque Reid, Luke Smith and Chris French.



Byron Pitts

CBS' Pitts will give graduation message

More than 1,000 Aggies will get degrees

CHRONICLE STAFF REPORT

A man whose face is familiar to millions around the nation has been booked as N.C. A&T State University's 2009 Spring Commencement Ceremony speaker.

Byron Pitts is the national correspondent for CBS News. His reports from cities and towns across the United States regularly appear on "CBS Evening News," "The Early Show" and other programs on the network. He is also a contributor to the network's top-rated "60 Minutes."

A Baltimore native, Pitts has covered some of the nation's and world's biggest news events, including the war in Iraq. Pitts was recognized for reporting under fire within minutes of the fall of the Saddam Hussein's statue. He was also the network's lead correspondent at Ground Zero on Sept. 11. His reporting on the terrorists attacks earned him an Emmy for individual reporting. He has several other national and regional awards, including another Emmy for his coverage of the Chicago train wreck of 1999, several Associated Press Awards and a National Association of Black Journalists Award.

Pitts, who earned his journalism degree from Ohio Wesleyan University, has worked for CBS News for a little more than a decade. He worked at several local television stations before that, including WSB-TV in Atlanta, WCBV-TV in Boston, WESH-TV in Orlando and WNCT-TV in Greenville, N.C. He lives outside of New York City in Upper Montclair, N.J. with his wife.

More than 1,000 Aggies are expected to graduate during the Saturday, May 9 ceremony, which will begin at 8:30 a.m. at the Greensboro Coliseum. The event is free and open to the public.

Writers to keynote CACE

CHRONICLE STAFF REPORT

Authors will keynote the upcoming Conference on African American Culture and Experience (CACE) at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro.

The April 2-3 conference will feature the views of author/educator Curtis Austin and novelist Ernest Hill and will focus on the intersection of race, gender and politics.

This year's theme is inspired by the rise of African-American influence in politics, according to Dr. Tara T. Green, director of UNCG's African American Studies Program. There are more African-American politicians now than any other time in history, Green said, noting Barack Obama's historic election as the nation's first African-American president and the recent election of Michael Steele to head the Republican National Committee.

"We want to have these conversations to think back historically, look at where we are and where we should be going," she said.

Austin, an associate professor and director of the Center for Black Studies at the University of Southern Mississippi, will give a lecture at 3:30

p.m. on Friday, April 3 in the Elliott University Center auditorium titled "The Politics of Race and Gender in the Black Panther Party." His latest book is "Up Against the Wall: Violence and the Making and Unmaking of the Black Panther Party."

Hill, whose novels include "Satisfied With Nothin'," "A Life for a Life," "Cry Me a River," will read from his works during the conference's Literary Café at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, April 2, in the Elliott University Center's Multicultural Resource Center. Poet Demetrius Noble and novelist Ashanti White are also scheduled to participate in the conference, which is sponsored by the African-American Studies Program and co-sponsored by the Office of the Provost, the College of Arts and Sciences and the Department of History.

The event is open to the public. The cost is \$10. Enrollment by the March 27 early registration deadline is highly encouraged. Registration is available online at www.uncg.edu/afs/caceregistration2009.html or by calling 336-334-5507.



Austin

Chicago a cappella group coming to town

CHRONICLE STAFF REPORT

An evening of good food and great music is planned at the Stevens Center on Thursday, April 9.

As part of its popular Something For Everyone Series, the University of North Carolina School of the Arts will present Chapter 6, a Chicago a cappella ensemble whose catchy melodies have earned a slew of music awards.

Since its debut in 2000, Chapter 6 has won over fans and critics alike. The three-time Chicago Regional Harmony Sweepstakes grand champions, took home the 2004 National Harmony Sweepstakes in recognition of their technique, performance, and unique, original arrangements.

Members Chuck Bosworth, Mark Grizzard, Jarrett Johnson, Luke Menard, John Musick,



The members of Chapter 6.

Nathan Pufall and A.D. Stonecipher say their sound has no boundaries.

Before the Chapter 6's 7:30 p.m. show, attendees will be treated to a Greek-themed buffet dinner on the 10th floor of the Stevens Center. Everything from classic Greek salad and Spanakopita to rotisserie chicken

and pita bread with hummus is on the menu. The buffet dinner will be from 5:30 - 7:30 p.m. and costs \$22, which does not include admission to the concert. Tickets to the performance start at \$16.

For tickets or more information, call the Stevens Center Box Office at 336-721-1945 or go to www.ncarts.edu/performance.