

# ARTS & LIFESTYLE

## Of Interest ...

### NCSA students, departments awarded Semans funds

Students and arts schools of the North Carolina School of the Arts have received grants totaling \$121,700 from The Semans Art Fund, Inc., a nonprofit corporation created for the benefit of the School and its students, faculty and staff. Grants totaling \$90,000 were awarded to the deans of the arts schools - Dance, Design and Production, Drama, Filmmaking and Music - for discretionary purposes. In addition, the School of Filmmaking received a grant of \$5,000 to assist in underwriting the senior filmmakers trip to Los Angeles to introduce their student films to industry professionals.

Twenty students received grants totaling \$26,700 for projects including participating in or attending performing arts industry workshops, seminars and internships.

The Semans Art Fund, Inc., was endowed through the generosity of Dr. and Mrs. James H. Semans of Durham, co-founders of the North Carolina School of the Arts. Since its inception, the Fund has awarded more than \$2 million to NCSA projects and students.

### SciWorks' reopening PhysicsWorks Gallery

SciWorks' PhysicsWorks Gallery will reopen on May 31 with all new exhibits.

Funds from SciWorks SciVision" capital campaign have been used to transform the gallery into a unique laboratory with several stations of hands-on exhibits, each explaining a concept of physics.

The gallery is designed to allow families to learn physics, which is the interaction of matter and energy, together, as they manipulate simple machines that make work easier. There will be a special area for very young children, "Tot Spot," with a tricycle generator and other components specially designed with the preschool-age child in mind.

SciWorks is located on Hanes Mill Road just off University Parkway or Highway 52. Admission is \$10 for adults, seniors and students (ages 6-19) pay \$7 and \$5 is the charge for children (ages 2-5).

For more information, call 336-767-6730, or go to [www.sciworks.org](http://www.sciworks.org).

### RibFest returning to downtown Winston-Salem

The fourth annual Texas Pete Twin City RibFest will return to downtown June 12 - 14. AKA Entertainment & Media is presenting the event, which attracts about 30,000 people a year and was featured in the June 2007 issue of Bon Appetit magazine and also on Martha Stewart.com. The festival will run from 11 a.m. - midnight daily. Admission at the gate is \$6 for adults and children free. Advance \$4 discount ticket s can be purchased at any area Lowes Foods store.

The 2008 RibFest will once again be located in the parking lot at 200 North Cherry St. There will be seven nationally known "ribbers," or renowned rib sellers, at the event. For the first time, this year's RibFest will have a local contender: Chef Tim Grandinetti, Executive Chef of Winston-Salem's Twin City Quarter, will head a team of ribbers. Grandinetti is known in the barbecue world as "Dr. Brownstone."

The festival will also include two performance stages. The main stage will showcase regional and national music acts including "The Everybodyfields," "Yo Momma's Big Fat Booty Band" and "Key West Band."

The other stage will offer a smorgasbord of musical, cabaret and performance art acts, including the nationally known "Sideshow Benny." The event will also feature a Fun Zone areas and marketplace.

### Reynolda House showing classic American portraits

Reynolda House Museum of American Art is showing a new exhibition, "Early American Portraits," through Aug. 31 in the West Bedroom Gallery of the historic house.

Works in the exhibition date from the 18th and early-19th centuries, including portraits by John Singleton Copley and Charles Willson Peale.

"For artists in early America, portraits were the surest source of income and the backbone of their business," according to Allison Slaby, Reynolda House assistant curator. "Early Americans were eager to establish their legitimacy as prosperous and genteel citizens, and having a portrait made served that goal."

The exhibition encourages visitors to observe the portraits for clues as to who the sitter really is. For example, attire and setting may reflect a person of privilege. An expansive lawn in the background may hint at the sitter's large landholdings, and a serene expression or a classic pose may reflect the sitter's stature, refinement, and nobility of purpose.

"Early American Portraits" is one of three exhibitions currently on view at the museum. Visitors can also enjoy the expanding global view of American art over the last thirty years in "New World Views: Gifts from Jean Crutchfield and Robert Hobbs" and the anniversary exhibition, "Forty Artful Years," displays six works which represent the vigor and diversity of the Museum's collection.

For more information, visit [reynoldahouse.org](http://reynoldahouse.org) or call 336-758-5150.

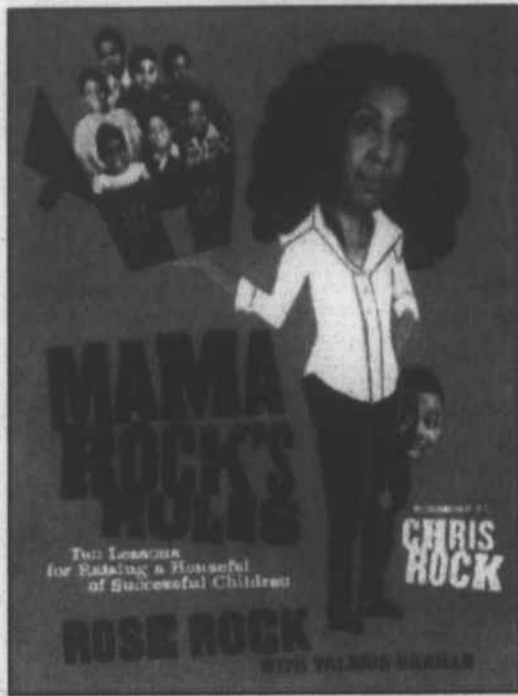
## Chris Rock's mom at Special Occasions Saturday

CHRONICLE STAFF REPORT

Rose Rock, the mother of actor/comedian Chris Rock, will sign copies of her new book Saturday, May 31, at Special Occasions, the well-known book and gift shop on Martin Luther King Jr., Drive.

"Mama Rock's Rules: Ten Lessons for Raising a Houseful of Successful Children," gives Mama Rock, as she is known, the opportunity to give readers her no-nonsense child-rearing tips. Viewers of the hit show "Everybody Hates Chris" already know a little bit about Mama Rock's personality. Rochelle, the show's sassy mom who always knows when her kids mess up, is based on Rose Rock, a native of South Carolina.

Rose is a real life supermom. She and her late husband, Julius, raised 10 children, putting a strong emphasis on respect, common courtesy, and common sense, backed by a lot of love. She also opened her home to 17 foster children and touched the lives of scores of youngsters through her work as a school teacher. For 17 years, Mama Rock, who specializes in preschool and special



education, taught and operated a preschool and daycare center, first in New York and then in South Carolina.

A sought-after speaker, Rock founded Rock This 619, a nonprofit youth empowerment organization. She is also the host of the weekly radio program "The Mom Show," broadcast from Myrtle Beach, S.C.

HarperCollins Publishers released Mama Rock's book earlier this year, and Rose Rock has been promoting the book at sites across the country. "Mama Rock's Rules," which retails for \$22.95, draws on her wealth of child rearing experiences and demonstrates why parents need to be consistent, even when it means being unpopular, for their children's own good.

She also urges moms, dads, and other caretakers to talk and listen to their kids, to pick their battles, to give themselves time-outs, and, sometimes to just let kids be kids.

Special Occasions is located at 112 N Martin Luther King Jr., Dr. Those who will not be able to attend, can reserve a book to be signed by calling the store at 336-724-0334.

## Delta to open photo show featuring Haitians

Attendees at opening reception asked to bring donations for the island nation

CHRONICLE STAFF REPORT

The Delta Arts Center will open "Strength, Spirit & Dignity: Portraits of Haiti" on June 8 at 3 p.m.

Members of the Haitian community will be on hand for the opening and attendees are asked to bring donations of rice, dried beans, oats and cornmeal to be sent to Haiti to relieve the dire food shortage that has recently led to riots in the island nation.

The portraits in the show are by Tom Plaut, who accompanied a medical team to the nation in 2006. The team conducted clinics for children in the small community of Montrouis, on the western coast of Haiti. When Plaut returned home and began combing through the hundreds of photographs that he had taken, he realized the beauty of the landscape and the people and how they spoke so powerfully through the photos. In this sense, the peo-



Delta Arts Executive Director Dianne Caesar stands by some of the portraits.

ple of Montrouis are the true authors of this exhibition, Plaut believes. The 30 color images faithfully portray the people's strength, spirit and dignity.

Plaut is a photographer and sociologist who recently retired from Mars Hill College in

Asheville after 34 years of teaching. In Haiti, Plaut worked with a medical team from Asheville that treated 1,035 children in five days of clinics organized by Haitian counterparts in three coastal and two mountain communities. In between measuring

kids' heights and weights, he photographed the clinics and the communities that hosted them.

The portraits will be on view until June 14.

For more information, call 336-722-2625.

## Symphony hires asst. conductor

Matthew Troy picked from pool of 60

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

Matthew Troy has been pegged as the Winston-Salem Symphony's assistant conductor and education director.

He was one of four finalists, chosen from among 60 applicants, who auditioned for the newly-created position. In this new role, Troy will be the conductor of the Youth Symphony and serve as Winston-Salem Symphony assistant conductor. In addition, he will coordinate education and community engagement programs for the symphony.

"This community is so very rich in culture and music and has such a great foundation in the arts. I am excited to be a part of it and look forward to sharing music with the next generation of musicians through my work as conductor of the Youth Symphony," said Troy. "Being named assistant conductor of the Winston-Salem Symphony is a truly outstanding opportunity, and I am thrilled to be able to work with such an accomplished orchestra."

Since August 2006, Troy has been the education and community engagement director of the Winston-Salem Symphony. He has also served as assistant conductor of the Youth Symphony, and general manager of youth orchestra programs. In 2006, he founded the Fibonacci Chamber Orchestra of Greensboro, of which he is music director. From 2003 - 2006, Troy was conductor of the Salisbury Youth Orchestra, and assistant conductor of the Salisbury Symphony from 2004 - 2006.

A Greensboro native, he received both a Bachelor of Music in Viola and a Master of Music in Orchestral Conducting from UNCG.



Greensboro native Matthew Troy has worked for the symphony for several years.



FTCC President Gary Green, left, presents the award to Dempsey Essick.

## Renowned artist wins FTCC alumni award

CHRONICLE STAFF REPORT

A self-taught realist watercolor painter has won the Forsyth Technical Community College's 2008 Distinguished Alumni Award.

Dempsey Essick, a 1973 mechanical drawing graduate of Forsyth Tech, owns and operates the Dempsey Essick Gallery in Welcome, N.C. His wife, Shelley, manages the gallery. The Essicks live in the house where he was born in Davidson County. They are the parents of two grown children.

He began his career as a project engineer with Leggett & Platt. At age 35, he embarked on a full-time career as an artist. Essick has exhibited at The National Academy of Design in New York City, the National Watercolor Exhibition in California

and the Rocky Mountain Water Media Exhibition in Colorado. Two of his paintings were featured in the 2007 anniversary edition of the North Carolina Wildlife Commission calendar.

Essick was nominated for the award by Judi Holcomb-Pack of Crisis Control Ministry. In addition to the artwork he donated to that organization, Essick has used his talent to support many charitable causes. His community service work includes membership on the board of Davidson County's Senior Services, a term as president of the NC Bluebird Society, and teaching a weekly community Bible study.

Forsyth Tech President Dr. Gary Green presented the award to Essick at a recent luncheon.