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JUNE 9, 2007

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Singer launches career

Durham's Jami Jackson tells listeners to "Call My Name" on her debut CD by way of Blacque Records, an independent Bull City label.

The girl who has twice sung the national anthem before

JOHN McCANN FRIENDS & NEIGHBORS Durham Bulls games is all grown up and ready to go full tilt with this music thing.

"I'm actually moving to New York," said Jami, who was in the Big Apple for college at Columbia University. She just graduated in May.

JACKSON The 2003 Jordan High School grad

had plans for dental school. But the music bug's been biting hard, and Jami's developed an itch. She's determined to scratch it.

"Music is my first love," said Jami, the daughter of Caesar and Sandra Jackson, a dean and associate professor, respectively, at N.C. Central University.

Like many singers with roots in the church, Jami, 22, ventures into the secular realm on her CD with sensual cuts like "Call My Name" and "Hit And Run."

But "God's Fingerprints," featuring the choir from NCCU, is more in line with what she grew up hearing from pastor W.E. Daye over there at Peace Missionary Baptist Church.

You can find Jami's music at www.jamijackson.net.

CLASS OF 2007

High schools say final goodbye as graduates enter a new phase of life, remembering their four-year journey.



New graduate James Gutter looks over the crowd as the 2007 Commencement Exercises close on Friday.

DURHAM SCHOOL OF THE ARTS

A GROUP OF 'GREATNESS, TALENT AND VIRTUE'

BY RAY GRONBERG

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Durham School of the Arts said goodbye Friday to about 135 students who graduated in the class of 2007.

Friday's brisk ceremony at Duke University's Cameron Indoor Stadium was over in about an hour and featured a send-off from principal Ronald Roukema, who told the assembled graduates to help the people they encounter in their lives.

"The most valuable gradu-

ates of our program will be the ones who give back to their communities and never forget the difference one person can make," Roukema said.

The ceremony also included a brief remembrance of Aaron Morgan, a former DSA student who would have graduated with the rest of the class Friday had he not been felled by a heart ailment in November of 2004.

Students and teachers at the school crafted a memorial see **DSA** | page D4



Michael Ferrell points to the crowd during the commencement exercises at Durham School of the Arts.