



*Medal
of Honor
in the
Arts*

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 24, 2008

8 PM JOHNSON HALL THEATRE



WINTHROP UNIVERSITY
**MEDAL OF HONOR
IN THE ARTS**

HOSTED BY

Dr. and Mrs. Anthony J. DiGiorgio
Ms. Lib Patrick
and
Ms. Jo Sherill Dickert

HONORING

VIVIAN AYERS

MICHAEL MARSICANO

PHILIP SIMMONS

JOHNNY KING

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 24, 2008

Winthrop University Medal of Honor Scholarships are designed to benefit students who are currently enrolled in Winthrop's College of Visual and Performing Arts. Thank you for your generous donations and continued support. Tonight's performance celebrates the spirit of philanthropy and the love of the arts that the scholarships represent.

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ANTHONY J. DIGIORGIO

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PRE-SHOW ENTERTAINMENT

WINTHROP WEST AFRICAN DRUM ENSEMBLE

- Chad Boyles** (Junior, instrumental music education major, Fort Mill, S.C.)
Matthew Mallery (Junior, instrumental music education major, Troutman, N.C.)
Kyle Merck (Senior, percussion performance major, Rock Hill, S.C.)
Michael Scarboro (Graduate student, percussion performance, West Columbia, S.C.)
Joshua Wall (Junior, instrumental music education major, Clover, S.C.)
Michael Williams (Professor of Music, percussion)

Formed in 1995 as an extension of the Winthrop University Percussion Ensemble, the West African Drumming Ensemble performs mainly on djembe hand drums from Guinea and Mali. The group also occasionally performs on Ewe barrel drums and Dagbamba "talking drums" from Ghana. The group has performed at public schools and colleges throughout South Carolina, and has been featured at the South Carolina Percussive Arts Society "Day of Percussion," Rock Hill's "Come-See-Me Festival," Historic Brattonsville's "By the Sweat of Our Brows," Winthrop University's Medal of Honor in the Arts, and the Radford University Percussion Symposium, among many others. Noted for their authentic drumming and singing, the ensemble has had a long association with master drummer and choreographer Mohamed Da Costa from Guinea, West Africa, who has appeared with the group annually since 1995 and performed with them on their CD recording, "First Construction."

AND THE

WINTHROP UNIVERSITY JAZZ TRIO

- Justin Tsugranes** guitar (Junior, guitar performance major, West Palm Beach, Fla.)
Nicholas Graham bass (Senior, music major, Greenville, S.C.)
Jacob Mitchell trumpet (Sophomore, instrumental music education major, Rock Hill, S.C.)

The Winthrop Jazz Trio is a group of talented jazz musicians who have received much acclaim performing for a variety of audiences. These three Winthrop University students also perform in various Department of Music ensembles and are versatile in other genres of music in addition to jazz. Justin Tsugranes is the student leader of the trio.

PRESENTATION

THE VIVIAN BROCKMAN ANDERSON SCHOLARSHIP MICHELE ELISE RIPLEY



Michele is a junior from Lexington, S.C., and is pursuing a bachelor's degree in choral music education at Winthrop. She is recognized as a student of exceptional creative talent, leadership, initiative and academic excellence. She is performing tonight with the Winthrop Chamber Singers.

PREVIOUS SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

2007 JESSICA ELISE MANNER

Design major, Spartanburg, S.C.

Since graduation from Visual Communication Design at Winthrop in May 2008, Jessica has been working at MODE in Charlotte, N.C., as a graphic designer.

2006 KATHERINE LLOYD

Sculpture major, Mullins, S.C.

Katie is a senior sculpture major and currently works in the Winthrop University Galleries.

2005 JESSICA DANDENEAU

Dance major, Westfield, Mass.

Jessica is currently in Charlotte teaching dance and doing photography, while also auditioning for performing companies.

2004 AUSTIN HERRING

Theatre major, Sumter, S.C.

Austin is actively working in the theatre community in Charlotte.

2003 FRANCIS "MAC" McDOUGAL

Music Education major, Lake City, S.C.

Francis completed his Bachelor of Music Education (choral) degree at Winthrop in May 2005.

PRESENTATION OF AWARD TO

VIVIAN AYERS

PERFORMANCE I

“LUMINESCENT SUSPENSION”

Music

One Cello x 16: Natoma

Music Artist

Zoe Keating

Choreographer

Mary Beth Young

Technical Choreographer

Biff Edge

Costume Design

Janet Gray

Cast

Brittany Rose (Senior, dance performance, Damascus, Md.)

Stephanie Shannon (Senior, dance education, Hopkins, S.C.)

Ashton Waldron (Junior, dance education, Bristol, Va.)

Flying Technicians

Caitlyn Baldwin

Ben Pierce

Clare Provost

Luminescent Suspension is a beautiful ethereal dance piece incorporating the talent and expertise of two theatre and dance faculty members, Mary Beth Young and Biff Edge. This is the first collaboration between these two artists involving one of the newest theatrical dance venues, aerial dance. Dancers will magically swing, slide, pivot, bounce, suspend, fly, kick, reach, flutter, climb, turn, and float up in the air. It is a dance unlike any other that has ever been performed at Winthrop.



VIVIAN AYERS

Born into a family of educators in Chester, S.C., Vivian Ayers has spent her life embracing languages and their relationship with the arts.

*One of her most treasured accomplishments was a Pulitzer Award nomination in 1952 for her poetry. In the late 1950's, her poem, "Hawk," attracted the attention of NASA and for 20 years was the only poetry celebrated by NASA. Trained as a librarian at Rice University, Ayers was granted faculty status in 1965, becoming the first African American to do so. During her years at Rice, she organized and published *The Adept Quarterly*, an important contribution to the small publications movement of the time.*

In 1972, her work, "Workshops in Open Fields," was hailed and recommended to the nation as a "prototype of grassroots programming" by the director of the National Endowment of the Arts. Ayers established the Adept New American Museum - a museum for art and history of the American Southwest. While at Rice, she began studying Classical Greek and continued her training at three other prominent universities, as well intensive study of the Mayan culture, particularly in math and astronomy.

Ayers reared a successful family, with three of her children going into the performing arts - jazz musician Tex Allen, Tony-award winning actress Phylicia Rashad and famed dancer Debbie Allen. Her youngest sister is former Rep. Bessie Moody-Lawrence, one of the first African-Americans to earn tenure at Winthrop.

Ayers discovered that through learning Spanish, she could read about early American culture, which increased her proficiency in programming arts, science and culture. "As an activist, I believe that the creative process is irreversible and unyielding as a force of enlightenment and change."

PRESENTATION OF AWARD TO
MICHAEL MARSICANO
PERFORMANCE II
“REMNANTS OF DESIRE”

Excerpt from Act 1, scene 5
Setting
Franklin Kreua’s apartment

Time
The present

Playwright
Terry Roueche

Director
Russell Luke

Costume Design
Janet Gray

Cast

Darryl LaPlante (Senior, theatre performance, Goose Creek, S.C.)
Bailey Robinson (Freshmen, theatre education, Kannapolis, N.C.)

This story of innocence, guilt and choice takes us into the lives of Kelly Manning and Franklin Kreua. Each faces desperate private choices to gain success—at a heavy personal price.

About the Playwright

Terry Roueche, Winthrop University lecturer in theatre (playwriting), is an award-winning playwright, and has written more than 20 plays that have received more than 90 productions and stage readings. His plays have been performed throughout the United States from Los Angeles to New York.

He is the Playwright-in-Residence with BareBones Theatre Group in Charlotte, N.C., and is the coordinator for the BareBones PlayMakers Group. His play, “The Modern Approach,” was the 2002 winner of the Nancy Weil New Play Search.



MICHAEL MARSICANO

Earlier this year, the Charlotte Chamber of Commerce handed out its innovator of the year for the city of Charlotte. The winner: Michael Marsicano.

He won earlier awards for building economic empowerment and bridging racial divides from the Urban League of Central Carolinas, as one of the city's most influential leaders from Charlotte Magazine, and for his philanthropic commitment to the Latino community. For the past two years, Marsicano has been invited to the Sundance Preserve with about 30 other public and private sector leaders to explore national arts policy issues.

As president and CEO of the Foundation of the Carolinas since 1999, Marsicano oversees a 50-person staff and a \$5.8 million annual budget. His organization administers more than 1,700 funds, including support for foundations such as the Foundation for the Arts & Sciences, the United Way Legacy Foundation and Foundation for the Charlotte Jewish Community.

In recent years, the foundation has launched four centers of philanthropy, reorganized its organization, spearheaded community initiatives concerning workforce displacement, children and greenways, and acquired a new headquarters. Its funding priorities are civic engagement and race/ethnic relations, youth development and the environment.

Marsicano previously worked as president and CEO of the Arts & Science Council and as executive director of the Durham Arts Council/Royall Arts Center. He holds a doctorate degree in public policy sciences, a master's degree in counseling psychology and a psychology degree, all from Duke University.

Living in New York with great access to cultural opportunities, Marsicano's parents took care in exposing him to all art forms at an early age. He gravitated towards music and grew up playing the clarinet, saxophone, oboe and English horn. A defining experience was Marsicano's semester study of music in Vienna, Austria and a tour of Europe as a student performer with the Duke University Orchestra. He came home from abroad with a passion to pursue the arts as central to his professional and vocational careers.

PRESENTATION OF AWARD TO

PHILIP SIMMONS
PERFORMANCE III

ACCEPTING ON BEHALF OF PHILIP SIMMONS IS HIS DAUGHTER

MRS. LILLIAN GILLIAM

“SOL”

Music

Mariel

Music Artist

Oswaldo Golijov (composer)

Choreographer

Christian Von Howard

Restaging by

Stephanie Milling

Costume Design

Janet Gray

Cast

Jamie Drye (Junior, dance performance, Concord, N.C.)

Emma Boyce (Senior, dance performance, Rock Hill, S.C.)

Emilie Sons (Senior, dance performance, Seneca, S.C.)

Ashton Waldron (Junior, dance education, Bristol, Va.)

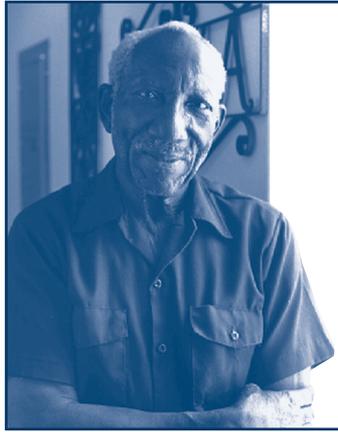
Michele Nonemaker (Junior, dance education, Fayetteville, Pa.)

Everett Johnson (Senior, dance performance, Rock Hill, S.C.)

Stephanie Shannon (Junior, dance education, Hopkins, S.C.)

Abby Pitchford (Senior, biology, Columbia, Mo.)

Sara Zimmerman (Senior, dance performance, Columbia, S.C.)



PHILIP SIMMONS

On the way to Buist School in downtown Charleston, a young Philip Simmons became intrigued with the ironwork in his community. His curiosity led him to visit the blacksmith shops, pipefitters, shipwrights, coppers and other craftsmen who serviced the nearby waterfront businesses.

Simmons, now the most celebrated of Charleston ironworkers, received his most important education from local blacksmith Peter Simmons, who ran a busy shop at the foot of Calhoun Street. Here he learned the values and refined the talents that would sustain him throughout his long metalworking career.

Moving into the specialized fields of ornamental iron in 1938, Simmons fashioned more than 500 decorative pieces of ornamental wrought iron: gates, fences, balconies and window grills. From end to end, downtown Charleston is truly decorated by his hand.

In 1982, the National Endowment for the Arts awarded him its National Heritage Fellowship, the highest honor that the United States can bestow on a traditional artist. The S.C. Legislature followed with a "lifetime achievement" and commissions for public sculptures by the South Carolina State Museum and the city of Charleston.

Pieces of his work have been acquired by the National Museum of American History and Smithsonian Institution, among others. His downtown church, St. John's Reformed Episcopal Church, has dedicated its grounds with a commemorative landscaped garden as a tribute.

Simons has lived on the east side of Charleston since arriving from Daniel Island in 1919. He oversees his relatives and others who are the next generation to work as blacksmiths.

PRESENTATION OF AWARD TO

JOHNNY KING
PERFORMANCE IV

CHAMBER SINGERS
DIRECTOR KATHY KINSEY

Mate del anima sola (Tree of the Lonely Soul) Antonio Estévez
(1916-1988)
Sleep Erica Whitacre (b. 1970)
The Battle of Jerico Moses George Hogan (1957-2003)

SOPRANO

Lacey Bingham (Freshman, pre-major, Rock Hill, S.C.)
Catherine Hunsinger (Junior, voice performance major, Lexington, S.C.)
Jaimie Hodgens (Senior, choral music education major, North, S.C.)
Andrea McAllister (Freshman, choral music education major, Greenville, S.C.)
Kayla Oxendine (Junior, business administration major, Sumter, S.C.)

ALTO

Maria Arvelo (Junior, music major, Sumter, S.C.)
Paige Hudson (Sophomore, choral music education major, Sumter, S.C.)
Hannah Lee (Sophomore, choral music education major, Clover, S.C.)
Michele Ripley (Junior, choral music education major, Lexington, S.C.)
Magan Roach (Junior, vocal performance major, Rock Hill, S.C.)
Ari Williams (Sophomore, sociology major, Summerville, S.C.)

TENOR

Alex Brommell (Junior, choral music education major, Georgetown, S.C.)
Thomas Ellis (Graduate student, choral conducting major, Donalds, S.C.)
Mark Jamison (Sophomore, music and modern languages major, Greenville, S.C.)
John David Park (Junior, choral music education major, Lexington, S.C.)
Noah Rawls (Junior, choral music education major, Lake Wylie, S.C.)
Tex Williams (Senior, choral music education major, Rock Hill, S.C.)

BASS

Alex Bales (Sophomore, vocal performance major, Irmo, S.C.)
Mark Boozer (Senior, English major, Pomaria, S.C.)
Justin Parrish (Sophomore, choral music education major, Rock Hill, S.C.)
Christopher Singleton (Junior, theatre major, Mt. Pleasant, S.C.)
Chad Waters (Senior, computer science major, Ladson, S.C.)
Tate York (Sophomore, biology major, West Columbia, S.C.)



JOHNNY KING

As long as he can remember, there has been music in Johnny King's life.

The Rock Hill native fiddled with the guitar in his early years but didn't start playing seriously until high school when a friend made King a guitar out of cat-gut fishing string.

A musician now for 50 years, King has traveled the world playing music. He moved to New York with relatives in the late 1960s, and then joined the Bill Doggett Band, known for its hit "Honky Tonk." A few years later, he and his friends put together the Fatback Band. The funk and disco group, which recorded numerous albums and one gold album, now has a Web site and several YouTube videos.

Some of King's best memories involve opening his first guitar school in 1975 in St. Albans, N.Y. He returned to Rock Hill where he has operated an electronics shop for 18 years, as well as a Gospel recording studio for young musicians.

Eager to recognize other musicians' contributions, King helped form the Rock Hill Musicians Club. The group has celebrated other Rock Hill musicians' work through performances and establishment of a park. King continues to play with a combo of Winthrop faculty members for area events, and he says, "The music is stronger than ever."

WINTHROP UNIVERSITY

MEDAL OF HONOR IN THE ARTS

MEDAL DESIGNED AND HANDCRAFTED BY



ALFRED WARD

PROFESSOR EMERITUS OF ART AND DESIGN

Born in London, England, Alf Ward studied silversmithing at Canterbury College of Art and completed his National Diploma in Design at Birmingham University in 1963. Following his appointment to teach industrial design at the University of London, Ward became chair of the department of silversmithing and jewelry at the City of London Polytechnic in 1974.

As a consultant designer to Spink & Sons in London, and by Appointment to Her Majesty the Queen, Ward designed many presentation pieces for the Royal Air Force, the Royal Family of Saudi Arabia, Revlon of Paris and individual awards for Margo Fontaine and the Covent Garden Opera House.

Soon after Ward's move to the United States in 1981, he became the director at the Appalachian Center for Crafts in Tennessee. During his tenure at Winthrop University as Professor of Art and Design, Ward produced silverware for the American Crafts Council and ceremonial maces for the University of Tennessee, Coastal Carolina and Winthrop University. Before designing and producing the present Medal of Honor in the Arts, his prior commission was to create brooch pins for the last ten first ladies of South Carolina. In 2006, Ward retired from his position of Professor of Art and Design at Winthrop University and continues to produce work through his freelance business.

WINTHROP UNIVERSITY
MEDAL OF HONOR
IN THE ARTS
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ANNA SARTIN

STAGE MANAGER

DONALD ROGERS, AMANDA WOOLWINE

PROGRAM COORDINATORS

BIFF EDGE

TECHNICAL DIRECTOR

ANNA SARTIN

LIGHTING DESIGNER

RUSSELL LUKE

HOUSE MANAGER

JANET GRAY

COSTUME DESIGNER

SHANNON PLOWDEN, MARY READING

ASSISTANT STAGE MANAGERS

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LAUREN MULLIS, VICTORIA PAINTER, ALLISON WEST

STAGEHANDS

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TREY HILL, DAVID MATHESON

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