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THE CHRONICLE

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Photo by Courtney Gaillard
Shoshana Johnson was taken prisoner in 2003 while serving in Iraq.

Former POW wins over crowd with humor

BY COURTNEY GAILLARD
THE CHRONICLE

GREENSBORO—Sitting on a stool behind a podium, dressed in a pin stripe suit, retired U.S. Army Specialist Shoshana Johnson looked the picture of health despite the ordeal she faced more than one year ago when she was held captive for nearly a month in an Iraqi prison.

Since being rescued, Johnson has been adapting to civilian life by spending time with her 4-year-old daughter, cleaning her house, shoe shopping and making occasional media appearances around the country. It's the simple things in life that matter for this 31-year-old who was the first black female POW in U.S. war history.

Johnson spoke at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro on Tuesday evening during their Observance of Human Rights Week. Her humorous account of joining the Army and preparing for deployment had the audience in stitches as she recalled packing cocoa butter and a relaxer kit for her hair, among other necessities.

Johnson enlisted into the Army five years ago and was stationed at Ft. Bliss, Texas, before being deployed to Iraq in February of 2003. Cooking was her passion, so she joined the Army with the intentions of attending culinary

See Johnson on A9



Photos by Kevin Walker
Left: There was little room left on the dance floor Saturday night at the Hawthorne Inn as Carver High School alumni performed the Electric Slide. The alumni held a dinner/dance at the hotel as part of the annual Carver Round-up.
Below: Marian Friende Brower holds the certificate of promotion she received in the late 1930s that allowed her to move on to Carver High School from elementary school.

Carver alumni celebrate, reflect

BY T. KEVIN WALKER
THE CHRONICLE

Though is a bit faded, the perfect attendance certificates that Marian Friende Brower earned at Carver High School are still holding up. She has three of them: one each from 1939, 1940 and 1941, the year Brower graduated from Carver.

There are other prized possessions that she holds dear as well. The oversized yellow C she keeps in a folder was one of the first letters that Carver produced for its students. And then there is one of her most favorite keepsakes: a certificate of promotion that students once received when they finished elementary school and were allowed to go on to high school. Back then, high school was eighth grade through 11th grade, Brower recalled.

Brower brought all of her prized positions with her to the weekend Carver High School Round-Up, a yearly reunion open to every alumnus of the school,



from its very first class in 1939 to its most recent in 2004.

"These are my friends," Brower said of her Carver treasures. She said she wanted to share them with

her other friends — fellow Yellow-jackets who have made the yearly Round-up a success for the past 20 years.

Hundreds of Carver alumni

attended an array of events over the weekend, events that included a church service on Sunday in Carver's new auditorium where school alumni who have passed on were remembered. There was also a festive dinner/dance Saturday night at the Hawthorne Inn where attendees were treated to a wide range of music that took them back to their high school days.

Brower, the president of the Carver Alumni Association, believes the association was the first locally to organize an all-alumni reunion. She says having people from various classes at the same reunion is exciting.

"We renew friendships. We stimulate each other. It is just wonderful," she said.

Each year, there is also a friendly rivalry among the classes to see which class can raise the most money for the scholarship fund that the association started. Current Carver students get money to help pay for college through the fund. This year, alumni raised \$6,627.

See Carver on A10

Death penalty opponents tour HBCUs



Photo by Kevin Walker
Jotaka Eaddy works for the National Coalition Against the Death Penalty.

BY T. KEVIN WALKER
THE CHRONICLE

Jotaka Eaddy says that by the time she turns 50, she hopes that there is no such thing as capital punishment in this country. That deadline is 25 years away, but Eaddy, a program coordinator for the Washington-based National Coalition Against the Death Penalty, is already hard at work, trying to make her wish a reality.

"When I am 50, I made a promise that this whole thing is going to be over with," she said. "I really don't see how the United States can continue to be a part of this global community and execute its citizens 25 years from now."

Eaddy and other death penalty opponents had similar harsh words about the punishment during the kickoff last week of a speaking and education tour that will take hard facts on the death penalty to seven historically black colleges and universities in the next three months. N.C. A&T State University was the first stop on the tour, which is being sponsored by NCADP and BE Magazine, a publication that reaches more than 50,000 students on HBCU campuses.

Eaddy said HBCUs are the perfect settings to drive home NCADP's message that the death penalty is unfair, racially bent and archaic. The goal of the tour is to get students interested enough in the subject that they will act by calling politicians, signing petitions or simply spreading the message on to their friends and family members.

"Students at HBCUs are concerned about what is happening in their community," Eaddy said. "And they need to know that the people being executed are black and brown people."

See NCADP on A10

Residents get more early voting options

BY T. KEVIN WALKER
THE CHRONICLE

Black leaders say that the playing field has been somewhat balanced now that the State Board of Elections has approved two additional early-voting sites for Forsyth County. The county will now have seven sites when early voting begins next month.

The Forsyth County Board of Elections had already approved the sites at the Anderson Center, the Forsyth County Board of Elections headquarters and the Clemmons, Reynolda and Kernersville library branches. But the three-person Forsyth County Board of Elections disagreed



Womble

See Voting on A10

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