THE DAILY CLIPS

April 24, 2009

News, commentary, and opinion
compiled by the East Carolina University News Bureau from:

The Greenville Daily Reflector
The Raleigh News & Observer
The New York Times
The Wall Street Journal
USA Today
The Charlotte Observer
The Fayetteville Observer
The Greensboro News & Record
Newsweek
U.S. News & World Report
Business Week
Time

East Carolina University News Bureau
E-mail to durhamj@ecu.edu  Web site at http://www.news.ecu.edu
252-328-6481 FAX: 252-328-6300
Dance 2009

The Daily Reflector

Friday, April 24, 2009

East Carolina University's Loessin Playhouse will present Dance 2009 at McGinnis Theater at 8 p.m. today through Tuesday, except Sunday, when the show will be at 2 p.m.

The performance will highlight ballet, jazz and tap dance in these sometimes serious, funny, lyrical and eccentric presentations, which are choreographed by the ECU School of Theatre and Dance faculty.

Dance 2009 will include a performance choreographed by Patricia Weeks to Felix Mendelssohn's "A Midsummer Night's Dream" and will feature professional dancer David Barocio as Oberon, King of the Fairies.

Barocio began his dance training in 1991 and received scholarships to train at San Francisco Ballet, Boston Ballet, Houston Ballet, Los Angeles Classical Ballet and American Ballet Theater.

He has had the opportunity to train with some of the world's best performers and teachers such as David Howard, Edward Villella, Gelsey Kirkland, Stephan Wenta, Clinton Luckett, and many more. In 2004, Barocio performed in Claremont-Ferrand, France, and since then, he has performed in Europe and South America, as well as throughout the United States.

He recently graduated from the University of Oklahoma, receiving his bachelor's degree in ballet performance. Barocio is a member of the Oklahoma City Ballet.

If you Go!

What: Dance 2009

When: 8 p.m. today through Tuesday, except Sunday when the show will be at 2 p.m.

Where: ECU's McGinnis Theater

Cost: $8-$12

Call: 328-6829

Visit: www.ecuarts.com

Copyright 2009 The Daily Reflector All rights reserved.
Open house gives glimpse of pirate past

By Ginger Livingston
The Daily Reflector

Thursday, April 23, 2009

Preserving a history-defining shipwreck involves more than rinsing off the sea water and scraping off barnacles.

People can see what goes into maritime preservation work from 11 a.m. until 3 p.m. Saturday when the Queen Anne's Revenge Conservation Lab hosts an open house at its facilities on East Carolina University's West Research Campus, 1157 VOA Site C Road, about eight miles north of Greenville off N.C. 43 North.

"Probably the largest portion of any underwater archaeology work is done in the lab because when artifacts are submerged, especially in salt water, they become very unstable and corroded," said Mark Wilde-Ramsing, director of the Queen Anne's Revenge Shipwreck project for the Department of Cultural Resources.

The Queen Anne's Revenge was the flagship of Blackbeard. It's recorded the ship sank off the North Carolina Coast in 1718. Intesal Inc. found an early 18th century shipwreck in Beaufort Inlet in 1996. Since 1997, the state Department of Cultural Resources has directed efforts to research the site and recover artifacts. While no definitive evidence has been discovered, artifacts support the theory the wreck is the Queen Anne's Revenge. In 2003, the QAR Conservation Lab was established at ECU. Three full-time conservators work at the lab with between two to five ECU graduate assistants. Open houses have been held the last three years.

The free event drew about 600 people last year, assistant conservator Shanna Daniel said. In addition to displaying artifacts from the dive site and demonstrating how the items are identified, cleaned and preserved, the event will have quizzes, games and hands-on demonstrations for children. North Carolina State University students also will have a video game they created based on Blackbeard's exploits for people to try.

Wilde-Ramsing said scientists are halfway through the recovery project and have brought up about 250,000 artifacts, mainly shot pellets. Before the project is completed, Wilde-Ramsing expects a million objects will be recovered.

Seven tiny nesting cups are the latest discovery being worked on in the lab and will be on display. Four of the cups are marked with a fleur de lis symbol, a marking commonly used in France. This French connection is another possible link to La Concorde, the French slave ship commandeered by Blackbeard in 1717 and refitted to become the Queen Anne's Revenge.

Another item that will be displayed is a stern post recovered in 2007.

The 4-foot long stretch of lead, pine and oak is what connects the rudder to the ship. It's still covered with concretion, a blanket of calcium carbonate, shells and sands that engulfs artifacts. It's being held in one of 28 tanks filled with recovered items. It's Daniel's favorite artifact.

"I like conserving wood, organics," she said. It's a unique artifact because its markings indicate it was French built, further reinforcing evidence that the wreck is the Queen Anne's Revenge.

The science of recovering the artifacts is challenging but so is guaranteeing the work will continue. While the Department of Cultural Resources oversees the project, there isn't a reoccurring budget for the work, Wilde-Ramsing said. The General Assembly approves the project budget every cycle and it has run between $50,000 to $250,000, he said. It's hoped that in this year's tough economic times the project can get $200,000 in the upcoming budget.
“It’s always been a bit of a challenge to keep going, but it has worked,” Wilde-Ramsing said. “New information is starting to come forward.

“I think it will tell us a lot. Just the fact that you had this heavily armed pirate flag ship in the middle of the American colonies,” he said.

Wilde-Ramsing said it’s easy to see the similarities between today’s acts of piracy and the actions of Blackbeard and his contemporaries.

“Somalia in some ways and North Carolina at that period were very similar. It didn’t have much of a government and had lots of places on the coast to hide,” he said.

“Maybe lessons of the past can help in solving today’s situation.”

Contact Ginger Livingston at glivingston@coxnc.com and (252) 329-9570.

How to get there

The Queen Anne’s Revenge Conservation Lab, which is preserving items from a shipwreck believed to be Blackbeard’s flag ship, will be open to the public from 11 a.m. until 3 p.m. Saturday.

The lab is located at East Carolina University’s West Research Campus, 1157 VOA Site C Road.

To reach the site, go to the intersection of Memorial Drive and West Fifth Street/N.C. 43 North.

Turn on N.C. 43 North and travel for about six miles.

Turn left onto VOA Site C Road. There is a small green sign on the right side of the road that says “ECU WRC”

Go about two miles and turn left onto ECU West Research Campus.

The event is free.

directions

The lab is located at East Carolina University’s West Research Campus, 1157 VOA Site C Road.

To reach the site, go to the intersection of Memorial Drive and West Fifth Street/N.C. 43 N.

Turn on N.C. 43 North and travel for about six miles.

Turn left onto VOA Site C Road. There is a small green sign on the right side of the road that says “ECU WRC”

Go about two miles and turn left onto ECU West Research Campus.
Public Forum

Promoting dance and financial literacy

April 24-May 3 is National Dance Week, dedicated to celebrating dance in all its forms. As a life-long shagger and belly dance teacher for 36 years, I have witnessed the health benefits of improved flexibility, stamina and cardiovascular well-being while having fun dancing. Dancing involves individuals in a community of dancers and builds a sense of connectedness which enhances our mental well-being. Whether belly dancing or ballet, tap or tango, shagging or square dancing, hit the floor to experience fun, fitness, serenity and self-confidence. The ECU Dance Department presents its annual concert today. Go! It’s an eastern North Carolina treasure.

April is Financial Literacy for Youth Month dedicated to creating financial stability among North Carolina citizens. America Saves is a national campaign involving more than 1,000 non-profit, government and corporate groups that encourages individuals to save and build personal wealth. Jump$tart Coalition is the state affiliate.

Their suggestions for starting your family’s journey to financial health are:

Go to the North Carolina Saves Web site. The site offers tips for building a strong financial foundation for you and your family. Open a savings account for your children. It can help them develop positive savings habits. Support establishing a Financial Literacy Council in North Carolina. This council would be responsible for developing and implementing financial education in K-12 school setting. Ask your state legislators to support this legislation.

Evidence shows that starting early is what really matters. So let’s join forces to give our kids a firm financial foundation and an opportunity to achieve their dreams.

DONNA WHITLEY
Greenville
Mystery: Who's giving to women-led colleges?

BY JUSTIN POPE, The Associated Press

Comment on this story

It's the question on everyone's lips in philanthropy: Who is the mysterious donor giving away millions of dollars to at least a dozen colleges?

A circle of successful businesswomen? A publicity-shy (or playful) billionaire? Oprah?

Not even the colleges themselves know. But the parlor game is afoot, with only one real clue: So far, all the colleges are led by women.

Coincidence? Unlikely. With about 23 percent of U.S. college presidents women, the odds against a dozen randomly selected institutions all having female leaders are enormous.

Melissa Berman, president and CEO of Rockefeller Philanthropy Advisors in New York, thinks the donor might be "a woman who maybe grew up in an era in which the opportunity to go to college was not taken for granted by women, and who feels that women in leadership positions are important motivators for women to be able to achieve their potential."

Brian O'Rourke, director of development at Clemson University in South Carolina, imagines "a group of high-powered women that want to make sure women presidents in higher education are successful."

"My gut tells me it's a group of people sitting around saying, 'Let's just make a huge difference,'" he said. (Clemson has not gotten a contribution from the mystery donor.)

The gifts, ranging from $1 million to perhaps $10 million, and totaling as much as $68.5 million so far, have arrived over the past seven weeks in secretive fashion at colleges around the country, including Purdue University in Indiana, Montclair State University in New Jersey, and the University of Southern Mississippi. Binghamton University in New York announced its $6 million gift Monday.

All were contacted by law firms or other intermediaries. Officials had to promise -- sometimes in writing -- not to try to learn the donor's identity. The donations arrived in the form of cashier's checks or checks from law firms or other intermediaries. In most cases, the donor specified the money be used for financial aid.

Michigan State University, led by President Lou Anna K. Simon, may be the 13th and latest recipient, announcing Thursday that it has received an anonymous $10 million.

Philanthropy experts are thrilled but flummoxed.

A few theories have popped up on Web sites, including talk show host Oprah Winfrey and someone connected with disgraced financier Bernie Madoff. A spokeswoman for Winfrey said she was not the source. A representative for real estate baroness Leona Helmsley's estate, which gave away $136 million Tuesday to hospitals, foundations and the homeless, also denied involvement.
The most plausible scenario seems to be a "giving circle," where donors talk about their giving choices, and perhaps pool their money to invest, but decide individually where to donate. That would explain the eclectic list of colleges and the similar-but-not-identical instructions they received.

"I could see a women's giving circle ... suggesting that it's time for women to step up and fend for higher education at that level," said Lauren Katzowitz Shenfield, principal of Philanthropy Advisers LLC in New York. "I don't get the anonymous piece."

All rights reserved. This copyrighted material may not be published, broadcast or redistributed in any manner.

Read The News & Observer print edition on your computer with the new e-edition!

**In North Carolina**

UNC-Greensboro, led by Chancellor Linda Brady, received $6million.

UNC-Asheville, led by Chancellor Anne Ponder, received $1.5million.

**Why anonymity?**

Experts were reluctant to throw out names, but several spoke generally about why donors give anonymously and might keep even the recipient in the dark.

**PRIVACY:** Anonymous donations account for about 4 percent of $1million-plus charitable gifts since 2000, according to Indiana University's Center on Philanthropy. Associate Executive Director Dwight Burlingame said the top reason is to avoid getting hounded by other charities. Others include avoiding family conflicts and fear of kidnapping.

Why keep an identity secret even from the schools? Perhaps they don't want to be hit up for more. Or they want to be extra sure that their identities remain secret. Word sometimes leaks through the fundraising grapevine. And in the early 1990s, the University of Toledo foundation had to give up anonymous donors' names after a public records lawsuit from a newspaper.

**NOBILITY:** In his famous "Ladder of Tzedakah," the 12th-century Jewish philosopher Moses Maimonides ranked charitable acts in order of worthiness. Donations in which the recipient did not know the identity of the benefactor were considered especially admirable. "It focuses attention on the good work of the 'donee' instead of ... the gifts of the donor," New York University law professor Harvey Dale said.

**FUN:** "There's a possibility they could be enjoying this," said Brian O'Rourke, director of development at Clemson. "They could really enjoy the world of education trying to figure out who these donors could be."

© Copyright 2009, The News & Observer Publishing Company

A subsidiary of The McClatchy Company
ECU hosts film festival

Sarah Campbell
April 23, 2009 - 7:24PM

GREENVILLE - The compilation of films in this weekend's East Carolina Film Festival range from the poignant to the mundane.

"There will be basically everything and anything you can think of," Michael Tierno, assistant professor in East Carolina University School of Communication, said.

Film categories include short documentaries, short comedies, short animations, experimental, television and feature films.

Approximately 88 films were submitted by high school students, college students and filmmakers around the county.

More than 30 ECU students volunteered to screen the movies and score them based on story, character, production value, editing and music.

"We were really trying to find the best of the best," Tierno said. "This is a student film festival; students picked the films and made all of the decisions."

The festival, hosted by ECU's School of Communication, is the first of its kind but organizers are planning to make it an annual event.

Films will begin screening today in Hendrix Theater inside Mendenhall on ECU's campus at 4 p.m. The cost for both days is $10 for the general public and free for students.

"We wanted to make it really affordable," Tierno said. "The (goal) was to offer the community independent films from around the county because there really aren't any art houses around here," Tierno said.

Sarah Campbell can be reached at (252) 559-1076 or scampbell@freedomenc.com. Check out Sarah's blog at scampbell.enceblogs.com.

If you go...
ECU Film Festival
When: Today 4 p.m. to midnight; Saturday 1 p.m. to midnight
Where: Hendrix Theater inside Mendenhall Student Center at East Carolina University
Cost: $10 for both days

Film categories
- Short documentaries
- Short dramas
ECU hosts film festival

n Short comedies
n Short animations
n Experimental
n Television

On the Web
For a schedule of films and more information about the East Carolina Film Festival visit eastcarolinafilmfestival.com.