

Schools land big names for ceremonies

Everyone from entertainers to history-makers will speak at area graduations this month CHRONICLE STAFF REPORT

Actor and director Forest Whitaker is the last name added to a stellar lineup of high achievers who will speak at commencement exercises for local college and universities this month. Whitaker, whose acting credits incluse "Incluse The Crying "Fast Times at Ridgemont High," "The Crying Game" and "Panic Room," will speak to N.C. School of the

graduates on May 29. E n g l i s h school gradu-ates during their

Forest Whitaker made his directorial debut with the film "Waiting to Exhale."

who is an alum of NCSA. "What a double bill we have for our graduating students and their families." NCSA Chancellor Wade Hobgood said in statement. "Forest Whitaker is a dynamic young actor who has had remark-able success directing and producing. Rosemary Harris is the epitome of all that is a 'star' of stage and screen. We are delighted to have them with us on our special day." Whitaker, a Texas native, made his directorial

debut in 1995 with the highly popular film version of the Terry McMillan book "Waiting to Exhale." He also directed the film "Hope Floats." He has produced films such as "Green Dragon" and 'Chasing Papi" and is currently in post-produc tion with "First Daughter," a film he directed and executive produced.

Whitaker started in and co-produced 1991's "A Rage in Harlem," which was associate pro-duced by Ron Stacker Thompson, a faculty mem-ber in the NCSA School of Filmmaking.



Melissa Dunlap (from right) Tiffany Smith, Kim Brooks, Chiquita Funderburk and Kiyhrea Robbins finished their CNA training last week at the Astor Park Community Center.

BEYOND THE BRICKS

THE CHRONICLE

applauded by friends and family members last Friday during an informal graduation ceremony that marked the completion of the two-week CNA training class that was offered at the Astor Park Community Center.

The class is the first of many job-training pro-grams and classes that will be offered in the comfrom the federal HOPE VI grant the Housing Authority of Winston-Salem received several years ago to construct Astor Park, a sprawling community of new town homes that sit on the site of the former Kimberly Park Terrace housing projects. HOPE VI, a program of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, stipulates that grants not only be used for brick and mortar projects but also on programs that promote self-sufficiency and self-empowerment among residents of the revitalized communities.

Faye Brice, a HOPE VI case manager at Astor Park, said the CNA class was proposed because there was a great demand among residents for relevant job training programs.

"Our residents were unemployed, and we



Minority women in business honored

Honorees have made names for themselves in many different areas BY COURTNEY GAILLARD THE CHRONICLE

Lenora Fluitt is what you would call a busy woman. Between her three jobs, she is still a wife, mother, grandmother n d a

great grandmother Fluitt also is an active member Stephen Missionary Bap-



Burke Church,

a member of the National Council of Negro Women and the queen mother of the Midtown Red Hat Society.

She was one of nearly a dozen active local business women honored last Thursday at the 2004 Outstanding Women in Business Leaders reception for their significant contributions to the community. Southern Com-munity Bank and Trust along with the city of Winston-Salem and the Winston-Salem Conven-tion & Visitors Bureau sponsored the event. Mayor Pro Tempore Vivian Burke, who has worked to open doors for female and minority business owners in the city, hosted the awards

reception. Fluitt says she is inspired by her grandchildren, whom she hopes to leave a legacy to. She also encourages young women to go after their dreams in life no matter what obstacles may come their way.

"It was a shock. I really was surprised. I'm busy but I didn't know that anybody noticed. I enjoy what I do and I just continue to do it. I am honored. I'm very honored," said Fluitt, owner and operator of the H

ris is the mother of Tony-winning actress

that same day. Perhaps best known for her role as Aunt May in "Spi-der-Man," Har-

exercises

Arts

stage

NCSA

screen actress

Rosemary Har-

ris will speak to

commencement

Jennifer Ehle,

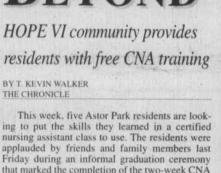
college

on

and

high

on



tried to think of a field to try to help fill a void, See CNA on A10

See Speakers on A10

Personal Chef (Hat)



A young girl puts her own special touch on a chef's hat over the weekend at an event held to kick off a series of Charles the Chef storybooks. Several young people took part in activities at the event Saturday. See story on A5.

Lee Washington presents Melissa Dunlap with her certificate of completion for the training class.

Gregory inspires laughter, thought at NAACP banquet

BY T. KEVIN WALKER THE CHRONICLE

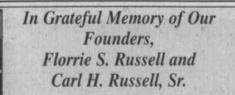
Dick Gregory told a crowd of several hundred last Friday that the countless opportunities made possible by the Civil Rights Movement are often

possible by the Civil Rights Movement are often taken for granted-today by young people not old enough to remember what it was like before and old folks who simply choose to forget. Four decades ago, there were no African-American flight attendants, police chiefs, presi-dential cabinet members, and Black History Month – even though it's the shortest month of the ware was measure of Greener and Ha the year - was unheard of, Gregory said. He spoke to a packed house at the Adam's Mark Grand Pavilion for the local NAACP's 2004 Freedom Fund Gala.

Gregory told the crowd that freedom was not free. It was paid for with the blood and sweat of



See Gregory on A9 Dick Gregory talks with fans after his speech.



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822 Carl Russell Ave. (at Martin Luther King Dr.) Winston-Salem, NC 27101 (336) 722-3459 Fax (336) 631-8268 rusfhome@bellsouth.net

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