

ARTS & LIFESTYLE

Of Interest ...



Photo by Dane Bryant
Essence's Michelle Eubanks and Angela Burt-Murray with Shaun Robinson, center.

Essence honors D.C.'s movers and shakers

Essence and the utility corporation Southern Company joined together on Friday, Sept. 25 to host "An Evening of Excellence," a special awards reception held in conjunction with the Congressional Black Caucus (CBC) to commemorate the achievements of today's most influential politicians and architects of change.

An esteemed list of Washington, D.C.'s "who's who" were among the more than 500 hundred guests that convened at the Reagan International Trade Center to pay homage to the ground-breaking accomplishments of today's leading Black activists, pioneers and public servants. The honorees were: The Honorable Congresswoman Barbara Lee, CBC Chairwoman (Advocate Award); Suzanne Malveaux, CNN Washington Correspondent (Journalist of the Year Award); Dr. Robert M. Franklin, Jr., Morehouse College President (Hope Award); and Dr. Henry Panton III, Musician/Activist (Civic & Cultural Advancement Award).

The event was hosted by Access Hollywood co-host Shaun Robinson, and culminated with a celebration featuring DJ D-Nice and an exclusive performance by multi-platinum recording artist, songwriter and musician Raphael Saadiq.

WSSU to host screening of classic

Winston-Salem State University's Gay-Straight Student Alliance will present a screening of the cult classic "The Rocky Horror Picture Show" on Friday, Oct. 16 at 8 p.m. in Dillard Auditorium in the university's Anderson Center. The Wake Forest University Gay-Straight Student Alliance and the WSSU Office of Campus Life are co-sponsors of the event.

First released in 1975, "The Rocky Horror Picture Show" is a parody of sci-fi and horror movies. It stars Oscar winner Susan Sarandon, Barry Bostwick and Tim Curry. The film became legendary when audiences began attending screenings dressed as characters and taking part in movie-related skits and gimmicks.

The WSSU screening will be a benefit for AIDS Care Service and Intersections of the Triad, both of which help local people living with HIV/AIDS.

Tickets are \$10 for the general public and \$5 for students (with a valid student ID). Attendees are encouraged to come dressed as their favorite character.

Method Man arrested over taxes

NEW YORK (AP) - Grammy-winning rapper Method Man has been arrested in New York City on felony charges for failing to pay his taxes.

The 38-year-old rapper turned himself in Monday morning. Authorities say he failed to pay nearly \$33,000 in taxes through 2004 and 2007.

He is being charged with repeated failure to file a return and failure to pay taxes.

Method Man, whose real name is Clifford Smith, could face up to four years in prison.

He won a Grammy in 1995 for best rap performance by a group or duo with Mary J. Blige for "I'll Be There For You/You're All That I Need." He is also a member of the group Wu-Tang Clan.

Method Man was scheduled to be arraigned Monday in Staten Island Criminal Court.

Book wins Douglass Prize

Annette Gordon-Reed, Professor of Law at New York Law School and Visiting Professor of Law at Harvard University, has been selected as the winner of the 2009 Frederick Douglass Book Prize, awarded for the best book written in English on slavery or abolition.

Gordon-Reed won for her book, "The Hemingses of Monticello: An American Family" (W.W. Norton and Company), which tells the story of children Thomas Jefferson had with his slave, Sally Hemings. The prize is awarded by Yale University's Gilder Lehrman Center for the Study of Slavery, Resistance, and Abolition, sponsored by the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History.

The other finalists for the prize were Thavolia Glymph for "Out of the House of Bondage: The Transformation of the Plantation Household" (Cambridge University Press) and Jacqueline Jones for "Saving Savannah: The City and the Civil War" (Alfred A. Knopf Publishers). The \$25,000 annual award is the most generous history prize in the field. The prize will be presented to Gordon-Reed at a dinner in New York City in February.



Gordon-Reed

PICTURES & PATRIOTISM

"Young Americans" to open at Diggs on Oct. 16

CHRONICLE STAFF REPORT

Winston-Salem State University's Diggs Gallery will open the exhibit "Young Americans" on Friday, Oct. 16 at 6 p.m. with a reception that is free and open to the public.

The show features a series of photographs by photographer Sheila Pree Bright that explores the identities of young people and their relationship to the United States. Her pictorial statements on America feature participants from age 18 to 25 - all of whom are posed with an American flag.

"We are extremely excited to have this wonderful traveling exhibit that captures these young people speaking for themselves through Sheila's photography," said Belinda Tate, director of Diggs Gallery. "When the exhibit opened at the High Museum in Atlanta, it was immediately deemed as bringing a contemporary perspective as well as an insightful look at the attitudes and beliefs of young people."

The exhibit features images of several WSSU students, including Joshua Phifer and Kolin Robinson, both art majors, and Corderius Cowans, a mass communications major.

"What makes it even more exciting is that we had Winston-Salem State students participate in the project," Tate added. "Of 15 students who were originally photographed from WSSU, nine are still on campus and will participate in the opening reception."

Pree Bright began working on the "Young American" series in the fall of 2006. She invited the subjects of the photographs to choose their own clothing, poses and interactions with the American flag. The result is a mix of emotions that these young people were able to express, including WSSU alumnus Phillip Osborne III, who said that America brings to mind "struggle" and "opportunity," meaning that you have to "see and achieve opportunity."



Sheila Pree Bright's picture of Corderius Cowans

See Pictures on A11

HELP FROM HIS FRIENDS



PRNewsFoto/Truth on Health Campaign
Boston Celtics All-Star Paul Pierce, left, former president Bill Clinton and Usher pose for a photo at the recent Clinton Global Initiative powwow in New York. Clinton has picked Pierce to head the Initiative's The Truth on Health Campaign, designed to encourage youth to lead active, healthier lifestyles.

Allen to tour U.S. as "Nettie"

CHRONICLE STAFF REPORT

Traci Allen has landed the role of a lifetime.

The Winston-Salem native will play the role of "Nettie" in a national tour of "The Color Purple" set to kick off in February.

Allen auditioned for the role in Chicago, where she now lives, and received a call-back for a second audition in New York. She learned she got the role just a few weeks ago.

Last December, the Star-Tribune in Minneapolis-St. Paul Minn., named Allen the "Breakout Performer" of the 2008 for her role in the musical, "Five Fingers of Funk."

At the time, Allen was working in Minneapolis at the city's Children's Theatre Company. Since her move to Chicago, she has landed the lead in a Cortland, NY production of "Once On This Island" and has been in the chorus

of "Footloose" in Munster, Ind.

Despite her successes, Allen told The Chronicle last year that she spends little time patting herself on the back.

"The Star-Tribune (Award) is nice, but that was just one article on one day; every morning you have to wake up and recommit yourself (to your work)," she stated. "I'm ready to go back and get back out there and make Winston-Salem proud if I can."

Allen is a 2003 high school graduate of the UNC-SA School of Drama. She earned a theater degree from Howard University in 2007.

Allen is the daughter of R.J. Reynolds Tobacco Co.'s John Allen and Gloria Allen, a music specialist at Southwest Elementary School and the music director at St. Paul United Methodist Church.

So far, the 2010 "The Color Purple" tour has no dates planned in the Triad.



Allen

UNC-Greensboro launches a new digital library on U.S. slavery

CHRONICLE STAFF REPORT

The University Libraries of The University of North Carolina at Greensboro (UNCG) has launched a digital library on American slavery that features thousands of documents from 15 states and the District of Columbia.

Available at <http://library.uncg.edu/slavery/>, the library provides an easy means to search through thousands of county court and legislative petitions from 1775-1867. In addition, it provides detailed information on more than 150,000 individuals who are party to the petitions, including 80,000 individual slaves and 10,000 free people of color.

The Digital Library of American Slavery gives anyone with access to the Internet the chance to search through these court records and understand the impact of slavery on specific individuals, black and white, free and enslaved. The "search by name" interface allows searching by state, first or last name, and slave status, as well as by color, while "search the petitions" allows keyword searching. Users are also able to search the records based on subject matter.

The Digital Library of American Slavery grew out of the Race and Slavery Petitions Project, directed by Loren Schweninger, the Elizabeth Rosenthal Excellence Professor in History at UNCG.

Established in 1991, the Race and Slavery Petitions Project was designed to locate, collect, organize and publish all extant legislative petitions and a selected group of 14,500 county court petitions relevant to race and slavery. The Project has received support from the National Historical Publications and Records Commission at the National Archives, the National Endowment for the Humanities, the Charles Stewart Mott Foundation, and The University of North Carolina Greensboro. The Digital Library on American Slavery is the final phase of this project.



Loren Schweninger

Council grants bring arts to schools

CHRONICLE STAFF REPORT

Local artists will be able to share their talents with local school children thanks to the Arts Council of Winston-Salem and Forsyth County.

The agency has made 16 Arts-In-Education grants totaling \$90,000. Arts organizations and individuals will use their grants to promote a variety of artistic disciplines at elementary, middle and high schools.

"Because of our successful fundraising campaign, we were able to increase the amount of our education grants by 23 percent this year," said Milton Rhodes, President and CEO of the Arts Council. "To be able to do more for our children in this struggling economy is remarkable and a tribute to the hundreds of volunteers who assisted in the



Bill Scheidt of Tam Tam Mandingue Winston-Salem with a school founder Mamady Keita.

campaign and to the generosity of the residents of Winston-Salem and Forsyth County."

Recipients of The Arts Council's Arts-In-Education grants are:

- Alban elved dance company (\$8,000) for its program "Wingspan;"
- Associated Artists of Winston-Salem (\$2,820) for workshops for middle and high school student;
- Carolina Ballet (\$5,000) for the "Dancers in the Schools" program;
- Carolina Music Ways (\$1,300) for a musical legacy assembly;
- Diana Greene (\$2,560) for a literacy-through-photography workshop;
- Downtown Arts District Association (\$2,000) for hands-on visual arts workshops;
- Giannini Brass (\$6,000) to present "Brass Under the Big Top;"
- Hispanic Arts Initiative

See Grants on A11