



20th Annual Savannah Black Heritage Festival

January 31 - February 15, 2009

"Our Journey Through The Arts"

"GEORGIA'S BEST WEEKLY"

The Savannah Tribune



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Beach High Choir Seeks Funds to Attend 'Historic' Presidential Inauguration

On January 20, 2009, when President-Elect Barack Obama takes the oath of office as the 44th president of the United States, members of Alfred Ely Beach High School Choir will have a

front row seat to this historic event.

The 25 Beach High students are among 4,500 students across the nation who were invited to sing at the inauguration bash.

"We will sing and perform in a competition among oth-

er choir students, they will get to see President-Elect Obama take an oath of office, tour the White House and they will attend the inaugural events," says Choir Director James Kirk.

Kirk submitted an application last summer hoping

that his students would be among the lucky ones to get this rare opportunity. At that time, he had no idea what a tremendous historic event it was going to be, particularly for the African-American community.

"This is something they

will remember for the rest of their lives," he said.

The students are hoping that the public will donate to this once-in-a-lifetime experience. If you would like to help, contact Beach High School at 912.201.5330 or call James

Kirk at 210-9766.

Dr. Deonn Stone is the principal at Beach High School.

PLEASE DONATE
912-210-9766

MLK, Jr. Observance Day Presents 2009 Marshals' Reception

On Saturday, December 13, 2008, the Martin Luther King Jr. Observance Day Association, Inc., will present its 2009 Marshals' Reception at the King Frazier Student Center, Savannah State University, at 5:00 p.m. The Board of Directors of the Association cordially invites you, its sponsors, supporters, and friends to attend the reception as they pay tribute to the 2009 Honorees.

The 2009 Marshals are Senator Regina Thomas and Dr. Robert E. James, and the



Dr. Robert E. James
Civil Rights Activist is Mr. William B. Jackson, Sr.

Senator Regina Thomas of Savannah was elected to the Georgia State Senate in a special election on January 11, 2000. She also served in the Georgia House of Representatives from 1995 to 1998, where her efforts were focused on education, children's issues and welfare reform. She served as Assistant Majority Whip in the House from 1997 through 1998. Senator Thomas chaired the Senate State Institutions and Property Committee during 2002-2004.

A native of Savannah,



Senator Regina Thomas
Senator Thomas is a 1970 graduate of A.E. Beach High

School. She is married to Ervin J. Thomas, Sr., a retired policeman. They have three sons, a daughter and nine grandchildren. Senator Thomas also attended Savannah Tech, Community College of Baltimore, and H&R Block Tax Course. She is a member of the Liberty City Church of Christ in Savannah, and she attends area churches regularly.

Robert Earl James, a native of Hattiesburg, Mississippi, has been President of Carver State Bank of Savannah, Georgia,



Mr. William B. Jackson, Sr.
since December 1, 1971. Since he became President, See **Marshals' Reception**, page 6

Savannah's 100 Celebrity Men Who Cook Event Helps Provide Scholarships

When you support Savannah's 100 Celebrity Men Who Cook, you help many local students and our local colleges & universities. Several local students receive scholarships to attend the 39 member United Negro College Fund Schools, and many receive the Gates Millennium Scholarships.

The United Negro College Fund (UNCF) administers the Gates Millennium Scholars Program in partnership with the Hispanic Scholarship Fund, the Organization of Chinese Americans and the



L-R: Maurice Jenkins, Erick Moton, Jr., Carol Bell, Gordon Cone, DeAnna Bryant, Areya Simmons, Bert Tennenbaum, & Dr. Thomas Lockamy.

American Indian Graduate Center Scholars. UNCF's mission is to enhance the quality of education by providing financial assistance to deserving students, raising operating funds for member colleges and universities, and increasing access to technology for students and faculty of historically black colleges and universities (HBCUs).

The Gates Millennium Scholars initiative, funded by a grant from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, is aimed at expanding access and opportunity to higher

See **Celebrity Cook**, page 7

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