

JANUARY 2013 VOLUME 3 ISSUE 1

DIVERSITY WORKS

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BOTH WORLDS**

**LIFE SAVING
MEDICINE
IN HER GIFTED HANDS**

**ACCELERATING
THE COURSE ENGINEERING IN SC**

**TRAILBLAZER
IN THE HALLS OF EDUCATION**

PLUS: MLK, BLACK HISTORY & CELEBRATING WOMEN

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Charlie Blake



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Dr. Rainey Knight



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To open the floodgates of freedom and let it begin to ring from sea to shining sea required heroic efforts on the parts of many and now, just as then, to maintain and enhance those liberties that we Americans enjoy today demands that we all contribute from our diverse offerings.

Focusing this quarter on the legacy of civil rights warrior Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Black History in general and Women's History specifics, we are proud to present findings about what happened then and what has to happen now.

What seemingly began with the Emancipation Proclamation some 150 years ago and spawned events that led to King's speech at the historic March on Washington were merely the seeds that enabled people of color, women and the disadvantaged a more equal footing with the majority forces at work. These seeds gave rise to powerbrokers like businesswoman/philanthropist Darla Moore, gamechangers like Chrystal Johnson and Susan Ninichuck and educators like Zaria O'Bryant, Rainey Knight and Sarah Carpenter.

To the enterprising spirit of Dimery ancestors, shoemaker Lemuel Crawford, self made Dennis Hempstead and attorney Charlie Blake (to name a few on these pages) the opportunity to soar was essential and that was only afforded via legislated barrier removals, social acceptance and change.

This magazine will always bring its readers the most compelling, pertinent and-up-to-date information on the business climate, education opportunities/success stories, personal and community health, finance growth/management and top-of-the line entertainment.

To ensure its delivery, however, we urge all of our readers to share this book with at least ten forward-thinking friends and let us hear from you your interests and your action plan for growing a better tomorrow. Share with me at renniediversity@yahoo.com



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Editor-in-Chief

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Supplier Diversity: “Double Your Money”

Most people think that supplier diversity is just another term for quotas. Not so. Supplier diversity is a vehicle that corporate America can use to drive wealth into underserved communities which in turn will drive wealth into the overall general community and marketplace. How does this work? A quick example is what happened with my company - Clean World USA. In the early 90's a brand new company called Roche Carolina came into the area with a goal of becoming a good corporate citizen to the area as well as becoming a major player in driving wealth into some of the underserved communities in which they operated. There were two players involved in making sure this happened at the time and they were Ron Chatham who at that time was the Human Resources Director as well as Director of Public Relations. The other player was Don Herriot who at that time was the President of Roche Carolina. Together they created a supplier diversity model that helped grow some of the leading minority owned companies in the area into viable entities that have been able

to sustain themselves as economically viable businesses. For example, this vision of supplier diversity helped our company to employ at its highest point over 200 employees from the community. We were able to contract with other area companies because of the relationship that we had with Roche. These employees bought homes, purchased vehicles, shopped at local stores and ate at local restaurants in the community.

Now at first glance this model doesn't look any different from any majority-owned company coming into the community and doing the same thing. The difference is in the giving back. Our company, because it was profitable, was able to sponsor and assist many organizations in the minority community that helped spur other business growth; organizations that provided scholarships for college, organizations that assisted in the establishment of mentoring programs for youth and provided much needed role modeling for future generations to come. Local churches, political activist organizations, business development

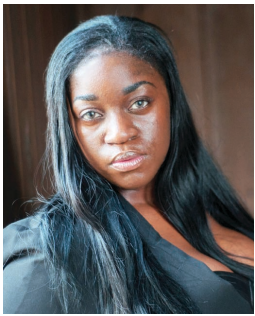
organizations--just to name a few that received financial as well as knowledge assistance. The dollars that are spent with minority owned and operated businesses do double duty every time they go out. When a major corporation has a strong supplier diversity department they can clearly see that not only are they getting the goods and services that they have paid for but they also see that same money going back to help bring parity to the underserved communities and help them to become viable tax-paying economic powerhouses in their own rights. Corporate America, if you want to make your town or city or state stronger where everybody is helping to pull the load and everybody is contributing, then you need to seriously take a look at your supplier diversity program and promote the culture throughout your organization...It's double for your money.

*Dennis Hempstead
President/CEO
Clean World USA, LLC*



Clean World USA based out of Florence, S.C. is a fully integrated green certified facility maintenance company that specializes in janitorial services for Industrial plants, schools, hospitals and commercial buildings. The company has a training division called International Cleaning & Training Institute which supplements the parent corporation in executing apprenticeship programs established by the U.S. Department of Labor in the areas of green cleaning for health care technicians,(which includes operating rooms, invasive surgery and patient discharge) floor care technicians and general housekeepers. The company was ranked #9 in the state of S.C. by Diversity Business.com in 2011

Addie's Baby Studio is Born



Winter Moore

Addie's Baby Art and Design Studio is now open to serve the Pee Dee area. Addie's Baby is where graphic design and art is all under one roof. The owner and operator of Addie's Baby Art and Design Studio, Winter Moore is a native of Florence and a graduate of Wilson High School. She earned a Bachelor of Art degree in Digital Media from South Carolina State University.

Winter Moore is a vibrant, gifted and talented artist. She has been in love with art since the third grade. Art helped her get through the most difficult time in her life. Ms. Moore used art as her safe haven as her mother was battling with pancreatic cancer. Even though her mother was battling cancer she told Winter, "Do your own thing." These words encourage her to step outside of her comfort zone and start her own art shows. On November 3, 2012 she opened art studio named in honor of her mother, Addie Moore. Her mother was not physically present during Addie's Baby grand opening, but yet she was there in spirit. She lost the fight to cancer on February 18, 2012. In honor of Ms. Addie Moore life and others who are still fighting or fought with cancer a percentage of all classes and art work is donated to the American Cancer Society.

Visit the studio, website <http://www.addiesbabystudio.com> or give us a call at 843.230.6124 for future events. If you are interested in sponsoring any our events give us a call for more information. We are looking forward to meeting you and enjoying your company.

Budding Small Business Builds Others



Lameka T. Jackson

Six Twenty One Consulting Group LLC is a business consulting firm. The founder, Lameka T. Jackson, has experiences with several Fortune 500 companies. Her passion and vision is to teach, train, empower and edify small business owners. Future Seminars for entrepreneurship in the Pee Dee area are on the horizon and marketing training for small business owners.

Ms. Jackson remembers growing up in Florence when there was a source of unity in the area from which to grow. After moving to different cities across the southeast, she found that she could come home, bring back the networking and build a better community. "The strength of any community is with the people with people working together and building upon each other," she told, noting that she has created a networking event for professionals and business owners in the area to have a place to mingle and meet outside of the normal routine of life. The event will be held the second Friday of every month at Ambrias Bed and Breakfast 111 Kuker Street in Florence. This event provides the opportunity for business owners and professionals to meet and start creating professional relationships.

Six Twenty One helps business owners obtain a strong foundation and provide a stronger presence within their community, providing and implementing marketing strategies for the business owner.

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You say Family Land, I Say Heirs Property

Heirs property issues serve as a daunting challenge to not only family harmony but important property rights as well. Generally, heirs property is a term used to describe land that is jointly owned by descendants of a deceased person.

A recurring family story told by many prospective clients should shed some lights on this matter. Grandpa dies and leaves the entire 4-acre family farm to Grandma. A year later, Grandma dies without a will, and the property is passed to her heirs. Grandma and Grandpa have 8 living adult children, so each child takes a 1/8 interest in the family farm, and Grandma's estate is closed by the probate court. This property is now what is considered 'heirs property'.

While the preceding example seems innocent, a few important questions remained unanswered: Who pays the property taxes on the family farm in our example? Who is allowed to live on the family farm? Who is responsible for maintaining the family farm?

These types of questions magnify the

problems associated with heirs property, and unfortunately, these problems multiply as the heirs die and pass their interest to their children and other heirs. A family farm once so capably owned by Grandma and Grandpa is now owned by a growing group of children, grandchildren, and other heirs.

Many clients are unable to overcome the challenges posed by heirs property. Families are unable to agree on the responsibilities on the payment of taxes, so the property is lost at tax sale. Current owners are unwilling to improve or maintain the property due to their fractional interest in the property, so the property becomes dilapidated. Potential investors, tenants, timber companies, or interested buyers are discouraged by the multiplying owners and generally view the property as an avoidable headache.

The most effective way to prevent many of the problems of heirs property is through detailed estate planning. If the problems are in a more advanced stage, a court proceeding may be an effective tool to resolve the issues.

Many pieces of heirs property can be appraised and equitably divided through the use of trained real estate professionals. Another possible option is to sell the property and split the proceeds among the owners.

Please do not hesitate to contact the Finklea Law Firm to discuss your options in greater detail. We work hard to provide our clients with the best service possible.

Charlie Blake



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Municipal, Community Leaders Out of the Starting Gate Toward Improving Neighborhoods



Black

As Vice President of Spaulding Heights Community Improvement Association, Joyce Black says the City of Florence is sensitive to their needs and desires for change. “I feel like they’re listening and I enjoyed the reports from the consultants which, by the way,

resonated throughout the neighborhood,” she told in a recent interview.

“Where we live, we are confronting a matter of safety versus economic development. For instance, I would like to have a Starbucks on my corner (off N. Irby Street) but presently we cannot even get a pizza delivered because of certain perceptions,” she continued. To this end, City Manager Drew Griffin has assigned Downtown Development Director Ray Reich the task of pursuing economic development opportunities in North and East Florence.

Pat Gibson-Hye-Moore, who heads the East Florence Community Organization, says there is quite some distance to go before her side of town looks like “the south side of town or enjoy the aesthetics and amenities of other prominent sections” of the Magic City.

Scotty Davis, the City’s General Services Director, said that city staff recognizes that growth and development isn’t occurring equally throughout Florence. “It’s like a tale of two cities. The Southern and Western parts of the city have experienced unprecedented growth while the Eastern and Northern parts of the city have seen relatively minimal growth and investment.” Davis continued to state that the Southern and Western parts of the city grew through private development, not public funding as is often believed. “The City of Florence recently completed a Neighborhood Plan that is designed to identify and address the major issues facing the Northern and Eastern parts of the city”, said Davis. “Through a multifaceted program of public engagement, priority needs for East and North Florence have been identified and prioritized by the residents of these neighborhoods. The community leaders in these neighborhoods

and our city council recognize and agree that together we can make a difference by addressing the ills that plague these areas.”

Problems like trimming or planting trees or installing lawn lights in citizens’ yards could be simply resolved and Moore says she just wanted the City to see what needs to be done before it spends a lot of money.

There is a growing consensus among City and community leaders that action is being taken towards a comprehensive neighborhood improvement plan. “Strengthening our Code of Ordinances and adopting the Unified Development Ordinance is one of the many ways that we can improve our neighborhoods,” said Phillip M. Lookadoo, Director of Planning, Research and Development. When asked how citizens can participate in the neighborhood planning process, Lookadoo said that city staff welcomed citizens to talk to them and share ideas. “Make an appointment with us, come to called meetings, schedule your own meetings and set the agenda and direction for your



Gibson-Hye Moore

neighborhood, and stay publicly engaged. Participation of residents is a key factor in the long-term success of neighborhoods.”

As a result of the neighborhood planning bus tours and other mission-specific sessions, the City learned from residents of the North, East, Northwest and downtown what is sorely needed and priorities are being set accordingly. Moore just will not wait for authorities to do certain jobs. “In several instances I have called up property owners and told them to come clean up their space or I personally would file charges on them – especially after a dead body was found on their lot,” she said.

Because of the City’s philosophy that residents should view their government as a resource or a partner, there is strong interest being expressed in creating a program called Citizens Academy or Florence University. This is a program that will provide an opportunity for residents to learn about City government through a first-hand experience

and gain exposure to the wide range of government functions, services, activities. Also, the City is continuing to ensure that citizens from all walks of life are engaged in the governmental process through the work of the diversely comprised Design Review Board and City Planning Commission.

Inside each community there are specific highlights. In the east, there is a community-friendly business that never disappoints when asked for support. “Jackie Poston’s convenience store has been very kind to our neighborhood, whether to individuals, families or organizations and a lot of times, he makes it such that not everything is a problem,” Moore said.

And on the north side, in addition to beautifying the Dr. Iola Jones Park, residents are working in conjunction with Lookadoo’s office to secure a historic marker. “The historic marker is deserving because in 1962 Spaulding Heights was the first community in the City built of upscale brick houses expressly for Black people”, said Joyce Black.

Black believes that the power is still in the people to change the area. An investor, she has brought several business associates to Florence to discuss economic development opportunities. When they observe the contrast between North Florence and South Florence, they often describe North Florence as being stuck in a “time warp”, she said. Davis said “there are resources and services available to improve the living conditions in neighborhoods. The Neighborhood Plan will allow us to strategically make improvements in these areas.

Alas, they’re out of the starting gate.



Lookadoo (left) and Davis



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KJ's Market IGA in Florence Celebrates Its Grand Opening

Floco Foods has announced the opening of its new store, located at 525 South Ebenezer Road in Florence. The brand new KJ's Market IGA opened its doors during a Grand Opening celebration last fall. There were free giveaways to the first 200 customers and numerous buy one/get one free specials for shoppers.

The store features 33,000 square feet of selling space, which includes a Deli/Bakery with a sit down dining area, fresh seafood department, and a full-service meat department. "I am very excited about opening this store for the people of West Florence" Store Manager, Steve Phillips, said. "I really feel that the seafood department will do very well. Combined with our meat department, they really set us apart from the competition. At IGA we offer a wide range of meats and have several meat cutters on hand to satisfy each customer's needs."

The employees at KJ's Market IGA on Ebenezer Road are committed to customer service and value. "We are focused on being in touch with the community, yet as part of IGA, we have the buying power of the largest voluntary grocery chain in the world" Phillips said.

Floco Foods is based in Lake City, SC and owns 35 grocery stores in the two Carolinas and Georgia. It ranks as one of the largest South Carolina headquartered grocery retailers and is the only one of its kind in Florence County.

IGA is the world's voluntary supermarket network with aggregate worldwide retail sales of more than \$29 billion per year. The Alliance includes more than 5,000 Hometown Proud Supermarkets worldwide, supported by 36 distribution centers and more than 55 major manufacturers, vendors and suppliers encompassing everything from grocery to equipment items. IGA has operations in 46 of the United States and more than 40 countries, commonwealths and territories.


For more information on IGA, visit the IGA online pressroom at <http://www.igainc.com/pr>. For more information on KJ's Market IGA, please call Wil Thomy at 843.389.2731 or visit <http://www.igaguy.com>.



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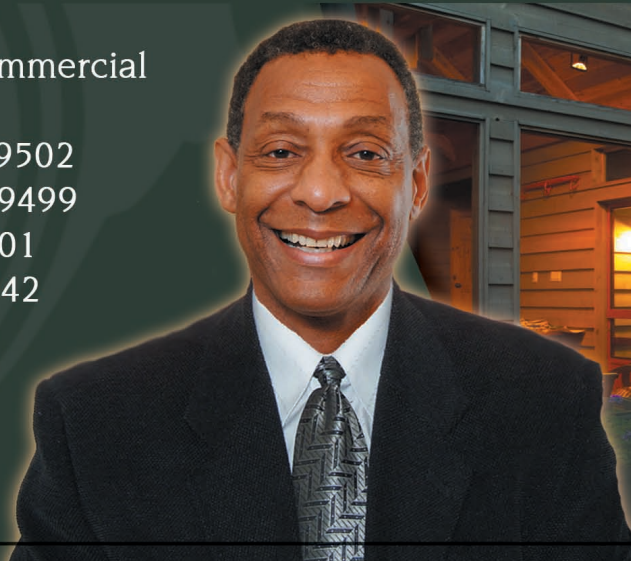
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Lee Crawford
Broker In Charge

Redefining The Dining Experience

KINGSTREE -- Grand Central Station aims to redefine the dining experience. It is the birth idea of Earl Williams Jr. and Mrs. Agnes Williams. He began his restaurant experience in high school working at McDonalds part-time on the grill. At 19, he developed into a team leader, training all new employees. He was promoted to store manager at age 21, later entering the management program.

He was trained through McDonalds Scholarship Program in Greenville, and then in Chicago. He also used an All American basketball scholarship and now because of his success, he sponsors Book Reading Programs and Career Day at High School, partnering with 13 schools. Mr. Williams is a member of the Chamber of the Kiwanis Club, and serves as Vice President of the Chamber Board.

Grand Central Station is a new restaurant located inside the Kingstree Amtrak Station that features indoor and outdoor seating, a full bar area and conference room. The menu is a culmination of traditional favorites. The

restaurant is open seven days a week with every dish made to order.

Experience and expertise has given Williams and his team the ability to operate a topnotch restaurant facility that provides the ultimate customer service. He believes in treating every customer as if they were the only customer. He takes pride in providing efficient and friendly service and for Williams it is equally important to retain guests as it is to acquire new ones.

Customers are able to visit the website to secure table reservations and Williams says "Location plays a critical role in selecting a restaurant site; they are a key driver of employment in South Carolina, and their sales generate tremendous tax revenues for the state."

William's main focus is to increase customers. He wants to create an appealing and entertaining environment with unbeatable quality at an exceptional price. "The key is to deliver the best food at the best price with the

highest level of service," he said adding, "When a customers have a good experience at a restaurant, there is a significant chance they will become repeat customers. It is this experience that remains in the customers' minds well after they have consumed their food."

Grand Central Station also offers a scholarship fund, established for the future generations' educational needs. "We believe in our youth and the importance of a good education. Every time you dine with us, you will help touch the life of a young area citizen. We believe in giving back to our community and investing in its future. Our youth are the best investment we can make and we keep Kingstree strong, by helping to educate the future," he said.

Williams may be reached at Earllwilliams26@yahoo.com. The restaurant is open Sundays from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m., Monday through Thursday hours are 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. Friday and Saturday from 11 a.m. to 11 p.m.

Contributing Writer Deborah Cooper

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A Divine Assignment



Rebekah Grice Baker

How many of you believe that each of us is born with a Divine Assignment? It takes seeking the face of God to discover it and waiting on His divine timing. I believe there is such a thing as a divine assignment, and divine

connection. Rebekah Grice Baker was born into a musical family. The James Grice family of Dillon, a family of eight children (five girls and three boys) and she was the baby. Her mother and father were avid singers at home and on the St. Mark Baptist Church senior choir. Her parents stressed the importance of attending church. She could not remember a time when they missed church. Being in the house of God and singing soon became a natural occurrence for this budding minister of music. Just know that if you visited the Grice household, at some point in your stay with them you would be singing. Consequently her mother saved enough money to get the family a piano. She asserted that out of eight children maybe one would learn how to play. Four of the children did play for a short period of time but none really stuck to it, with the exception of the baby girl. Learning to hear and sing harmony began with Rebekah singing along side her sisters and brothers. They were very hard on her, because in the early stages of singing she would change her vocal key. If her voice ever veered off key she would get the look of “life” and

had to stop singing until she got it right. She quickly learned to sing in harmony and eventually began teaching her family their vocal parts when it was time to learn a new song. Her ear for audio acuity was being fine tuned.

Reflecting on her primary school years, Rebekah remembers vividly being chosen to sing The Battle Hymn of the Republic for her kindergarten class’s graduation. Can you imagine this 6 year old girl singing such a noble song in front of many parents, teachers and students and not being afraid? She was doing what came naturally. Later in years in elementary school, in those days, students were allowed to lead devotion in the classroom and you guessed it, Rebekah was again chosen to be a devotional leader reading from the Guide Post devotional booklet and playing the record that had various songs on it like “Sampson Mighty Sampson” and how “Joshua Fought the Battle of Jericho”.

Rebekah joined the Outreach Family Fellowship of Dillon formerly the Outreach Church of Deliverance from 1983) and is presently an associate pastor and one of the ministers of music. She was yearning to be taught more of the Word of God, and develop a one in one relationship with Jesus. While attending, she never mentioned to anyone that she sang a little. Some how it got to the pastor and after some years of being proven faithful, she was asked to be a part of the music ministry. The Lord spoke to the pastor to form a group that was pulled out from the choir that eventually evolved to be the Outreach Praise Team. This was before there were any praise and worship teams in her hometown area.

The Lord began speaking to Rebekah about how important it was to sing songs that minister to Him. He told her that “if you minister to me, I will minister to the people”. That created and insatiable desire in her to bring on the Presence of God through True Worship! The Word, music and singing was threaded throughout her life. It has brought her to one of her current assignments.

Rebekah has been recently chosen by the CEO and founder of DeVine Records, Kenneth Smith, to be on the staff with his management team. DeVine is an up and coming management team ministry on the cutting edge of helping unknown industry artists to go to the next level of their musical ministry. DeVine is located on 159 Coit Street Florence, with a branch in Charlotte, NC. She is the SC Spiritual Consultant for this management ministry team. She will be responsible for teaching the artists how to be scripturally consistent when it comes to their time, treasure and talent. Rebekah is excited about her current spiritual assignment and believes she was brought to the Kingdom for such a time as this. Her favorite scripture is Matthew 6:33 “but seek ye first the kingdom of God, and His righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.”

Married to Larry Baker, they have four sons: Chris, Darrell, Rodney and Phillip. With all that she has experienced and learned throughout her life now she understands the reason things worked as they did, it was for this cause. She believes that as long as she seeks the Lord, He will make her to prosper. The best is yet to come!



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50 Years ago Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. led the Historic March on Washington

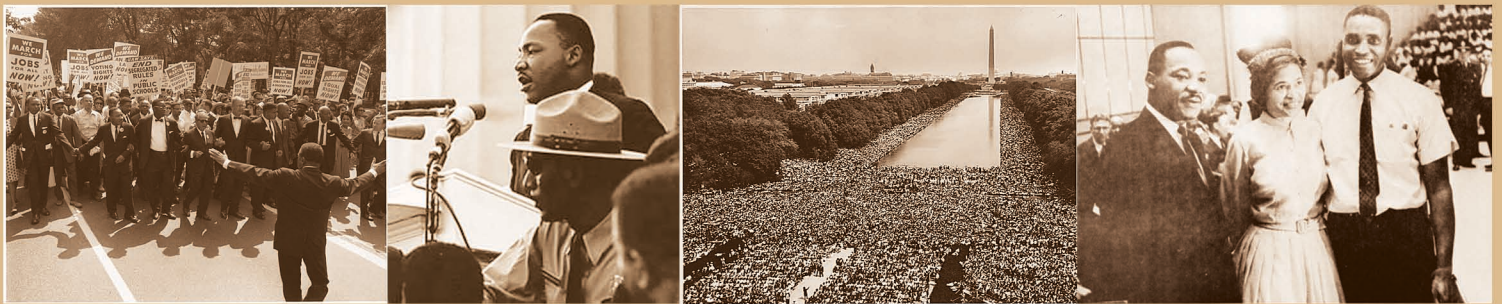
On August 28, 1963 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. led the march on Washington where he delivered his famous “I Have a Dream” Speech in front of the Lincoln Memorial. The march was organized by a group of civil rights, labor, and religious organizations, under the theme “jobs, and freedom.” Estimates of the number of participants varied from 200,000 (police) to over 300,000 (leaders of the march). Observers estimated that 75–80% of the marchers were black and the rest were white and non-black minorities. The 1963 march was an important part of the rapidly expanding Civil Rights Movement. It also marked the 100th anniversary of the signing of the Emancipation Proclamation by Abraham Lincoln.

“I have a dream that one day on the red hills of Georgia, the sons of former slaves and the sons of former slave owners will be able to sit together at the table of brotherhood.”

– Martin Luther King, I Have a Dream Quote

“I have a dream that my four little children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin, but by the content of their character.”

– Martin Luther King, I Have a Dream Quote



First Person: Standing Tall on These Proud Shoulders



Helen Dimery

In the course of American history, success has been stamped with the picture of an independent male. In recent history, the race has been more or less disregarded, however, gender has still been a more than bit of an issue. Of course, there are many women with political power, business success, and other great achievements that have not been gained

with any degree of ease.

Women still face all sorts of adversity, from unequal pay in the workplace to not being taken seriously in their profession simply because they are female. There are countless stories in our news- and online- about women that are afraid to display ambition because they don't want to seem “pushy,” or women that feel the constant, sometimes subtle rejection/challenges will be more than they can handle so they never get to share their God-given talents with Society.

In my endeavors as a business person, I have encountered derision, rejection, thoughtless slander, and many other negatives that could have stymied my determination but I found that I had inherited the tenacity to succeed from my grandmother, Mrs. Esther Dimery Rogers, and the technique in discernment of character from my mother, Mrs. Mary Dimery, and realized that I had to understand that I was a business person first and a woman, second. Coupling these two ideologies, I

develop an idea, devise a plan, and bring together a capable, compassionate team. This has been my methodology and works well with a team and allows/ values outside input from the community on a continuous basis to improve service.

In the Dimery history, women have always participated in family business, decision making and being vocal in the community. When a male spouse passed, a strong woman continued the business and gained the same respect the male Dimery had. It was a known fact that my grandmother, made deals and was very stern with her negotiations within the community, never losing her femininity yet maintained her business stature. Other women in our family that followed the tradition of running the family business were my aunt, Jacquelyn Dimery, (who operated the Hemingway branch of the funeral home after her husband, James F. Dimery Sr, passed) and my mother, Mary not only operated the funeral home in Florence, but she also operated the family dry cleaners for 30+ years. My cousin, Lorraine Dimery, continued the main branch of Dimery & Rogers in Williamsburg County and continued her community -as well as statewide- involvements, demonstrating strong leadership. Now I, as previous sisterhood, continue this 97-year-old legacy of hard work, diversity and commitment to dedicated community involvement while maintaining the honesty and integrity established by our ancestors.

Our clients have been from all walks of life, various religions/creeds, and these differences have not presented us with any qualms. We were taught

to be completely non-discriminatory, and I firmly believe this reflects not only in the communities that we are a part of, but also in our staff. Though our staff differentiates a good bit in beliefs, opinions, nationalities and experiences, we all share the bond of integrity, compassion and professionalism. Caring for families during one of the most difficult times of their lives is our primary concern. We also continue our outreach with what we call our “Aftercare” services. When your loved ones have been funeralized and the crowd is gone, Dimery & Rogers is there for comfort and support or just a friendly chat, 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Harmony is the best word to describe our atmosphere at Dimery and Rogers, and it is the single thing we are sure to bring to every situation we face. We are not simply a funeral business, but a group of humans seeking to do the best that we can to help others wherever /however we are needed, We believe in community partnerships. Our partnerships are with schools, churches, “helping hand” programs, etc. We listen to various issues presented to us and assist in working out plausible, acceptable resolutions. Since we truly believe our Motto, “ONLY THE BEST WILL DO”, we diligently provide infomercials to educate the community about the funeral industry to enable them to understand how to do comparative shopping and make sound, practical decisions as to what is “the best,” when that time occurs; public announcements and concerns, and provide these weekly infomercials each Sunday morning 10:30 am and 7:30 nightly on local radio stations in Florence and Williamsburg Counties.

Forty Years of History and Ticking

By: Rennie Lunn-McAllister



Wilhemena Johnson

Social scientists posit that nature has designed it such that no human can remember being born as the experience is too traumatic. History-making Wilhemena Prince Johnson defies that every time. “Not so! I can remember when I was born. I had a job then and started working right away,” she said, recalling fighting her not much younger sister. And she’s been fighting ever since. Founder/visionary of the Cultural Realism Center, the retired educator is renowned for her noisy service on Darlington County Council as well as for her gentler side of sponsoring scholarship pageants and enrichment programs. “Any way that I can I seek to develop the mind and elevate my people’s status. Everything I did and do is for the community... to fill in the gaps between the haves and the have-nots. I really had no plan,” she said of CRC’s early days, adding, “just saw a plain empty field to plant seeds in what would move the community forward and I would be the architect of the activities that would make things better for generations.”

She does not boast about treading uncharted waters (for Blacks or women) back in the early 1970’s when she opened the center or 25 years ago

when she ran for council. “In fact, I was not even aware that I was stepping out of bounds, so to speak. I just knew from my students and general environment that the schools nor local government were addressing the bitterness of social oppression and that my village children would need life skills unique to them if they were gonna make it...”

Over the decades she has produced world class citizens, some having been at risk, some gifted and exceptional, bringing them to common ground regardless of their ages, stages or races. And her personal background prepared her to know one: a self-proclaimed have not, she could have been termed back in the day as at risk, she was scholarly but treated as inferior by other students and some teachers – even family members because of her darker complexion. “I shall never forget my first day of school. Let’s just say school uniforms can readily solve the problem of classism,” she misted. And forty years after establishing the center, still there is struggle. “You know it’s a sad state of affairs for a local center like mine to go through two attempted foreclosures and continue fighting for other people’s children while receiving no support. My everyday achievement is not easy; it’s a challenge just like we all have. But the end results are based on what we do with obstacles; with how much we can give and not expect to get,” she noted.

A Lee County native, Mrs. Johnson remembers

her family moving from the St. Mark Switch to Sumter County, where she enrolled Lincoln High, and after that South Carolina State. “It was tough but if you teach yourself that commitment is the name of the game, you will find a way to get the job done. And I know how to work it. At age two I had my own personal (miniature) cotton sack that I demanded get weighed at the end of the day when mama would turn hers in, my only pay being to have been in the fields with my family,” she said.

Mother of four, grandmother and great-grandmother, Mrs. Johnson has paid close attention to how children have been being reared over the years. “Only one thing is constant and that is the knowledge and understanding of the Greater Power. We don’t own ourselves and we don’t like to talk about our contributions. We all have a job to do and we are never finished. If we all do our share, children of today will make it too. Historian to St. James United Methodist Church, she chairs it’s Council on Ministries and says her spiritual formation reminds her that she does not get any credit for the accomplishments realized through the center. “How I did it all, I don’t have the answer. My legacy will be that I fulfilled my purpose of doing my best. The center, located at Pearl and Sycamore, provides free services to seniors, youth and all ages between from Monday through Friday or by appointment if special needs exist.

The Sole of a Man - Mr. Lemuel Crawford



Lemuel Crawford

There are numerous local families in Chesterfield County that have contributed greatly to their community and state in the area of business, education, religion and other areas. The Lemuel Crawford family of Chesterfield and Cheraw is one such family. The family’s legacy for leadership was displayed in the 1800’s by the Reverend Farquar M. Melton, the maternal grandfather of Mr. Lemuel Crawford. Rev. Melton was born a slave in 1851 in Chesterfield. He became an ordained Baptist minister and the founder of the Davidson Grove Baptist Church in Chesterfield, and pastored churches in the two Carolinas. Davidson Grove Baptist Church has provided spiritual nurturing to the Chesterfield Community for more than 120 years.

Lemuel was born in Greensboro, NC and reared in Chesterfield, SC. His entrepreneurial interest was noticed as a young child. With faith and determination, he opened a shoe repair and retail shop in 1963, which was one year before the passage of the US Civil Rights Act of 1964. During the 1960’s and earlier, most African-American owned businesses were not located in the main business sections of southern towns. In 1970, Lemuel purchased the business property, and became the first African-American to own property in the main business section of the Town of Chesterfield. Lemuel graduated from Chesterfield Colored High School and Denmark Technical College, formerly Area Trade School in Denmark, SC. Prior to becoming a self-employed business owner, he worked as a master shoemaker and repair technician in North

and South Carolina and taught shoemaking & leather craft at a vocational school for boys in Clinton, Tennessee, before returning to Chesterfield.

In the 1960’s, the business saw economic peaks and valleys during the time when the nation and state were in the midst of cultural and racial changes. Through the years, the business – Crawford and Sons Shoe Service - became a gathering place to receive quality shoe repair and advice. In 1965, the National Registry of Certified Orthopedic Shoemakers (located in Chicago) granted recognition to Mr. Crawford, after completing registry qualifications, bonused with the recommendation of an orthopedic doctor in Florence. Lemuel constructed shoes and applied prescriptive orthotics to persons who required specially made orthopedic shoes and corrective footwear devices. In an effort to prepare his children with a trade and skill, he taught the trade and business operations to his children: Gene Crawford Sr., Lennette Crawford-Diggs, and Jamal Crawford. He also taught the trade to several youths in the Chesterfield community. Being a strong advocate for education and personal responsibility, Lemuel and his wife, Jeanette, were blessed to witness the graduation of their children from the Baptist affiliated Benedict College in Columbia, SC and their attainment of advanced degrees from various universities.

Gene Crawford Sr., became a career administrator, first with NETC (North Eastern Technical College) in Cheraw, SC, Florence-Darlington Technical College in Florence, SC and the SC State Board for Technical & Comprehensive Education in Columbia, SC. Lennette Crawford-Diggs, the second eldest child, is a (25) year Advanced Placement English Teacher in Florence School District 1. Lennette has been honored as her school’s Teacher of the Year and she is a frequent

seminar presenter to peer groups on instructional subjects. Lennette is married to William P. “Bill” Diggs, Jr. They are the proud parents of two sons. Jamal Crawford is the youngest of the Crawford children and is a vocational counselor with a state employment agency in Columbia, SC. Jamal is the father of three. Realizing a need to have a local Masonic Fraternal Order for African-Americans in the Town of Chesterfield, Lemuel led the effort to establish The Forest Dale Community Masonic Lodge Number 476 in Chesterfield, SC. In 1975, a charter was granted by the Free and Accepted Masonic Order of Prince Hall Masons. Mr. Lemuel Crawford served as the first Worshipful Master. In 2008, Mr. Crawford’s historical business accomplishments were documented by a local Cheraw author, Mrs. Felicia Flemming-McCall in her book, *Images of African-Americans of Chesterfield County*. Copyright 2008. ISBN 978-0-7385—5434-1. Arcadia Publishing. Charleston, SC Page 70.

In 1994, the Town of Chesterfield presented a certificate to Mr. Crawford for outstanding business improvements. On December 2, 2011, the town of Chesterfield issued a proclamation declaring December 2, 2011, “Mr. Lemuel Crawford Day”. Due to health problems and the passing of Mrs. Crawford (Lemuel’s wife of 57 years), 43 continuous years of business operations in the town of Chesterfield, Mr. Crawford retired in 2006. On May 16, 2012, surrounded by family, Mr. Lemuel Crawford died, however his legacy continues. The family has established the Lemuel & Jeanette Business & Entrepreneurial Scholarship at Chesterfield High School to enable attendees to Denmark Technical College in Denmark or Northeastern Technical College (NETC) in Cheraw. Mr. Crawford’s legacy lives on today through his children and grandchildren.

(story by Mr. Gene Crawford Sr. - Son of Mr. Lemuel Crawford)

World Traveler Stays Grounded by Giving Back

By: Rennie Lunn-McAllister



Darla Moore

The Lake City Partnership Council is unique within the town, its focus on sustainable economic development throughout the community, and all of which is being driven by founder/philanthropist Darla Moore. "Rather than be restricted by external

metrics, the LCPC is free to take on projects based on their objective value," she said recently. "Speaking generally, diversity is important to ensure that all socio-cultural sections of the populace are represented within a workplace; our goal at the LCPC is to improve Lake City's economic profile universally, and our workplace diversity encourages community engagement at every level – regardless of race, heritage, creed or beliefs," she told.

A world traveler, Moore spreads her wings while yet keeping grounded by spreading her generosity in the Palmetto State locale that gave her her start and to this region, she does a lot of giving back. Earlier this month she announced a \$1 million dona-

tion to the music department of Claflin University, a historically Black college in Orangeburg. Her connection to Claflin, is one of "admiration for the success of their music program and of the university's roles as a historic institution in this state. This gift was motivated by the economic, academic and cultural impact that Claflin will have internally and on South Carolina as a whole. Simply put, LCPC doesn't define itself by its competitors, but by the internal vision of the institution and of Ms. Moore," said her Communications Specialist Rob Bockman, Jr.

To ensure proper management of diversity observances or practices, self regulation is the key. "Lake City is a city without clearly defined or reinforced socio-cultural and racial boundaries. As a representative sample of the population, the LCPC is an organization built on the principle of collaboration across the board and because we are such a small and close-knit organization, we are able to manage our diversity readily," Bockman continued.

Bockman said, continuing, "You see, diversity, at base, is the fusion of different experiences. Thus in an office environment (particularly in an organization that serves the public in a city with many divergent experiences), diversity can allow a cohesive organization to take on different tactics when dealing with the public by drawing on the individual experiences of its workers. While Lake

City is a melting pot of cultures, it can still stratify and our diverse makeup at the LCPC ensures that we can have an impact across the board, socially, racially and culturally by using our different skill-sets."

As in many other organizations, community involvement is the biggest challenge facing the LCPC and like the others, its internal diversity and willingness to engage propels the council to address. Nonetheless, it has set two mammoth immediate goals that bear on Lake City's infrastructure repair -- the construction of a 57-room hotel and new apartments and retail shops, as well as the construction of low- to moderate-income housing and community spaces which include the Kelly conference complex and the Bean Market. Moore's vision also leads to the economic and cultural success of Art-Fields®, the largest art festival in the southeast, whose inaugural run is in April of 2013. Bockman says it is highly gratifying to work for LCPC as its competitive advantage stems directly from the community. "We can gauge our impact on the town's economy easily, due to Lake City's tight-knit and accessible community and our boots-on-the-ground attitude towards economic development. Lake City's small size – under 7,000 residents according to the US Census Bureau – allows us to see what is working and what requires further attention. Moore and Bockman agree that forward is exactly where their focus is.

Accelerating the Course of Engineering Education in S.C.



Dr. Zaria O'Bryant

When Zaria O'Bryant earned her degree in mechanical engineering in 1988 from Clemson University, she didn't realize she would one day be working with her alma mater as well as the three other engineering colleges across the state to offer an innovative opportunity for

high school students to complete the first year of college engineering. O'Bryant began her career as a building industry consultant engineer for Bellsouth Telecommunications (now AT&T). During her 14 year career there, she also served as a network manager and network specialist. In order to prepare employees for downsizing, Bellsouth encouraged them to further expand their education in fields unrelated to their current career. "I chose education because I had always admired my mother who dedicated her life to teaching," says O'Bryant. "I never dreamed I would love the field as much as I do."

In 2000, O'Bryant earned her Master of Arts in Teaching Special Education from the Univer-

sity of South Carolina and started teaching in Richland School District Two. Never one to stop learning, she went on to earn National Board Certification as an Exceptional Needs Specialist in 2007 and, in 2010, a doctorate in educational technology from Walden University.

Today, she is combining her education and work experience in a new position with the South Carolina Governor's School for Science & Mathematics (GSSM) as program administrator of the new Accelerate engineering program. Accelerate is designed to cultivate the next generation of creative engineers and technical leaders by offering high school students across the state first-year college engineering courses during their 10th-12th grades. Curriculum will include virtual instruction during the school year, along with hands-on, team-based projects during weekends and summers.

GSSM will launch a pilot year of Accelerate with eight partner school districts in 2013. While the GSSM faculty will teach, curriculum oversight will be provided by the four engineering colleges - Clemson University, South Carolina State University, The Citadel and the University of South Carolina. O'Bryant's role will be to coordinate with the principals, parents and students participating in Accelerate.

"The ability to utilize my diverse knowledge, interests and experiences to impact positive social change in our state is very important to me," says O'Bryant. "From the perspective of a life-long citizen of South Carolina, educated in public schools and two of our major engineering universities, I recognize the significance of maximizing educational and social benefit for students while meeting corporate expectations."

The goal of Accelerate is to educate a new generation of engineering students as well as to inspire them to pursue a career in the Palmetto State. GSSM is collaborating with Boeing, Comporium, Duke Energy, General Electric, Google, IEEE Foundation, Integrated Systems Inc., Nucor Steel, SCE&G, Sonoco, Westinghouse Electric Company and Time Warner Cable to promote economic growth in the state.

"As the mother of two wonderful young ladies," says O'Bryant, "I want to demonstrate the importance of using our time and talents to positively impact the local and global community."

To learn more about Accelerate, contact Dr. Zaria O'Bryant at obryant@gssm.k12.sc.us or 803-252-9152.

**-Alison Mann
Director of Marketing
Governor's School for Science & Mathematics**

Living in The Best of Both Worlds

By: Rennie Lunn-McAllister



Chrystal Johnson

all worked out. I am so glad it did because now I live in the best of both worlds,” said the GE Healthcare engineer recently.

Armed with BS degree in Industrial Engineering from Clemson University, she began 13 years ago with the company as a buyer, then ascended to production engineer and has been climbing the corporate ladder with progressively responsible duties since. Now a documentation specialist, she has mega responsibilities at the plant yet often gets the chance to speak to classes and groups about safety and quality production, all the while loving every minute of it.

It is no wonder that Chrystal Johnson is at the top of her game; she is a dutiful, diligent people pleaser. “I wanted to be a schoolteacher but my parents said it was their dream that I become a scientist, so I took on their dream while holding on to my own and it

“GE is a keeper. Once the company gives you the opportunity to work, any one of our associates will tell you that that is just what you do. You learn what is expected of you and you remain one step ahead of the expectations. You try to do next week’s or next month’s homework this week or this month,” she shared

Not all engineering involves lab coats and tests and experiments. Johnson does not wear hard hats or steel toed boots because her immediate work environment does not require them. She says her job, which deals with schematics and verifying the correct formulations, mostly demands “clear leadership thinking, remaining credible, giving 100% all the time and staying positive.”

She has learned that positivity lesson well enough over the years, so do not let her cherublike ebony face deceive. She is a tough cookie and knows her job and her place. “It may be a challenge for an older male of another race to listen to me, after all you must consider that I work with the entire spectrum of peoples that God ever made, but I remind myself that through hard work I earned this position and I give it all I have to be the best in it,” she said, adding, “it doesn’t hurt to ask for help and sometimes you might want to talk to (your) teachers or professors. But always

use networking and other available resources to make the most of your job.”

Her advice to aspiring (female) engineers is to study your interest and intern in that field if you can. “You may not start off in your specific field but invest your time and talent and it can pay off,” she said, noting that industry-wide, males still tend to get the bigger breaks, but not at GE Healthcare. “GE gives every employee a fair chance. For instance being an admin was a non-functional role for me... a big challenge but through perseverance I was able to segue to where my heart was.”

The Florence-based company has also been good to her in other ways. “It’s flexible, family-oriented and lets you know that you can soar inside GE,” she told, recalling an instance wherein her oldest son received a head injury from a baseball bat and had to go through an MRI unit. “Although hurting and scared, he became more at ease because he was conscious enough to know that the name on the instrument represented where his mom worked and he knew it had to be good and that everything would be alright.”

Not having planned to need the MRI services, she said “still, that’s the reason I do what I do with such a conscientious effort. It’s for others.”

Quality of this Life Saving Medicine is in Her Gifted Hands

By: Rennie Lunn-McAllister



Dr. Susan Ninichuck

used to treat stage four breast cancer. Unassuming and clearly brilliant, she gives the impression that everyone in her organization is valued highly, no matter their position. “Roche’s advantage is its people. It has the best ability to attract, keep and develop talent, whether in the lab, in security, on the floor... I mean how do the personnel at, say, entry level, ever learn or relate if they cannot see how everything works from the ground up. It’s a must and it’s timely that Roche has moved upwards from diversity to inclusion,” said the petite woman whose word is respected by giants. She says she feels as though she is in the right place to touch the future because the work she does is not only critical from a product-related standpoint, but it’s also people-related. “Breast cancer is breast cancer globally and untold numbers of patients will come to rely on our oral chemo-

In her work as Associate Director of Quality Assurance at Roche Carolina, Inc, Dr. Susan Ninichuck skillfully manages a delicate balance between her roles as scientist and leader while playing a most pivotal role in the manufacture of active pharmaceutical ingredients, one of which is

therapy Xeloda®, after all, they are in their last stage of the disease,” said the empathizing daughter of an early stage breast cancer survivor.

In a predominantly male work environment, Dr. Ninichuck says she would like to see women in every role at every level – not only certain spaces. “However, the lack of the female presence in any workplace is partly our own faults. When there is an opening, apply anyway because if you have the fundamentals, many companies will train you or send you to school and everyone wins,” she said, adding that her parents often told her that a person has to “earn the door of opportunity. You have to go to school, be educated and not rely on anyone but yourself. I would tell them ‘OK/sure’, but when I started really believing my parents, it changed my outcome,” she beamed.

Accustomed to manufacturing processes, she has worked for numerous Fortune 500 companies while living and studying across the USA and to date she hails Roche Carolina Inc. as the “most fabulous by far. We have a solid product line and the prestige that this company has earned is due to the solutions we create, not to mention its corporate culture. Moreover, Roche (family) lives by the values it preaches and that is what we can stand on and what sets us apart,” she told.

“You see, it’s not enough to have adequate representation in a photo or at a board meeting or public function; it’s the true inner workings of Roche (or any thriving organization) that makes for the most complete picture and end result and I have to give

credit to Jami DeBrango-Palumbo (President and Site Head) and Lesa Valentine (Head, Quality) -- and other leadership here -- for being inclusive minded by considering everyone’s opinion at the table,” she said. As for technology, she says her company has the top of the line, especially in communications. “Email can be good, but at the end of the day it’s best to visit face to face and communicate and come to an understanding because our work and our contribution to humanity is too important to treat lightly. It has to be a personal partnership among our associates.”

Daughter of a Cuban father and Spanish mother who immigrated to the United States in 1965, Dr. Ninichuck believes that she will be impacting science long after retirement. Not only because she has trained hundreds of chemists of varying degrees for numerous disciplines, but because she wants her children to follow in their parents’ footsteps. “I encourage them to study sciences. My oldest likes dolls and microscopes and my youngest is a fashionista. We often explore our backyard and tag green anoles in order to monitor their growth and habits,” she laughed. Because her primary function is to assure product quality, she might be found applauding a normally good day’s work from the Roche team or (rarely) discarding an entire batch of product. And whether she is administering a baby aspirin to her budding scientists or calling to encourage her mother many states away, she is determined to remain on point and true to her calling.

Trailblazers in the Halls of Education

Contributing Writer Deborah Cooper



Evelyn Woodberry was the first High School Assistant female administrator in Florence School District One. In 1978 she went to the Career Center as Assistant Director/Principal until 1982. Returning to the Career Center in 1998. She received a Certificate for 50 years of service. Today, with 56 years in education she is responsible for subs, discipline, signing out/signing in school. Mrs. Woodberry entered administration on the grandfather clause and only needed six hours for her principal's certificate.



Joanne McPherson has been a Work-Based Learning Facilitator/Coordinator for five years. She earned her Bachelor of Arts in Liberal Studies from Morris College in Sumter, SC and began her career in Education as a Kindergarten Assistant at Savannah Grove Elementary School. Ms. McPherson went back for her Masters in Integrative Arts in Education from Lesley University. Her greatest accomplishment is offering extended opportunities to High school students such as job shadowing with local businesses.



Ms. Stacy Bakas is the Community-Based Training Coordinator at the Florence Career Center. She works as a Counselor with Special Vocational Rehabilitative Transitional Students with Special Needs in getting employment skills. Ms. Bakas was a job coach and then became a counselor. Ms. Bakas is the liaison to bridge the gap between students, skills, and employers. She has four assistants and plans for each student based on personality matches with the business.



Sherry Hardee started with Special Services/Disabilities. She started her career at Pee Dee Center and worked for 18 years in Manning before returning to Florence. Her first year in the classroom, she was a Special Education teacher. Currently the Occupational Special Needs Coordinator, interacts with Study Skills Teachers. Her students meet the same requirements as all other students. She ensures IEP accommodations are met with great success.



Pat Hyman started in education in 1994 as the Guidance Registrar at Wilson High School. Mrs. Hyman was offered a position in 2005 as a Career Specialist at Williams Middle School in Florence, SC. Mrs. Hyman works with all the guidance counselors and Career Specialists in Florence School District One. She assesses all sixth graders in Florence One with Career Exploration. Mrs. Hyman is presently completing Administrative Leadership (May 2013) at Grand Canyon University online.



Tina Benjamin Arthur is the Behavioral Health Counselor at the Florence Career Center. She has a Bachelors degree in Psychology from Howard University and a Masters in Counseling from Liberty University. She is currently working on her dissertation for her PhD. She is the first female to work on her PhD in her family. She provides counseling, individual group counseling, and support services to kids experiencing difficult emotional behavior.



Shirley Freeman is the CATE Counselor for Florence School District One. Ms. Freeman is a 30 year veteran of education, having started as a high school Spanish and English teacher. Her Principal at Latta High encouraged pursue her guidance degree and career. She launched at Latta High and then went to Hartsville High. She is the mother of three (two daughters and a son) who are all graduates of Florence School District One and pursued degrees in Business, Real Estate, and Medical School.



Sarah Carpenter is the Assistant Director of the Florence Career Center. Originally from Rocky Mount, NC she grew up in Atlanta, GA and wound up in Florence at Francis Marion University on a softball scholarship. She majored in Political Science, worked at Southside Middle School as an eighth grade history teacher. A former Assistant Principal, five years ago, she moved to the high school level.



Dr. Wendy B. McClain was named the Career and Technology Education Curriculum Coordinator at the Florence Career Center. Dr. McClain previously worked in Florence Four in several capacities. She received her doctorate degree in Educational Leadership and Supervision from South Carolina State University in 2006. She came into education through the PACE Program. She states, "her greatest accomplishment was going back to school and earning her degree in Administration."

The philosophy of education in Florence School District One is to educate all citizens with regard to their interests and abilities and to the extent that our means and facilities will allow. It is the responsibility of the Florence Career Center to meet the needs of each student who is interested in developing occupational and life skills. Occupational Education serves as a bridge between the student and the world of work by providing the necessary entry-level training to enter an occupation. It is essential that each individual develop skills which will yield sufficient income to meet the necessities of life. Occupational course offerings provide educational opportunities for those who are college bound and those who desire training which qualifies them for the ever changing world of work in business and industry.

The Importance of Education in America (Part 2)

In the last issue, I spoke with you about the history of American education, and how it has worked in collaboration with society's needs to produce the best students. We learned about schools' need to be in touch with America's needs. Historically, schools have arranged everything from curriculum to calendar to meet the needs of America's workforce. This includes planning the academic year to be in sync with farming schedules through teaching skills necessary to success in American style businesses.

As we enter into the second decade of the 21st century, the economy of the United States has shifted yet again, and education is beginning to shift with it. America is now becoming a service economy, with job growth predicted to be largest in the information technology related fields, financial advising, and the medical fields. The introduction of web-based programs and the integration of social media processes into the work environment have led to a society that does not follow the traditional "nine-to-five" work schedule. The relative ease of world travel and the ability to communicate via web-based systems such as Skype have altered the workplace forever. As schools begin to adopt the Information Society values and practices into the educational system, we grow stronger in our

dedication to supporting our communities and country. As schools provide a population of students that are better educated in technology and social skills, in learning cooperatively and creating presentations rather than taking tests, we are producing citizens capable of gaining employment in the new economy, and helping create effective communities that can compete in the new global economy.

Our schools are beginning the process of transforming our ideas, traditions, and practices into a system that will best support our students and communities. Although change is difficult, and sometimes charged with emotion, it is a healthy and viable part of the American ideal. Our country was founded upon an understanding that if the current system does not work and is not fair, then we have a responsibility to change it. Our communities made a commitment to invest in the community as a whole, not just a privileged few. In our information era, communication is vital. Schools will be sharing their plans for the future, and the importance of the changes that are intended. We hope that our community partners will do the same. As we look into new ways of teaching, new ways of creating students who are college and career ready, we hope for feedback from cor-

porate America as well. It does us well to remember that, like parents, schools eventually must send their children out into the world to take their places as adults in our society. We do our absolute best to prepare them, and cross our fingers and pray that they will succeed. We look for reports from employers as to how successful we were at this endeavor, and strive to repair gaps, and constantly practice the teachers' credo of "monitor and adjust".

As we continue to progress through these times of adjustment, we ask that the community travel this path with us. Follow your child's educational process. Attend board meetings and school functions. Ask questions. Participate. Take full advantage of the privileges afforded by a country that realizes and promotes the value of a good public education for all.

Dr. Dan Strickland



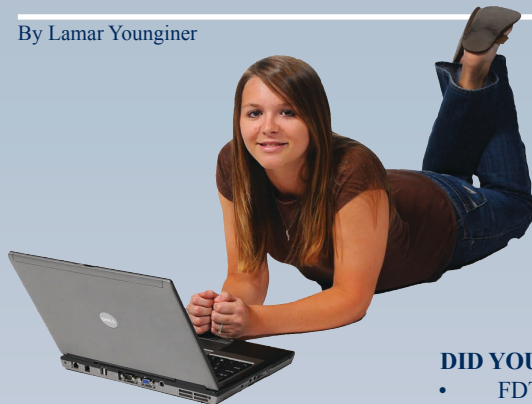
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Is FDTC's Online College for You?

By Lamar Younginer



Online courses are becoming more and more common at colleges across the nation. As individuals become more tech savvy, they are finding unique ways to utilize technology in education. Instructors are using blogs, discussion boards, Twitter and several other technologies in the education process. Students are using smart technologies such as phones and tablet PC's almost as much as traditional PC's and laptops while in college.

FDTC has been involved in online education for more than 15 years and makes every effort to stay on top of the newest innovations in education. We invite you to look into what we can do for you as you pursue your education goals. We would like to share just a few facts about FDTC's Online College and online education in general.

DID YOU KNOW?

- FDTC offers more than 100 courses online!
- FDTC offers degrees in Criminal Justice, Business Management, AA (College Transfer) and others completely online!
- FDTC offers courses in both the 15-week format and the 8-week format.
- FDTC students can use financial aid for online courses.
- FDTC has over 1,000 students taking courses online.
- FDTC has been offering online courses since 1996.

DID YOU KNOW?

- High School students can take dual credit courses online.
- College students can take transient courses online.
- Some employers offer tuition assistance for their employees.
- Our faculty has extensive experience in teaching online.
- Many of our faculty have been teaching online for more than 10 years.
- Some online courses do not require a text book.
- Many students are using iPads and smart phones to take online courses.

DID YOU KNOW?

- Forty percent of graduating high school students begin their college careers at a two-year college.
- Students can take a combination of online and on-campus courses.
- Online courses use a combination of e-mail, digital drop boxes, discussion boards and online quizzes.
- Students with an Associate Degree will earn almost 40% more than someone without a degree.
- Employers are always looking for employees with good computer skills.
- Many companies are using online education to keep their employees well trained.

There is a lot to know in today's digital economy, and we believe FDTC is well suited to get you where you want to go.

Tips:

- Do not procrastinate.
- Good reading skills, time management and study skills are a must.
- Schedule time for this course as if it were a scheduled on-campus course.
- Participate in discussion – on a regular basis!
- If you don't schedule your time, you might find other things crowding out your course time!
- Correspond with others in class and your instructor.
- Don't hesitate to ask for help!



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5th Annual Madden Challenge Tournament will Benefit The School Foundation

For most football enthusiasts, the Super Bowl is a time to celebrate the end of a journey. But for the people of Florence and its surrounding areas, the Saturday before Super Bowl is the day that Madden video gamers flock to Magnolia Mall to showcase their talents; this time at the 5th Annual Madden Challenge Tournament, and all for a great cause. The Madden Challenge Tournament was started as a fundraiser five years ago by Marcus Evans, Event Coordinator, and this year's proceeds will benefit The School Foundation. During the event it's head-to-head combat as Xbox and PS3 gamers battle it out in the center of Magnolia Mall for bragging rights. Prizes include cash, a two-night stay in the Poconos, free Sonic for a year, a football jersey autographed by Florence's own Hall of Famer, Harry Carson, and much, much more. In addition, for the event will include a Junior Madden ages 12 and under, have something for everyone. Each year the event finds creative ways to grow and attract gamers from all over the Pee Dee, including engineers, paralegals, HR managers, and CEOs thanks to Evans, his early planning, and unmatched enthusiasm. Evans hopes with continued improvements and growth, the community will make the Madden Challenge Tournament one of the most anticipated events of the year. The challenge starts at 9 a.m. Saturday, February 2, 2013 in the center of Magnolia Mall, and promises to be the best event of 2013! If you or someone you know think you are up to the challenge, go to www.the-schoolfoundation.org and learn how to register or obtain additional information.



Contributing Writer Chinel Boateng

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Open Letter from Dr. Rainey Knight, Superintendent - Darlington Consolidated Schools

"Only as high as I reach can I grow, only as far as I seek can I go, only as deep as I look can I see, only as much as I dream can I be." – Karen Ravn

This time of year, we often reflect on our blessings. In the Darlington County School District, we have much to be thankful for this year.

- In spite of a high poverty level, our students are achieving at higher levels than ever before. All of the schools in our district meet or exceed state standards.

- Because of the combined efforts of our students, parents, teachers, staff and administrators, our district earned an EXCELLENT on the 2012 report card.

- Our high schools – again, our students, parents, teachers, staff and administrators – supported and pushed and challenged one another to record high graduation rates. Ninety-three percent of our students graduate from high school on time. At Mayo High School for Math, Science & Technology and Lamar High School, 100% of our students graduated on time.

- Every high school in the school district – Darlington High, Hartsville High, Mayo High School for Math, Science & Technology, and Lamar High – are rated EXCELLENT by the South Carolina Department of Education.

- The gap between the graduation rate of our white students (94%) and our African-American students (92%) is closing even further.

- The Darlington County Institute of Technology is ranked sixth in the state among career centers. Every day DCIT students work toward career-ready certifications that will allow them to directly enter the workforce or to start college with a head start.

- We have seven magnet schools that provide academically and artistically enriched curriculum at all levels of school. These programs offer our students opportunities for an enriched education unlike anything else around.

- Our elementary schools are making tremendous strides, as measured by our rising scores on the Palmetto Assessment of State Standards (PASS).

- Carolina Elementary and North Hartsville Elementary are ranked among the top elementary schools in the state.

- Brockington Elementary Magnet School and St. John's Elementary School continue to make gains and are rated GOOD by the SC Department of Education.

- Rosenwald Elementary School, once a school at a crossroads, has improved significantly, according to the SC Department of Education. Last year the school earned an AT RISK rating on the annual report cards. This year they moved up TWO levels and earned an AVERAGE.

- Our dropout rate in the Darlington County School District is 0.6%, half of last year's rate and a fraction of the state's average dropout rate of 2.8%.

- Darlington Middle School and Spaulding Middle School were recognized by the SC Department of Education for superior student achievement. Hartsville Middle School had one of the highest gains

on Palmetto Assessment of State Standards (PASS) Test in the district.

- Our primary schools – Cain Elementary, Lamar Elementary, Pate Elementary, and Southside Early Childhood Center – continue to prepare our little ones for success by providing a firm education foundation. All four schools are rated EXCELLENT by the SC Department of Education.

All of these numbers and rankings are important. Obviously they help us determine where we are and how we can improve by highlighting our strengths and allow us to build on our weaknesses.

The numbers, rankings and goals also help us attract business and industry to our community by framing education as an economic issue. Potential new employers often ask about the performance of the schools and the district, and their ability to create a well-educated population. The numbers and rankings not only show what our schools are doing, but also show our community is invested in our schools and support our schools.

Every year I sit down with our principals and administrators and set new and higher goals for each school, grade and department. These goals are shared with our teachers, staff, parents, and community. Then, throughout the year, we work toward meeting and exceeding those goals. In doing so, we become better and more focused and our children are provided a higher level of education, which is not only critical for our children but also important for the economic health of our county.

Dr. Rainey Knight



Florence Little Theatre to Hold "Fat Tuesday on Saturday"



The Florence Little Theatre will hold its annual capital needs gala on Saturday February 16th, 2013 in the theatre's Julia W. Buyck auditorium and J.W. (Jimmy) Rainwater, Jr. Rehearsal Hall at 8 p.m. This promises

to be one of the most talked about events of 2013! Black ties are optional and attendees are welcome to dress in Mardi Gras themed costumes or masks. Individual tickets are on sale now for \$75 and include an evening of great food, drinks, and music all with an authentic "Louisiana" feel.

A variety of sponsorship levels are available, such as the Krewe of Muses -- an ALL FEMALE sponsorship level that includes 6 Gala and Pre-gala reception tickets, a box of beads/throws, and listing as event sponsor in

the program and on all promotional materials. All sponsors are invited to the VIP reception at 7 p.m., prior to the event. In keeping with the Mardi Gras theme, all sponsorships will be in the tradition of the Krewes who hold the parades and balls for Mardi Gras. Just as each parade has a theme, each Krewe sponsor will be encouraged to dress in a theme and elect a king and queen or grand marshal for your group. Becoming a sponsor for Fat Tuesday on Saturday Gala will allow you to showcase your support for the Florence Little Theatre and the Arts.

Proceeds generated from the Gala will be used to purchase new sound and lighting equipment that will greatly enhance the quality of future performances and shows. Current lighting and sound equipment is anywhere from 10 to 30 years old.

Community support for the Florence Little Theatre has always been strong and many corporate donors have benefited from their partnership and outreach. The theatre would not exist were it not for the generous support

of patrons and benefactors. As the theatre continues to produce high quality productions here in the Florence area, continued support is needed as equipment is upgraded to current industry standards. In 2006 the Florence Little Theatre emerged at the forefront of downtown revitalization movement by opening a brand new, state-of-the-art facility on Dargan Street. The Florence Little Theatre continues to lead the way in bringing culture and quality entertainment to Florence and the Pee Dee Region.

The 2013 - 2014 season will be the 90th season of shows and support is needed to achieve the high standards that are expected, moving into the decade leading up to the centennial era of the Florence Little Theatre. Contact the box office @ 843-662-3731 for your tickets to the "Fat Tuesday on Saturday" capital needs campaign gala, and visit their website at <http://www.florencelittletheatre.org/gala>.

Contributing Writer Chinel Boateng

The Florence Little Theatre Presents the Knight Software and A Friend of FLT production of Nunsense - January 18-26, 2013.

This production is being directed by Robin Thompson.
Book, Music and Lyrics by Dan Goggin

Five of the surviving nuns of the Little Sisters of Hoboken discover their cook, Sister Julia, accidentally killed the other residents of the convent. In order to pay for the burial of the deceased nuns, the surviving must find a way to raise the funds. Through a greeting card company and a staged variety show, the true colors of the nuns are shown. From a ballerina nun to a spotlight hungry former circus performing nun, we see nuns like we've never seen them before!

Tickets are \$25 for adults and \$18 for students. There is a \$3 discount for shows on Tuesday and Wednesday. Tickets go on sale to Underwriters, Benefactors, Patrons and Sponsors on Monday, January 14th, the General Membership on Tuesday, January 15th and to the general public on Wednesday, January 16th.

The Florence Little Theatre is located at 417 S. Dargan Street. For more information please call 843.662.3731, email mail@flt.org or visit www.florencelittletheatre.org.

FLORENCE LITTLE THEATRE

nunsense

January 18-26, 2013

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Where Vision & Timing Work Together



When Peggy Brown purchased the property at 166 S. Dargan Street in Florence, SC in 2004 she had plans; plans to resign from McLeod Health and open a quaint coffee shop where she could display and sell her hand-made pottery, and daughter Sara Brown could display and sell her hand-made jewelry. But Peggy soon realized that her time was not “God’s time”? In August 2010, Peggy resigned from McLeod; finally her dream would come to fruition! But again it was Peggy’s timing. Her

mother-in-law became ill and the coffee shop dream was postponed while Peggy cared for her until her passing in 2011.

In June 2012, eight years after purchasing the property, Peggy and her husband Frank Brown opened The Clay Pot Coffee Shop. What they envisioned was coffees, teas, freshly juiced vegetables, homemade breads, tea biscuits, etc., but quickly found that their guests wanted more, and The Clay Pot is more than a Coffee Shop.

When you walk into the Clay Pot, the décor, a combination of tea tables, high back chairs, and even church pews, along with the breathtaking art displays, provides a delightful ambiance of being someplace else. You are met with the sweet aroma of freshly brewed coffee, fresh desserts, and it’s like coming home to mama’s kitchen. “I cook like I do at home, one meal per day. My guests actually appreciate the limited selection”, says Brown. The menu also includes vegetarian options and children’s selections. If you have an eye for art, you’ll enjoy the in-shop art gallery that features local artists such as Rachell Hyman, Jeff Johannsen, Johnny Tanner, and Robert Garey, and all art is available for purchase. And, be sure to check out the amazing hand-painted bathroom mural, by New York native Anthony Dominguez, whose artwork is featured at the American Primitive Gallery.

The first Wednesday of every month is story swapping time at The Clay Pot. Guests can also join in the monthly community drum circle, just bring your instrument and pick up a beat. Locals are also welcome to show Brown their talents; she may just have a spot to showcase you live next month. The Clay Pot supports local farmers and uses environmentally safe, recyclable products; straws made from corn, plates from wheat, and utensils from bamboo. “Our mission is to serve local and organic products whenever possible and promote far trade choices”, said Brown. The Clay Pot Coffee Shop serves lunch to about 35 – 40 people per day and is open for breakfast, lunch, and dinner seven days per week. “The Clay Pot is about community and a diverse community. Some of our guests eat in a hurry and some eat leisurely; but all feel good when they leave.”

For proprietors Frank and Peggy Brown, and their daughters Sara Brown and Jackie Lyerly, the Clay Pot Coffee Shop is a family owned business. You can contact The Clay Pot at 843-407-1646 or at claypot166sdargan@gmail.com or find them on Facebook.

Contributing Writer Chinel Boateng

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Closing the Financial Planning Gender Gap

Study finds men and women approach money management in very different ways, leaving women at a disadvantage. While it's a bit of a stereotype to say men are from Mars and women are from Venus, when it comes to financial planning styles, the fact remains the sexes are worlds apart in their approach to saving and investing.

- * Married/partnered women are more likely than their male counterparts to say they share financial decision-making equally (35% vs. 21%).
- * Married men are far more likely to say they are taking control of financial decisions (38%) than married women (19%).
- * Women worry most about household expenses, debt and their ability to save for retirement.
- * Men are more focused on external factors such as the state of the economy, followed by household expenses and retirement.

The survey also noted that only 10 % of female breadwinners feel very knowledgeable about financial products and services, and are only half as likely to feel as well prepared to make wise financial decisions as men. The good news for women is that they are more likely to ask for help from a financial professional, a smart move no matter where you are in terms of retirement preparedness. It's not surprising to learn that women who work with advisors are more likely to report being on track for meeting their retirement goals. While the task can seem daunting and even a bit intimidating, the truth is simply educating yourself about various products and services can boost your financial IQ and your confidence. Even if men are from Mars and women are from Venus, getting real-world financial planning assistance now can help both sexes prepare for a more secure financial future.

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Chokshi (left) and Lyles

At first glance, HopeHealth's Dr. Brinda Chokshi and Dr. Kelly Lyles may not appear to have much in common, but they agree that their differences only strengthen their abilities to provide excellent care to their patients.

Chokshi is a practicing Hindu from India, while Lyles is as traditionally-American as they come, a Caucasian Christian woman born and raised in Florence. Chokshi describes the partnership as benefitting her personally and professionally. "I often draw on Kelly's deep Christian faith when in need for my personal life as well as in dealing with my patients. It certainly helps me understand how our patients are coping and working through their medical problems."

Prior to joining the team at HopeHealth, the doctors shared their practice through the Carolinas Hospital System at Palmetto Healthcare Associates. Research conducted by publications such as Forbes Magazine reports that job sharing may be the new answer for professional women working toward a better work-life balance. Both doctors agree that sharing their practice is a perfect situation for working mothers because they are able to be involved in the activities of their children and continue to do the work they love. Lyles and Chokshi recall times when they have worked together to take care of a newly diagnosed patient with a critical illness or cancer. Each case brings them closer in ways that allow them to reflect on their own lives. "We rejoice in the good outcomes and are also able to grieve together during times of loss," Chokshi explained.

As the only two women in Florence who are board certified in internal medicine, their goals are to serve as advocates for their patients when it comes to specialized care with other physicians. Compassionate care and prevention are two themes instilled by Lyles and Chokshi while treating anything from a common cold to diabetes and hypertension. This theory portrays the natural fit between this physician team and HopeHealth.

"This partnership will expand the scope of services and enhance the quality of care that HopeHealth is able to provide patients. The patients and physicians will all strongly benefit from this new alliance," explained HopeHealth Chief Executive Officer Carl Humphries, who is extremely optimistic about the job-share duo's new role at the federally qualified health center. Humphries went on to explain that adding Chokshi and Lyles to the practice will greatly improve availability of providers at the agency.

Both women received their calling to enter the world of medicine early in their teen years. Dr. Chokshi spoke of the guidance from her father who played an instrumental role in her upbringing by instilling a hard work ethic and determination. Dr. Lyles recalled a time in her life when she was being treated by a local physician, the late Dr. Paul Davis. Dr. Davis made an impact on Lyles at a young age by taking

the time to share stories and pictures about science. "I found the pictures fascinating, and that's when I knew," explained Lyles. Chokshi was born in India and moved to the United States when she was three years old. When she was in the tenth grade, her family relocated back to India where she later met her husband, Rakesh, who is a spine surgeon with Pee Dee Orthopedic Associates. The couple has three children and has lived in Florence for 12 years. In addition to family traditions of their own, they enjoy spending traditional Hindu holidays with a supportive Indian community who live in the Pee Dee. Drs. Chokshi also pride themselves in being "foodies" and love exposing their children to ethnic foods of all sorts.

As the daughter of the owner of Waters Funeral Home, Lyles was born to a close Christian family right here in Florence. She and her husband, James Lyles Jr., belong to St. John's Church and have three children. This couple is very accustomed to juggling demanding careers and family responsibilities, as James is the owner/operator of Jimmy John's on Palmetto Street.

With strong ties to the Pee Dee, Lyles and Chokshi are committed to serving the community through the mission of HopeHealth. HopeHealth increases access to comprehensive primary and preventative healthcare and improves the health status of underserved and vulnerable populations. To become a patient at HopeHealth, call 843-667-9414 for an appointment.

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Today's Strategy for Neck Pain and Increased Flexibility



A study in the *Annals of Internal Medicine* shows manual therapy is highly effective in treating patients suffering with neck pain and restricted range of motion. Neck pain affects 10-15% of people and is particularly common among middle-aged men and women. 183 patients who had suffered with neck pain for at least


a two week period participated in a study conducted in the Netherlands. The patients were divided into three treatment groups — manual therapy, physical therapy, or continued care from a general practitioner.

Patients in the manual therapy group were adjusted in order to reduce restrictions in the neck's range of motion; physical therapy patients participated in 30-minute exercise sessions two times per week; and patients who were under the care of a general practitioner were given advice on recovery, self-care, and ergonomics.

Researchers found that after seven weeks of treatment, patients in the Chiropractic group showed a success rate two times higher than the patients in the general practitioner group.

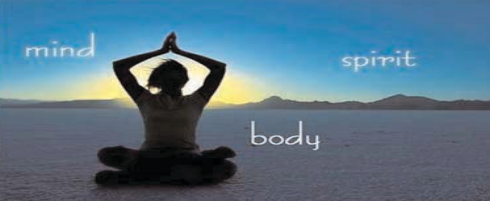
Recovery rates were 68% among manual therapy patients; 51% among physical therapy patients, and 36% for patients in the general practitioner group. Patients in the manual therapy group not only showed a higher recovery rate, but also had 50% less absences from work due to pain than the other groups and demonstrated better results in all outcome measures than the other two groups. Chiropractors commonly administer manual therapy in order to increase neck flexibility and to reduce pain. According to researchers, the study met their main objective — with a relatively large increase in neck range of motion.

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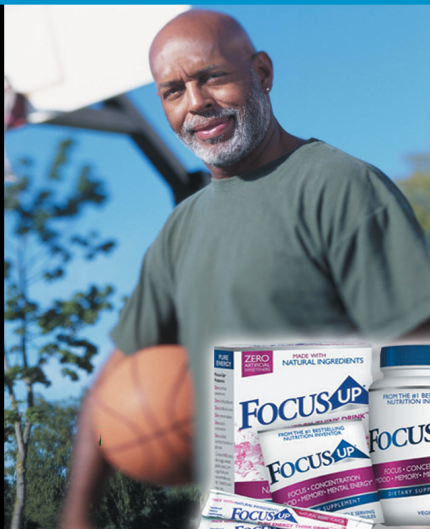
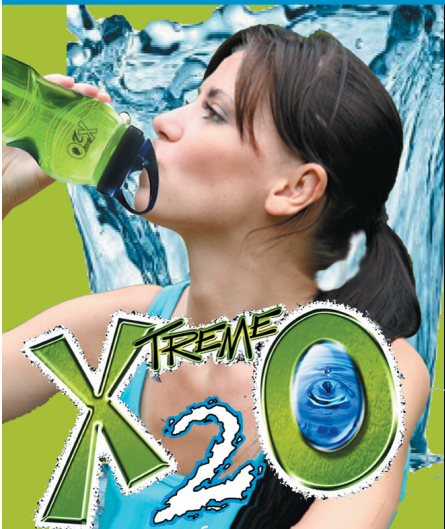
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Use the New Year as an Opportunity for a Fresh Start

The flip of the calendar year is the perfect opportunity to make personal and lifestyle changes. One of the most popular resolutions that people make is to improve their health and exercise routine so they can make a fresh start and get into better shape. Now is the time to develop fitness goals for a new you this New Year. Despite your best intentions and resolutions to revamp your fitness routine each year, it's easy to slip back into your pre-new year's resolution bad habits. The best way to avoid this tendency is to create an active lifestyle plan that works for you and will keep you motivated. Here are a few tips to get a fresh fitness start and make sure that you stay active this new year.

Establish fitness goals and write them down. Setting manageable goals and writing down an exercise plan that is realistic and works for your lifestyle will have a positive impact on your overall quality of life and motivate you to keep going. As you check back on your plan each day, it will hold you accountable and make sure that you're continuing to follow the road that you've mapped out for yourself.

Pick an app that motivates you. No matter what your fitness interests are, there's an app for you: Pick your pleasure ... yoga, running, weights or cardio, and you can find apps that inspire and motivate you with workout ideas and tips. If you're also looking to watch your food intake, there are a myriad of apps that can help you keep track of what you're eating each day.

Freshen up your workout wardrobe. As you refresh your exercise routine, you'll go through workout gear more quickly than before. Treat yourself by buying yourself some new exercise gear that will benefit your routine and make sure you maintain it. One way to provide amazing freshness for your used active wear is to wash it in Downy Unstoppables, an in-wash scent booster. The scent lasts for up to 12 weeks in storage, which makes Downy Unstoppables perfect for gym clothes and workout towels as it keeps them fresh no matter when they're pulled out of storage.



Reality TV star and fitness fanatic Roberto Martinez understands the importance of incorporating freshness into his workout routine. "I live a very active lifestyle, so I know that keeping workout gear fresh can be tough, Downy Unstoppables keeps my clothes smelling so fresh and so clean," he says. Visit www.facebook.com/Downy to learn more about how you can keep your new year's fitness resolutions fresh with Downy Unstoppables.

Join an exercise group or find a workout partner. Working out alone in a gym is not for everyone. Exercisers should choose an activity they enjoy doing, that keeps them excited and can be sustained over a long period of time. Additionally, having a support system to motivate you will help you stick with the program and see long-term results - find a group or buddy who has similar goals to you. With every new obstacle, find alternatives that will bring you closer to attaining your goal. Never give up. It's a new year, and it's time to get moving.



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Halting the Cycle of Child Sexual Abuse

My name is Miranda Burton and I am a middle school teacher for Berkeley County Schools, a Coker College Graduate, and the founder/ creator of a new organization called Marion's House. Because I am a two-time survivor of child sexual abuse by both a male and a female, it is important to me to help in protecting kids from becoming preyed upon and also making adults aware that it is their duty to protect a child.

The full mission and vision of Marion's House is to interrupt the cycles of Child Sexual Abuse with urgency, dignity, and compassion. Marion's House, a premier anti-violence organization, seeks to accomplish this mission through revolutionary activities that promote academic and emotional success. Marion's House is named after Marion Burton, a powerful matriarch who constantly housed and provided emotional security for those damaged by the ill-effects of life. Marion was committed to doing this work with a level of vigor, intention, and benevolence that far surpassed her time. As a non-traditional organization providing revolutionary services to those impacted by

cycles of child sexual abuse, Marion's House firmly believes that holistic care includes outreach and compassion for all. These avant-garde activities include but are not limited to: music therapy, rhythmic stepping, creative arts therapy, poetry facilitation, basic computer instruction, tutoring, and group therapy sessions. These activities are specialized to provide survivors, non-victims, and parents with safe spaces to express the emotional effects of being impacted by these cycles in constructive and healing ways as well as provide them with the knowledge that they are not alone in their social position and their circumstances do not have to consume their lives.

Due to lack of funding, I am currently more focused on the awareness of child sexual abuse and the goal of preventing child sexual abuse today. This is accomplished through facilitating child sexual abuse prevention training sessions with adults by presenting Darkness 2 Light's, Stewards of Children Curriculum. This is a great opportunity to learn what is needed to protect the children in your family and community. If you would

like to have me conduct a session in your area for 10 or more adults or to donate to the mission of Marion's House, please contact me by phone: (336)508-8917 or Email: Miranda.burton24@yahoo.com also, please join my Facebook Group: Start preventing Child Sexual Abuse Today.

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Surgical Technologist of the Year



Tyner

Carolinas Hospital System is proud to announce that Ashley Tyner has received the Surgical Technologist of the Year Award. The award was presented to Tyner in recognition of her outstanding dedication to the profession, technical knowledge, attention to patient safety and her value of team work and professionalism. Award recipients are nominated by the South Carolina

State Assembly of the Association of Surgical Technologists Executive Committee and Board of Directors. “Ashley is an excellent surgical technologist. She is a pleasure to work with in the operating room – intelligent, versatile and always prepared. Ashley is a valuable member of the team at Carolinas Hospital System,” said Mark Harris, M.D., Chief of Surgery at Carolinas Hospital System. We congratulate Ashley for receiving this prestigious award and making the Carolinas difference!

Policy In Practice



Health care is experiencing dramatic changes as provisions outlined in the Affordable Care Act go into effect. As the largest professional group within the health care workforce, nurses are uniquely positioned to facilitate the successful translation of critical health care policy into practice. Nurse leaders with the expertise to help shape this process - from developing and implementing new programs to monitoring and evaluating their success - are becoming increasingly valuable. Recognizing the importance of this emerging role, some nursing schools offer educational programs that help current nurses develop expertise in health care policy, preparing them for leadership positions that require an understanding of the economic, political and social forces that influence patient care. Nurses offer unique insight into the evaluation of health care policy because they serve on the frontlines of patient care, with significant patient interaction. Advanced education in health care policy can help nurses translate this valuable perspective into professional growth. Master's-level nursing graduates who specialize in health care policy are better prepared for career paths in a range of professional environments, including government, health departments, nongovernmental organizations, education foundations, academic institutions and research and consulting firms, among others. Nurses cannot afford to remain in the background in the policy arena. They have the potential to mobilize their network, advocate for change, shape policy discussions and stimulate positive action. Health care policy nurses can serve as the voice of the profession, working together to benefit patients, the nursing community and the world.

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