

# Blue Ridge Community College

# Times-News Column

Lee Anna Haney, Director of Public Relations

April 25, 2010

On Friday, Blue Ridge Community College will host the 18th Annual Arida Arts Symposium. This year's featured artist is Glenis Redmond, poet, educator, performer, and counselor rolled into one passionate soul. She presents her poetry in performances that cause the printed word to spring from the page and dance, sing, weep, and laugh. Glenis tells stories through poetry—from her life, her family, her African American heritage, and her sensitive observations of the world around her—inspiring audiences of all ages. In her workshops and performances, she encourages participants to know themselves and their origins, thereby finding their own inspiration and their own stories. Glenis began writing poetry at the age of 12. She worked for seven years as a family counselor. While enrolled in a doctoral program in psychology, she rediscovered her love for poetry. Pregnancy with twins and a serious illness helped her find the strength to follow her heart and dedicate her life to poetry. Glenis has won numerous awards including The Carrie McCray Literary Award in Poetry, a study fellowship from Vermont Writing Center, study scholarships to the Atlantic Center for the Arts, and a week of study with Natalie Goldberg. Glenis is the 1997 and the 1998 Southeast Regional Individual Poetry Slam Champion. She placed in the Top 10 in 1996 and 1997 for the National Individual Slam Championship. Glenis has performed throughout the United States, England, and Italy. She shares her poetry in performances, residencies, and workshops with a wide range of audiences from schools, juvenile detention centers, universities, coffeehouses, performing arts centers, and educational television.

The celebration will begin Friday morning with a morning workshop at 10 a.m. The intent of the workshop is to encourage participants to become their own tributaries by creating poems that will gift themselves and their communities. In the evening, a reception will begin at 5:30 p.m. in the Thomas Auditorium Gallery followed by the evening performance "Tributary: Giving Voice through Poetic Tribute" from 7 to 8:30 p.m. at the Thomas Auditorium. Reservations are encouraged. For more information or to make a reservation, call (828) 694-1735. All events are funded by the Gamil T. Arida Endowment Fund through Blue Ridge Community College Educational Foundation and are free to the public.

\*\*\*\*\*

Henderson County offers a wide range of activities and programs for children's entertainment and personal growth. With all the different choices happening in the county and the different deadlines throughout the year, it is easy to miss "neat" experiences for your children or a registration deadline. Many popular programs fill up quickly. On Monday, May 3, parents and their children can learn all the "cool" things they can do in 2010 in Henderson County for this summer or later this year. Participants will have the opportunity to meet and talk with local organizations and companies that offer these exciting and personal growth options. The 2010 Henderson Kids Expo will make it easy to explore all the options and offers the ability to register onsite during the event. The 2010 Henderson Kids Expo will be held May 3 from 6 to 9 p.m. at Blue Ridge Conference Hall. In addition to the opportunity to view displays and gather information from the sponsors, presentations will be held throughout the event: 6 to 6:30 p.m. Arts, Dance, Drama; 6:40 to 7:10 p.m. Arts and Music; 7:20 to 7:50 p.m. Youth Sports; 8 to 8:30pm Youth Activities and Clubs; and 8:30 to 9 p.m. Camps. Admission is free compliments of these sponsors: Blue Ridge Community College Small Business Center, Zwingle, Costanza Knight Art Classes, Flat Rock

Playhouse, Forge Mountain Cloggers, Girl Scouts Carolinas Peaks to Piedmont, Henderson County 4-H, Henderson County Family YMCA, Henderson County Parks and Recreation, Henderson County Youth Symphony, Jim Beavers Music Studios, Talisman Program, Transformation Glass, Young Guns Boxing Academy, and Tots on Toes. For more information or to register, go to [http://www.blueridge.edu/business\\_person/events/index.php](http://www.blueridge.edu/business_person/events/index.php) or contact Gary Heisey at (828) 694-1766 or by e-mail at [g\\_heisey@blueridge.edu](mailto:g_heisey@blueridge.edu).