

DANCE-OFF

Competition will raise money for Bethesda Center

BY TODD LUCK
THE CHRONICLE

Everyone from the mayor to Average Joes will take part in "Take the Lead Winston-Salem," a dancing fundraiser for the Bethesda Center.

Based on the popular ABC show, "Dancing with the Stars," the fundraiser will pair dancers who will practice in a variety of genres - from ballroom to hip hop. They will then have videos of their dancing skills posted online (starting tomorrow). Residents will be asked to make a \$10 donation to vote for their favorite pair. The winning pair will be announced on May 6 during a culminating event at the downtown Embassy Suites.

The goal is to raise \$100,000 for Bethesda Center, which serves the city's homeless population.

At last Friday's fundraiser kick off at Lite Fantastic School of Dance, Bethesda Center Executive Director Mike Ryan said the funds are sorely needed. The center typically provides shelter for 100 clients in its night shelter. The Center, through its self-sufficiency programs, annually finds permanent housing and employment for dozens of clients.

"It's a place of refuge and a place of hope and a place of opportunity," Ryan said of the Center.

"Take the Lead" participants include Mayor Allen Joiner, Wake Forest University Field Hockey Coach Jen Averill and Busta Brown of 97.1 WQMG. Most pairs will include one dance professional - people like Tony Econ of the Kathy Marino School of Dance in Clemmons.

"We got a good group. We're going to have lots of fun, we got some good dancers and some good teachers...we should have a great show," said Econ, a ballroom dancing instructor.

Kenny O'Neal, owner of downtown's KO's Family Fitness, will shake a leg as part of the competition. He is a fan of dancing and has led



Actress Rosemary Harris dances with Arbor Acres CEO David Piner, a "Take the Lead" participant.

hip hop workout sessions. O'Neal is partnered with Suzanne Ramm, a fellow fitness instructor.

"It's for a great cause; it's for the community," said O'Neal. "It's going to be a lot of fun."

No Take the Lead participant can appreciate the cause more than Greg White, a Bethesda Center client who has called the shelter home for the last six weeks. He's no stranger to dance, having been a dancer on "Soul Train" in the 1980s. Since then, he has fallen on hard times and has been chronically homeless for more than five years, moving from city to city and being on and off drugs.

The 49-year-old says that he's now clean and trying to get back on his feet by taking full advantage of Bethesda's referral services. White, who was slated to start GED classes this week, said he's glad to give back to Bethesda by taking part in the fundraiser.

"Even if it's not to help me, it'll help someone else down the road who may need that assistance," said White.

Actress Rosemary Harris, a local resident best known for playing Aunt May in the Spider-Man movies, also lent her star power to Friday's opening event and plans to take part in the May 6 finale.

Event organizer Ann Guill

is a lawyer by day, but dancing is her passion. She teaches ballroom dancing in the public schools through the non-profit Dancing Classrooms. She said she jumped at the chance to use her love of dancing to benefit Bethesda.

"When you can take something you love dearly, like dancing, and combine it with something you thoroughly, 100 percent believe in, like serving and supporting facilities for the homeless population, it doesn't get any better," said Guill.

To see videos of the dancers and/or to vote, visit www.take-the-lead-ws.com.



Greg White



Kenny O'Neal



Ann Guill



Dancers Kathy Marino and Tony Econ.

Paint

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in removing lead-based paints and outreach and education about the dangers of lead-based paints. The project will also establish Winston-Salem's first Lead Safe Home registry.

City officials are partnering with the Forsyth County

Health Department, the Winston-Salem State University Center for Community Safety, Hispanic Interaction, C.H.A.N.G.E. and Imprints to implement the program.

Residents interested in the program should contact Neighborhood Services by calling City Link at 336-727-8000.

UNCSA

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Liberty."

McCullough, also a School of Design & Production grad, has illuminated the stages of the San Francisco Opera, the Opera Theatre of Saint Louis, the Glimmerglass Opera and the Metropolitan Opera.

Other UNCSA alumni connected to the upcoming Kennedy Center production include Shayne Doty (School of Music, High School Class of 1979), Director of Development for the Washington National Opera; Sara Henley (School of Dance, High School Class of 2002), Assistant Manager of Development at the Kennedy Center; Christina Gould (School of Design & Production, Class of 2006), Lighting Director at the Kennedy Center; and Gregory Goldsmith (School of Drama, Class of 1976;



McCullough

School of D&P, Class of 1977), Master Technician at the Kennedy Center. In addition, Kenan Fellows at the Kennedy Center for 2009-10 include Ryan Gastelum (Design & Production 2008), Mollye Maxner (High School Dance 1993, Drama 2009), Paolo Rodriguez (Design & Production 2009), and Ryan Wineinger (Design & Production 2009).



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Daryl Wade (squatting and holding a film reel) poses with other UNCSA leaders and students for this photo, which Chancellor Maurceri used for his holiday greeting cards.

Wade

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mark of UNCSA's legacy, largely because the students are so focused on their art, Wade says. Maurceri believes Wade has overcome that challenge famously.

"Daryl has been able to maintain his student life as an artist and somehow find the time and energy to represent the students and take the Student Artists Association to a level that it's never been before," Maurceri said. "He's articulate and passionate and enormously persuasive. With all of those things plus his talent, I think he has a really great future ahead of him."

Among Wade's crowning achievements as president was the staging of the "Mighty-O" benefit party, a collaborative effort among UNCSA, Salem College, Wake Forest and Winston-Salem State universities. The party, which drew more than 100 local students to the Millennium Center last fall,

served as a fundraiser for three student-led initiatives.

Wade says he has also worked to increase the visibility of other student activities, such as Big Man on Campus, a mock male pageant, which he won in its inaugural year, not long before his election.

Wade, who as SAA president serves as an ex-officio member of the UNCSA Board of Trustees, makes it a point to push issues that matter to his fellow students. He has worked since the summer to convince the school to end its ban on skateboarding and skating on campus, arguing that such forms of "recreational transportation" should be permitted. Last year, Wade led a successful campaign to have the cafeteria list its menu items according to ingredients, to protect students with food allergies.

"That was a pretty big win for us," he said. "It was an excellent example of what students can do."

Wade has excelled at UNCSA academically as

well. Last year, his short film was one of a handful picked for a special screening at the Warner Grand Theatre in Los Angeles, and another of his films is again being considered for the 2010 screening.

After Spring Break, Wade, who will graduate in May, is slated to travel to Miami, where he will oversee the opening of a new Vector Marketing office. The company hawks cutlery, and Wade's ambitious goal is to sell more than \$1 million of it before heading to Los Angeles in September to follow his dreams of becoming a film producer.

As for the SAA, Wade says he is hopeful someone of similar fervor will succeed him as president.

"(The SAA) is in its first stages of being comparable to the (other) student governments in the UNC system; that's probably what I'm most proud of," he related. "We have to walk the line between being a quirky art school and being a student government that takes itself seriously."

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william christenberry

photographs, 1961-2005

EXHIBITION EVENTS

Thursdays, March 4 & 25 | Noon
Video Screening: William Christenberry, Jr. A Portrait

Tuesday, March 23 | 5:30 p.m.
Artist's Lecture: William Christenberry

Friday, March 26 | 8 p.m.
World Premiere Concert: Songs in the Rearview Mirror

Friday, April 9 | 8 p.m.
Saturday, April 10 | 2 p.m.
Staged Reading: "All Over Alabama, the Lamps Are Out"

Aperture, a not-for-profit organization devoted to photography and the visual arts, has organized this traveling exhibition and produced the accompanying publication.

Reynolda House is supported by the Arts Council of Winston-Salem & Forsyth County. Image: William Christenberry, Gateway Church, near Moundsville, Alabama, 1964, plate 16, 70mm.