Founders’ Weekend Activities

Friday, February 23, 2007

Grand Re-Opening of the I. P. Stanback Museum and Planetarium

3:30 p.m. Special Preview-Art Exhibition, Planetarium Show and Book Signing

5:30 p.m. Ribbon Cutting Ceremony

6:00 p.m. Planetarium Show, “The Night Sky”

6:30 p.m. “Music Under the Stars” featuring the Roland Haynes Quartet

Saturday, February 24, 2007

1:00 p.m. Museum and Planetarium Show and Exhibit

7:00 p.m. Scholarship Gala & Tribute
Smith-Hammond-Middleton Memorial Center
Featuring The Manhattans

Sunday, February 25, 2007

2:30 p.m. Museum and Planetarium Show and Exhibit

4:00 p.m. Founders’ Day Program
Smith-Hammond-Middleton Memorial Center
Guest Speaker: Mr. Thomas W. Dortch, Jr.
President and CEO, TWD, Inc. and
Chairman Emeritus, 100 Black Men of America

6:00 p.m. Museum and Planetarium Show and Exhibit

Book Signings

I. P. Stanback Museum and Planetarium
South Carolina State University

Out-of-the-Box in Dixie

Friday, February 23, 2007
3:30 p.m.

Sponsored by
the Founders’ Day Committee
and
the Friends of the Miller F. Whittaker Library
Out-of-the-Box in Dixie: Cecil Williams’ Photography of the South Carolina Events that Changed America
by Cecil J. Williams

Out-of-the-Box in Dixie: Cecil Williams’ Photography of the South Carolina Events that Changed America constitutes the most comprehensive and inclusive chronicle of the state’s civil rights history to date, culminating with a stunning 4-color look at recent events including efforts to remove the Confederate flag from atop the state capitol. In exclusive and large format photography, Orangeburg native Cecil Williams chronicles the lives and accomplishments of the heroic people of this state who began and led the struggle for desegregation in South Carolina.

“This is the story of people who changed the course of United States history and caused the national office of the NAACP to redirect its approach from suing “separate but equal” facilities to challenging segregation as a violation of the Fourteenth Amendment of the U.S. Constitution,” stated Williams. “The Orangeburg Freedom Movement—the second wave—was the catalyst for the Montgomery Bus Boycott, which many historians claim was the beginning of America’s Civil Rights Movement. Until recently, few people have heard of Briggs v. Elliott or the Orangeburg Freedom Movement.”

Spanning more than a half century of racial change from Briggs vs. Elliott in 1949 to “Rally for Removal of the Confederate Flag,” in 2000, Williams explores the Civil Rights Movement from the inside perspective of an activist and photojournalist. Out-of-the-Box is more than a sequel to...
Freedom and Justice, Williams’ first civil rights documentary published in 1995 by Mercer University.

For history, culture, and heritage, Out-of-the-Box in Dixie adds a new dimension to our understanding of the African American experience in the South.

On December 2, 2006, Cecil J. Williams introduced his third civil rights documentary – Out-of-the-Box in Dixie – a 320 page sequel to Quiet Heroes and Freedom and Justice. Williams photographs have perpetually preserved the African American experience throughout the first half of the 20th Century with his comprehensive collection of the civil rights era appearing in 126 books, 17 newspapers, and 11 television documentaries. Mr. Williams resides in Orangeburg, South Carolina.

Women of Blaxploitation
How the Black Action Film Heroine Changed American Popular Culture
by Yvonne D. Sims

With the Civil Rights movement of the sixties fresh in their perspective, movie producers of the early 1970s began to make films aimed toward the underserved African American audience. Over the next five years or so, a number of cheaply made, so-called blaxploitation movies featured African American actresses in roles which broke traditional molds. Typically long on flash and violence but lacking in character depth and development, this genre nonetheless did a great deal toward redefining the perception of African American actresses, breaking traditional African American female stereotypes and laying the groundwork for later feminine action heroines.

This critical study examines the ways in which the blaxploitation heroines of the early 1970s reshaped the presentation of African American actresses on screen and, to a certain degree, the perception of African American females in general. It discusses the social, political and cultural context in which blaxploitation films emerged. The work focuses on four African American actresses—Pam Grier, Tamara Dobson, Teresa Graves and Jeanne Belle—providing critical and audience response to their films as well as insight into the perspectives of the actresses themselves. The eventual demise of the blaxploitation genre due to formulaic plots and lack of character development is also discussed. Finally, the work addresses
the mainstreaming of the action heroine in general and a recent resurgence of interest in black action movies. Relevant film stills and a selected filmography including cast list and plot synopsis are also included.

Yvonne D. Sims is an assistant professor of English at South Carolina State University.

Esprit Poetry and Les Fleurs
by Keisha Esprit

Esprit Poetry is a collection of beautiful and exciting poems that were meticulously written for the readers’ enjoyment. The book was written in a way to get messages and thoughts across to millions of people. The book focuses on the hierarchy of needs, spiritual being, emotions and disappointments that we encounter at some time in our lives. This book tells of the energy, ability and strength that children, men and women have. Each poem gives individuals the realization of the changes in our society and the world. The book also addresses topics such as love, poverty, wealth, and various levels of emotions that we share daily. This poetry book can be used as a way of easing stress and tells of ways of handling various situations and gives solutions. Esprit Poetry is like a classic. It can be read for enjoyment and relief; the poems and facts last a lifetime.

Les Fleurs is a set of poems that focuses on love, nature, the Caribbean, patriotism, life, friendship, family, reflection, motivation and spiritual themes. Les Fleurs is French for “the flowers.” It’s the epitome of life. Life is like a flower, with a beginning and an end. We are quite the same and start out life like a flower’s seed. We go through experiences, adapt to our atmosphere, are beautiful in our youth, and live well as long as we are fed. Eventually we grow old like the flowers that wither and lose colors and petals.

Les Fleurs recognizes our wants, needs and goals. Sit back, relax, drink and eat the knowledge Les Fleurs expresses through the art of poetry.

Keisha Esprit is a former sprinter and current graduate student at South Carolina State University.

Benjamin Elijah Mays: A Pictorial Life and Times
by Carrie M. Dumas

A photographic journal of one of the twentieth century’s most significant African Americans.

As a result of Benjamin Mays’s many contributions, he was not only recognized as one of the great minds of the twentieth century, but also left an indelible impact on so many of those he touched. He received 51 honorary degrees, wrote articles for 100 magazines, and contributed chapters in 15 books. At the Oxford Conference on Church, Community, and State held at Oxford University in 1937 and at the state funeral of Pope John XXIII, Rome, in 1963, Dr. Mays represented the United States. He delivered addresses at more than 250 colleges, universities, and schools in the United States and was awarded the Distinguished Educator Award by the United States Office of Education in 1978. His portrait was unveiled and placed in the South Carolina State House on 12 July 1980. In addition, Dr. Mays gave wisdom and counsel to many more through his sermons, speeches, and community involvement.

To chronicle the amazing life and contributions of Mays, Carrie Dumas spent several years in research, collecting photos, and interviewing many of those people whose lives were touched by him. Drawing from numerous archival sources, Dumas presents here a photographic biography of one of America’s most notable citizens. With more than one hundred images of the life and career of Dr. Mays, this work presents this unique and influential story in vivid detail. While many have read of the life of Dr. Mays, now we can view the images.

Carrie M. Dumas was born in Macon, Georgia, to believers in hard work and education. She received her B.S. in Business Education from Fort Valley State College and an M.Ed. from Georgia State University. She met Mays when he served on the United Board for College Development, a division of the National Council of Churches, and he soon became her mentor. Dumas currently serves as director of Alumni Relations and Giving at Morehouse School of Medicine.

Julie Hunter is executive director of the Broward County African-American Research Library and Cultural Center, Fort Lauderdale, Florida.