

# ARTS & LIFESTYLE

## Of Interest ...

### UNCSA honors Angus MacLachlan

University of North Carolina School of the Arts (UNCSA) alumnus Angus MacLachlan of Winston-Salem was recognized recently by his alma mater with the school's inaugural Alumni Recognition Award.



MacLachlan

MacLachlan, an actor, playwright and screenwriter, received his award at the fall Alumni Weekend. Among 20 nominees for the award, MacLachlan received the majority of more than 600 votes cast by UNCSA alumni. The nominees were selected based on a combination of their success in their chosen fields

and their efforts on behalf of the School of the Arts. A two-time graduate of the School of the Arts, MacLachlan earned a high school diploma in Visual Arts in 1975 and Bachelor of Fine Arts from the School of Drama in 1980.

MacLachlan is best known for writing the screenplay for the critically acclaimed feature film "Junebug." MacLachlan recently adapted one of his plays into the film "Stone," directed by John Curran and starring Robert De Niro, Milla Jovovich and Edward Norton. It is slated to be released in 2010.

### Bennett holiday concert

The Bennett College Christmas Candlelight concert will be held Sunday, Dec. 6 at 7 p.m. in the Annie Merner Pfeiffer Chapel on the school's campus. The Bennett College Choir, conducted by Valerie D. Johnson and accompanied by Rochelle L. Joyner, will perform traditional Christmas carols, spirituals and gospel songs. The Prelude will be played by Fred Mason, the college organist, and President Dr. Julianne Malveaux will give the Candlelight Address. The concert is free and open to the public.

### Downtown going nutty over "The Nutcracker"

The Downtown Winston-Salem Partnership, in conjunction with the University of North Carolina School of the Arts, has launched the promotion, "Nut About Downtown!" to promote UNCSA's upcoming run of the "The Nutcracker."

Nutz About Downtown provides discounts and/or special offers during the holiday season. Each participating merchant has an offer good for the entire holiday period. In addition, each participating merchant has a special offering or discount called the "Nutcracker Feature" on performance dates of "The Nutcracker," which will be staged at the Stevens Center from Dec. 5 - 13. A Nutcracker ticket stub or playbill must be presented at the participating establishment to receive the Nutcracker Feature special.

Go to [www.dwsp.org/nutz](http://www.dwsp.org/nutz) for details.



### Judge halts J-Lo videos

LOS ANGELES (AP) - Home videos featuring Jennifer Lopez and a movie project based on them won't be coming to a screen near you, because a judge blocked their distribution Tuesday.

Los Angeles Superior Court Judge James C. Chalfant issued the preliminary injunction against Lopez's ex-husband, Ojani Noa, and manager, Ed Meyer, who have sought to distribute the footage.

Lopez sued the pair for \$10 million last month, claiming Noa was trying to violate the terms of the couple's divorce and a confidentiality agreement by releasing 11 hours of footage. The injunction also covers a film project that Meyer and Noa have called a "mockumentary" about Noa's escape from Cuba and his life since then.

The injunction issued Tuesday will remain in effect until the case is resolved. Lopez's attorney, Jay Lavelly, said it will now go into arbitration.

Lopez wed Noa in 1997, but their marriage lasted just 11 months.

An attorney for the singer-actress said the footage doesn't contain sexual situations.

Noa agrees, saying after Tuesday's hearing that the footage was shot when he and Lopez traveled to Cuba. He vowed to fight the case, although he didn't speak during Tuesday's hearing and wasn't represented by an attorney.

"This thing is not going to end here," Noa said, clutching an upcoming calendar of his modeling photos. "I'm not going to let them or her step all over me again."

He and Meyer said they plan to file a cross-complaint against Lopez. "We could sue her for the sky is the limit," Meyer said.

Lopez, 40, did not attend the hearing.

In 2007, she won \$545,000 in damages and attorney fees in another lawsuit that blocked Noa from publishing a ghostwritten tell-all book.

In issuing the injunction, Chalfant noted that Meyer's attorney hadn't filed any opposition papers or shown why his client hadn't provided information the judge ordered to be turned over to Lopez's attorney.



Cameron Kent

## Kent to sign new novel

CHRONICLE STAFF REPORT

Cameron Kent, the popular WXII-TV anchor, will sign his new book, "The Road to Devotion" on Saturday, Dec. 12 at 7 p.m. at the new Gallery of the Arts, 411 West Fourth St. (next door to the Stevens Center). The public is welcome to attend the event.

The event will also include a reception and a reading by Kent, whose work in television news has earned him an Emmy. He's the author of two other books, "Make Me Disappear" and "When the Ravens Die."

"The Road to Devotion" is a Civil War-era tale of Sarah Talton, who is charged with caring for the family's rural North Carolina farm after her father passes away.

Determined to keep their land out of the hands of opportunists, she embraces her father's iron will and hardhearted demeanor. She questions the values and beliefs she learned from her father after she is given charge of a runaway slave who brings her together with a French merchant with whom she falls in love.

Kent is also an accomplished screenwriter whose film credits include movies that have been shown on NBC, HBO, Lifetime and at the American Film Institute.

Kent and his family attend Highland Presbyterian Church and are actively involved in Habitat for Humanity of Forsyth County.

To pre-order "The Road to Devotion," go to [www.Press53.com](http://www.Press53.com).



Members of the The Aggie Opus Project.

## Musical Aggies to perform holiday concert to raise scholarship funds

CHRONICLE STAFF REPORT

The Aggie Opus Project, a musical group founded in 2007 that consists of N.C. A&T State University faculty, staff and students, will celebrate its Second Annual Candlelight Christmas Concert at 6 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 12 at Union Memorial United Methodist Church, 1012 East Lee St. in Greensboro. The concert, which is a fundraiser, is free and open to the public. A donation will be taken up at the event to help the Opus Project with its primary goal: providing scholarships for A&T students.

The concert will feature traditional

Christmas songs and new creations by the group. The program will also feature Miss Black North Carolina Rasheeda Waddell, who is the Opus Project's artist-in-residence.



Waddell

The Aggie Opus Project has performed at more than 20 venues throughout Greensboro and the state. During their first concert last year, The Aggie Opus Project presented its first scholarship to Rongi Spruill, an A&T music major. The goal for this year is to award two scholarships.

For additional information regarding the concert, contact James Griffin at (336) 549-3545.

## France gives director highest honor

CHRONICLE STAFF REPORT

By decree of French President Nicolas Sarkozy, film director Euzhan Palcy has been bestowed the Officer in the National Order of Merit, an equivalent to the Presidential Citizens Medal.

Palcy, whose credits include "A Dry White Season," "The Killing Yard" and "Ruby Bridges," was previously bestowed the distinction of Knight in National Order of Merit in 1994 by then-French President Francois Mitterrand. Former President Jacques Chirac had honored her as well, with the Knight in the Legion of Honor.

Palcy, a native of Martinique (a French island in the Caribbean), most recently produced and directed the documentary film "The Veterans' Journey," which tells of the French Caribbean teenage boys and girls who left behind everything to help save France during World War II.

The teens were trained at Fort Dix, N.J., and were welcomed like family in Harlem in 1943. At Fort-Dix, they became daredevil soldiers of the Magnificent First French Forces Division. They fought on every front, including battles in Europe - from Italy to Provence

and Normandy.

France had never officially thanked the French Caribbean fighters until June 25, 2009, when President Sarkozy bestowed on them the French Legion of Honor in Martinique. Palcy helped to arrange the honor.

Next year, a memorial is planned to be erected in Harlem to thank the African-American community there who embraced the teens so warmly.

Palcy's career started with her first award-winning feature film "Sugar Cane Alley" in 1983. She became the first black woman to direct a film for a major studio (MGM) when she helmed "A Dry White Season" in 1989. The film, which stars heavyweights like Marlon Brando, Donald Sutherland, Susan Sarandon and the late Zake Mokae, tells of the struggle against apartheid in South Africa.

November marked the 20th anniversary of the film's release. To celebrate, special screenings were held in Paris' storied Filmmakers' Theater. Poet Maya Angelou, who lives in Winston-Salem, was also slated to show the film at her annual Thanksgiving event.



Palcy



The crowd enjoys one of last year's shows.

## Symphony will perform holiday classic

CHRONICLE STAFF REPORT

The Winston-Salem Symphony will present Handel's "Messiah" on Dec. 15 and Dec. 16 at 7:30 p.m. at Centenary United Methodist Church, 646 W. Fifth St.

The shows will be conducted by Symphony Music Director Robert Moody and feature soloists Carla LaFevre,

Mary Gale Greene, James Allbritten and Robert Overman.

The baroque-sized orchestra of 26 musicians will be joined by the Messiah Festival Chorus, an auditioned ensemble of approximately 50 singers. The two hour and 35 minute performance will include one intermission.

This is the third year the

Symphony has staged the classic, "Messiah." The work is a favorite of Maestro Moody, who conducted sold-out performances of the show for eight years with the Phoenix Symphony Orchestra, where he was resident conductor. Moody is serving as chorus master for the chorus, in addition to his duties as conductor. The performances will honor

longtime Symphony supporter Dr. A. Robert Cordell.

Tickets prices for Messiah performances range from \$10 to \$40. Tickets may be purchased by calling the Winston-Salem Symphony's Box Office at 336-464-0145 or online at [www.wsymphony.org](http://www.wsymphony.org). Tickets will also be available at the door one hour prior to the performance.