

School of the Arts way to launch career

Where would a Hoke County student, after graduating, find the best training for a career on the stage?

According to Melody Williamson, a 1984 graduate of Hoke High School, that student could do no better than to attend the North Carolina School of Arts in Winston-Salem.

Williamson, who attended the school last year, was a member of Studio One, a pre-professional program for North Carolina students. She found the curriculum and teachings of that program very deserving of its growing reputation.

The school, which has continued to gain national acclaim as an excellent training ground for actors and actresses, is also very competitive.

All prospective students must audition for entrance to the school. After acceptance and a year of study, the student must audition a second time. If they pass muster, they are asked to return.

Although Williamson was not one of the two Studio One students who won acceptance for next year's program, she is not bitter about being eliminated.

"I learned so much this year, and I met so many professional people," she explains. "And I trust their opinion of my talent. I was asked to audition for them again in two years, and I plan to do that."

For the next two years, this confident young lady will continue her dramatic studies at the University of North Carolina.

A former member of the Hoke

Hoke Arts Scene

By Sonya Falls

High Band and Chorus and participating in the Summer Youth Theatre, Williamson looks back on her experiences in those groups as extremely helpful in building the confidence that any performer needs.

However, with all due respect to these programs, Williamson would like to see the area of drama given more attention for the benefit of aspiring drama students in Hoke County.

She points to the fact that the two students chosen from Studio One for further study at the school were from Charlotte. She feels that because that school system has a strong high school drama program, those students were better prepared than others from across the state, such as herself.

Talent is definitely abundant in this county, Williamson adds. A very good example she sees in Hoke Countyman Boris Willis, a new recruit to the school, who will be entering the dance program this fall.

Hopefully, Willis will find his work there as rewarding as Williamson's. The wide range of her studies during the last year gave her a smattering of many faces of drama. Acting methods, dance, jazz, mime, clowning, and speech classes composed her curriculum. Special workshops featur-



Relaxing during break
Melody Williamson relaxes during summer break at home.

ing known actors or directors are also an interesting benefit for students of the school.

"I mean, it can't hurt that I've met and worked with the casting director of ABC, can it?" Williamson asks, with a wide grin.

But she is wise enough to know that such connections do not often guarantee a quick way up the ladder.

"I have no desire to go to New York right now and become one of those thousand, young, starving actors, but I've always wanted to

perform. I know that and I will someday. I just don't know in what capacity."

For the present, she will continue her studies, gaining those "life experiences" that the school maintains is so necessary to the success of drama students.

The determination to be successful in her career is certainly strong in Melody Williamson. No doubt there will come a day when we can proudly say, "Melody Williamson? Oh, sure, we knew her when..."

Cash awards offered festival craftsmen

Over \$800 in awards will be presented to artists and craftsmen at the N.C. Turkey Festival in Raeford on Saturday, September 21.

A \$500 purchase award will be presented for Best in Show and \$25 cash awards will be given in 13 categories.

Ralph Steeds, Associate Professor in the Art Department at Pembroke State University will serve as a judge.

Steeds will be joined by Harlan

McCaskill, Dean of Continuing Education at Sandhills Community College in Southern Pines and Gladys Shambo, Home Extension Agent in Fayetteville.

Many local craftsmen are participating in the first Turkey Festival.

Craftsmen from across the state will also be on hand to offer their handmade items for sale.

If you are interested in renting a booth for the festival, call 875-4323 or 875-4087 after 4 p.m.

Hoke farm bureau to meet

Farm leaders from throughout North Carolina who were previously appointed to North Carolina Farm Bureau Commodity Advisory Committees will meet in Raleigh September 6 to begin the Farm Bureau policy development process, according to W.W. Cameron Jr., president of the Hoke County Farm Bureau.

Committee members will meet for the purpose of raising "areas of concern" to be offered as suggested issues for discussion in the Farm Bureau policy development process.

Commodity committees are: aquaculture, cotton, dairy, field crops, flue-cured tobacco, burley tobacco, forestry, fruits and vegetables, ornamentals and shrubs, livestock, peanuts and poultry.

General committees are: law and order, and natural and economic resources.

Representing the Hoke County Farm Bureau at the meeting will be Charlie Pendergrass, flue-cured tobacco; James N. Maxwell Jr., cotton; L.E. McLaughlin Jr., livestock; and Neill L. McFadyen, forestry.

Cameron said that after issues are surfaced and discussed by the committees, they are submitted to the individual counties for consideration by resolutions committees prior to the county annual meetings.

Cameron pointed out that the Raleigh meeting will begin at 10:00 a.m. with reports on the current agricultural situation and general problem areas that will be confronting agriculture in the future. Committees will later begin their individual discussions.

Cameron suggested that Farm Bureau members who have questions that need to be considered, or ideas that may solve current problems, bring them to the attention of local committee members.

"It is through this process," he emphasized, "that members can be assured that Farm Bureau at county, state and national levels will work for well-considered, carefully chosen objectives which the members themselves have initiated, studied, and decided."

McRae completes police training

Pvt. John E. McRae III, son of Annie R. McRae of Saunders Street, Raeford, has completed training as an Army military police specialist under the one station unit training (OSUT) program at Fort McClellan, Alabama.

Students were trained in civil and military law, traffic control, map reading and self-defense.

He is a 1983 graduate of Hoke County High School.

Upchurch Alumni reunion to be held this weekend

The Upchurch High School Alumni will enjoy their second celebration on Saturday, August 31, beginning at 11 a.m. with a program in the Upchurch School auditorium.

Mrs. Dorine Malloy Adams will be the principal speaker.

The history will again be presented by Mrs. Kathryn McPhatter.

From 1 to 4 p.m. a picnic will be held on the grounds.

At 7:30 p.m. there will be a Christian Jubilee at Mt. Calvary Church of God in the Queenmore community behind the school.

The public is invited.

The dance in the gym will be for ticket holders only.

The climax of this celebration will be the banquet Sunday evening at the Holiday Inn, I-95 & Hwy.

53, exit 49 in Fayetteville.

John Carey Kelly, son of Mr. Rufus Kelly Sr. and the late Mary McLaughlin Kelly will be the speaker.

The Alumni Chorus will present music for both occasions accompanied by musicians, Dr. Willie McNeill Jr. and Mrs. Pearl Kemp Brown.

Cobb receives FSU Masters

On May 12, Fayetteville State University held its annual commencement.

Of the well over 300 students who received degrees, Pamela Smith Cobb was one of those receiving a masters in education.

While at FSU Mrs. Cobb was a member of Kappa Delta Pi Honor Society.

Mrs. Cobb is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Freddie Smith of the Cameron Village Community.

She is the wife of Sgt. Larry Cobb of Ft. Hood, Texas.

Mrs. Cobb is now residing in the state of Texas with her husband and daughter.



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