CACE conference explores Black South

By Ashley Williams

The Office of Multicultural and Minority Affairs took four students on Nov. 11 to UNCG’s 22nd Annual Conference on African American Culture and Experience titled “The Black South: From the Reconstruction Period to the 21st Century.”

Three UNCG students and a Bennett College student presented during a student panel session that was moderated by Dr. Tara Green, director of UNCG’s African American Studies program. Dr. Green quoted Mark Twain when she told the audience “much of what we know ain’t so.”

Student Kanyatta Dodson, from Bennett, focused on black women revolutionaries from the Civil Rights movement, who, she said, don’t get the recognition they deserve.

She said it was women from Bennett College that planned the Woolworth’s sit-in in 1960 and invited men from A&T to the meeting. Without the women of Bennett College, she said, the sit-in at UNCC would not have known about the Woolworth’s sit-in.

A faculty panel session included two professors from UNCG and one from UNCC.

Dr. Sarah Cervenak, assistant professor of African American Studies and Women’s and Gender Studies at UNCG, used George Dimock’s artwork to explain similarities between Black Southern life in the U.S. and Black life throughout the Diaspora, noting the term New South was used instead of Third World in the 1970s.

Associate professor of Art History at UNCG Dr. George Dimock’s presentation focused on a current exhibit at the Weatherspoon Art Museum that features the photographs of Winslow Homer.

Homer’s photos were of two Black women with blared faces picking cotton in an open field during the 1920s. Dr. Dimock showed similar paintings from other artists that he said may have inspired Homer’s photos.

Dr. Sandra Govan, professor emeritus at UNCC, presented on Alice Walker and the themes of her works. She used Walker’s work “The Temple of My Familiar” to tell the audience that raising their voices could make a difference.

She also focused on “The Color Purple” and how Black men reacted to the book when it first came out.

During a Literary Café, UNCG alumna Ashanti Meachum walked up to the podium and recited an original spoken word piece that touched on getting a Black president.

As Lorenzo Meachum walked up to the podium with his guitar, he repeatedly sang the words Miss May Lilly while his voice filled the room. Meachum’s song focused on the things his grandmother taught him and his siblings and what she did for people in their community. He described that she would wake him and his brothers up for school by reciting Paul Lawrence Dunbar poems.

After singing “Grandma’s Hands” by Bill Withers, he continued to sing the words Miss May Lilly.

Meachum revealed to the audience at the end of his poem that Miss May Lilly was his grandmother and he pays tribute to her everywhere he goes regardless of what he does.

The conference was held in the Elliott University Center at UNCG.

A remembrance roll call in observance of Veterans Day was going on as the group walked into the building.

There also were Occupy Greensboro signs in a room across from the conference.

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Student walks towards the Elliott University Center on the campus of UNCG for UNCG’s 22nd Annual Conference on African American Culture and Experience. Four UNCG students traveled to Greensboro to attend the event.

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Movies film in area on way to big screen

By Nick Phillips

Robeson County is coming to a big screen near you, as portions of the movie “Arthur Newman, Golf Pro” was filmed in downtown Fairmont on Nov. 8.

The comedy-drama movie is being based out of Wilmington and has been shot at locations throughout North Carolina and will be released in 2012.

Set up for the shooting began on Nov. 7 and the crew was out of Wilmington by Nov. 9, a quick turnaround.

Specifically, two downtown buildings were used for the movie, as the Hector MacLean Public Library transformed to look like a hotel, while a vacant building across the street was turned into a reception hall for the filming.

The set up included changing signs in front of the two buildings for the shooting before everything was replaced to its original look.

“Arthur Newman, Golf Pro” stars Academy Award winner Colin Firth and Golden Globe winner Emily Blunt.

The film follows Wallace Avery (Firth), a man who hates his job, is estranged from his ex-wife and son, and blew his one shot at living his dream. After staging his own death and buying himself a new identity as Arthur Newman, a golf pro, his road trip towards his new life is interrupted by the arrival of the beautiful but fragile Mike (Emily Blunt).

Fairmont Police were on duty to re-route traffic and control the crowd that showed up to see the filming.

‘Iron Man 3’

Another movie with ties to the region also recently announced it would begin shooting. North Carolina Gov. Bev Perdue announced on Oct. 27 that “Iron Man 3” will be shot in Wilmington and is scheduled to be released sometime in 2013.

Wilmington beat out Los Angeles, Michigan and New Mexico as the choice for the movie’s location, according to film officials.

The Hector MacLean Public Library in Fairmont was transformed to look like a hotel for the filming of “Arthur Newman, Golf Pro.”