Black history, literacy and healthy living combine

By E’laina Guy

Dr. Maria Orban discussed African-American writer Charles W. Chesnutt in the Mary Livermore Library on Feb. 3.

Chesnutt had white an-cestors and Dr. Orban said he could pass for white all the time, but he did not identify with the white cul-ture and represented an out-side of both the black and the white cultures. She said in Chesnutt’s writing, he showed the conflict of two races and cultures, and he was interested in the strug-gle of the contemporary so-ciety.

“He was a good, solid writer,” Dr. Orban said.

Chesnutt was awarded the NAACP’s Spingarn Medal for his life’s work in 1928 and on Jan. 31, 2008, the United States Postal Service honored Chesnutt with the 31st stamp in the Black Heritage Series.

Speaker offers look at local writer

By Hayley Burgess

Managing Editor

As part of Black History Month, Dr. Maria Orban spoke about the African-American writer Charles W. Chesnutt, 1858-1932, and how living in Fayetteville influenced his writings.

Dr. Orban is the co-editer of Charles Chesnutt Reappraised: Essays on the First Major African-American Fiction Writer. Dr. Orban is a professor at Fayetteville State University.

According to Dr. Orban, Chesnutt’s experiences while living in Fayetteville shaped the way he wrote, and many of the well-known landmarks in Fayetteville can be identified in his fiction stories. “He is very important to Fayetteville,” Dr. Orban said. “He had a major impact on his work. He used the space of the place in all his writings.”

In one of his works, Chesnutt described his walk through downtown Fay-etteville and included landmarks such as the First Presbyterian Church, Saint Patrick’s Catholic Church and Liberty Point. There is a virtual tour available on Fayetteville State University’s website of all the landmarks at http://faculty.uncfsu.edu/joy-oung/down.htm. Orban also dis-cussed Chesnutt’s charac-ters and short stories and how his culture affected his writings.

Dr. Orban is the co-editor of the anthology The 31st Stamp: Reapprasing the Black Heritage Series.

“Fayetteville had a big impact on his work,” Dr. Orban said. “In one of his works, he could pass for white all the time, but he didn’t identify with the white culture and represented an outsider for both the black and white cultures. She said in Chesnutt’s writing, he showed the conflict of two races and cultures, and he was interested in the struggle of the contemporary society.”

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Scholarship applications being accepted

By Hayley Burgess

Managing Editor

Applications are now being accepted for Friends of the Library educational awards. There are 10 scholarships and awards available for UNCP students who meet the requirements. These applications are part of a $2,000 Non-Endowed Award, two $500 Endowed Honors College Scholarships, three $500 Generalist Endowed Scholarships and four $250 Book Awards.

The deadline for applica-tions is March 1. The winners of the scholarships and awards will be an-nounced at the Friends of the Library’s annual meeting April 8.

Candidates for the $1,000 Generalist Award must be full-time under-graduates who plan to graduate in the sophomore, junior or senior year at UNCP and must have a 3.0 minimum GPA. The award is renewal able and can reapply each year. The award is $1,000 per school year.

The two $500 endowed scholarships are designed for Honors College students. There is only one scholarship per Honors College student per year. Candidates for the award must be full-time undergraduate Honors College students in the sophomore, junior or senior year at UNCP with a minimum 3.0 GPA.

Three $500 Generalist Endowed Scholarships are available for candidates who are full-time undergraduate students in the sophomore, junior or senior year at UNCP with a minimum 3.0 GPA. Each award is one per student.

The Library Book Scholarship provides four students with financial as-sistance with textbooks and course-related materials. Candidates can be ei-ther full-time or part-time graduate students or under-graduate students in the sophomore, junior or senior year at UNCP with a mini-mum 3.0 GPA. When awards are on, $500 per student award is credited to the recipient’s University Bookstore account.

“I encourage every stu-dent who meets the criteria to apply,” said Dr. Judy Cres-tis, president of Friends of the Library.

The Friends of the Li-brary board will appoint a scholarship review commit-tee of three members to in-dependently review the applications. A consensus is then reached and the names are presented to all the members of the library board for approval.

“It’s a very fair and ob-jective way,” Dr. Curtis said. “I know the committee will look for a well-rounded number of applicants in these tough economic times.”

Dr. Curtis’ advice to the applicants is to submit a complete, legible well-written application.

For more information, visit the library’s website at www.uncp.edu/library and look under Friends of the Library or contact the li-brary administrative office at 910-521-6212.