

# DIVERSITYWORKS

JULY 2016 VOLUME 6 ISSUE 3

*"For All of Us"*



DR. KANDACE BETHEA



GLENN GREENE



LAMON DAVIS



TRESSA GARDNER

**JEBAILY IS KNOWN**  
FOR BOUNDLESS TALENTS

**MCS D BEGINS**  
NEW YEAR

**ABB'S NEW VP**  
OF BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

**DAVIS ON THE**  
FAST TRACK

**WEARING**  
THE NEW HAT



## FEATURING:

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## MISSION AND VISION

### OUR MISSION

Diversity Works© is a magazine for the socially conscious and responsible worker at any level. The magazine has a commitment to be a showcase for organizations and their individuals that represent best practices in diversity of the workforce and supplier choices. We feature articles on those displaying inclusionary vision in and for the marketplace and who can both encourage and provide role models to others. Diversity Works©, via its editorial content and other signature promotions, will be a vessel to inform the world about appreciating and accepting the physical, social, cultural and other differences in one another and promote better outcomes through interacting with those unlike ourselves. Our mission is to promote the concept "community" in the workplace, to stimulate literacy and save the planet via recycling printed matter.

### OUR VISION

To create a more collaborative world wherein we practice diversity on a more balanced basis, to experience a return to reading and to reuse the ink and paper products that our reading materials are printed with.

Spanish Version

*Translated by: Yadira Santiago, MA*

### NUESTRA MISIÓN

Diversity Works© es una revista dirigida a trabajadores, de cualquier nivel, socialmente conscientes y responsables. La revista tiene el compromiso de ser una vitrina para las organizaciones y sus individuos que representan las mejores prácticas en cuanto a diversidad de las opciones de plantilla laboral y proveedores.

Nuestros artículos muestran una visión inclusiva en y para el mercado; que a su vez estimulen y promuevan un modelo de conducta para los demás. Diversity Works©, a través de su contenido editorial y sus promociones de firma, será una fuente que informará al mundo sobre la apreciación y aceptación de diferencias físicas, sociales, culturales que promuevan mejores resultados a través de la interacción con los que son distintos a nosotros. Nuestra misión es promover el concepto de "comunidad" en el lugar de trabajo para estimular el conocimiento y salvar al planeta a través del reciclaje de material impreso.

### NUESTRA VISIÓN

Crear un mundo más colaborativo en el que se practique la diversidad de una manera más equilibrada; experimentar un regreso a la lectura, así como la reutilización de los productos de tinta y papel con los que se imprimen nuestros materiales.

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# FROM THE EDITOR'S HEART

## LOOKING MORE AND MORE LIKE THE COMMUNITIES TO BE A KEY PART OF



Rennie Lunn-McAllister  
Executive Editor

While envisioning a more vibrant community to live in, this magazine embarked on a trip to see some people and places that drive villages in our corner of the world and found so much to be proud of and engaged in that we must share our findings with our readers.

And simply as a precursor, just know that there was a time when I thought that timing was all that mattered for the success of any and everything, but in my more

seasoned adulthood have learned that understanding means all to the bottom line, for if one does not comprehend one's state of being, consciousness or surroundings, then it doesn't matter what time it is; you're just ticking around blindly.

Take, for instance, our digest (understanding) of what it takes to help build a well rounded community to serve our present age (timing). From right here in the heart of the Pee Dee, where this publication is based, we look around to find sooo much astir in every aspect of life..from the success stories in education, commerce, health, civics/government/community, public service, business, the arts, sports and just plain fun. Because each article and ad herein create immeasurable value, we always treasure them all and want to allow every reader a peep through the window all around us.

Check out how collaborations between municipalities and organizations – public and private – are lowering barriers to solve problems. We smile at the fact that Williamsburg County, which has been sort of the underdog in this region for a time, is now surfacing to provide better public services to its citizens and how SCORE stands at the ready to aid businesses in the second time around All American City of Hartsville or the SHARE & LADDER impact on the upstate. We applaud in how the Florence Chamber, ADP, Ruiz Foods, satisfied clients of Atty. Linward Edwards, Conway's mayor, the Florence Literacy Council, HBCUs and their constituents, postal workers and artists are doing some heavy lifting to build community through mutualism. Just walk a mile in the shoes of Dr. Luns C. Richardson in his 49th year at Morris College; The Hon. Barbara Bellamy at Conway's helm; Stanley Pasley in Kingstree; Pearl Moore and her life-changing basketball camp; Rick Reed in Hilton Head or Renee Graham in Florence post offices: IlaSahai Prouty whose critical work is featured in the Florence Museum; Shonette Dargan at the Pee Dee Coalition; Katrina Graham at ADP, Charles Clary or the late Ben and Starr Ward. Then tip your hat to FDTC's Tressa Gardner and Lauren Holland at FDTC and the entire United Way team and give kudos to Morrell Nursing Center on earning the Bronze Award in quality senior caregiving.

In our financial worlds, Anderson Brothers Bank, Carolina Bank, Arbor One and New York Life operatives put us at ease and in our spiritual realms, Robin Lewis and Karen Caulder lend some helpful practical steps to incorporate into our daily lives.

Economics and interactions -- good or bad-- wield a huge

impact on our everyday lives and we make the world smaller through interfaces with guest columnists Simma Lieberman in California and Nika White in Greenville's Chamber, both of whom explain the two forces. You will cheer with us to learn of blooming entrepreneurs like LaTanya Epps and Toyinda Smith; newcomers such as Olivia Mendoza Garcia and Maria Wells and standouts (all of our subjects are) like Sherri Scott and daredevil siblings Maureen Allen and Gavin Smith who make bold moves towards inclusiveness.

Education matters are in the fast lane with graduations and higher ed pursuits and just to keep it moving, key players at bat include: Fellows in Education and three new administrators in Florence One, Darlington Transform(ers), Marion's new super Super, Coastal's Endowment Campaign, FMU's Distinguished Professor, the School Foundation's grants distributors, Miller-Motte's Director of Education and Florence-Darlington TEC's Lake City unit is about to sprout wings with a colossal gift from the town's homegirl Philanthropist Darla Moore, while its Florence site is rebranding its online presence.

The City of Florence is proactively blocking all Zika virus risks and shares how the general public can do the same house by house. Really makes it safer to enjoy the revised downtown farmers' market and those protective spillover benefits will likely reach the Pee Dee Farmers market, rendering outdoors fun and enjoyable again.

Speaking of fun, there is no shortage of things to do all about this community, whether it happens at the new Town Hall Restaurant, various city parks, rec fields and courts, eating the offerings of Smoking-N-Carolinas, taking in a RedWolves game, dipping in the Darlington City pools, or tuning in to events at the FMU Performing Arts Center. If you happen to be browsing Nissan Five Star dealership, say 'hi' to Lamon Davis. There is also an exhaustive list of things to do inside. When outdoor temperatures climb into the three digits, stay inside and follow advice from tipster Roanne Bacchus or dietician Kitty Finklea.

Being healthy – whether fiscally, physically or mentally -- I'm learning, is also fun and nobody guides it better than all the professionals at Carolinas Hospital {which has added an Assistant Chief Financial Officer}, HopeHealth and Gittens Chiropractic. And do stay tuned for the installation of the memorial statue honoring 'everyone's doctor' back in the day Roswell Nathaniel Beck, Sr., MD.

Yes, saving the best for last is always titillating and our cover feature on Atty. Ronald Jebaily is well worth the wait. To just have a sit down session with him is to discern how shrewd he is on the law and legal matters, how knowledgeable he is on religion and history, how appreciative he is of his life calling and how humanely he treats every individual in any stage of life.

For sure, the emerging picture of a robustly thriving interdependent community is developing more clearly every time we open our eyes. See for yourself in these pages and make a contribution forward.

Heads Up,  
Rennie



# THE IMPACT OF ECONOMIC INCLUSION

Submitted by Nika White, Vice President, Diversity and Inclusion Greenville Chamber



Nika White

**GREENVILLE** -- Recently I had the opportunity to serve as keynote speaker for the Florence Chamber of Commerce Diversity Leadership Summit Luncheon. The topic I was asked to address was “The Economic Impact of Diversity and Inclusion.” Anytime I’m given the opportunity to have a voice around the subject of economic inclusion, I always feel this strong sense of responsibility. I’m fortunate

in that working in this space affords me the opportunity to be a change agent for something I am incredibly passionate about. If we can address the economics, we can address a lot of the other challenges communities experience that require systemic solutions, transformative in nature in order to enhance community prosperity. In my delivery, I shared three significant principles that must be exercised to fully embrace and effectively realize the impact of economic inclusion.

- **Practice intentionality:** There’s only one way I know to do the work of economic inclusion and that’s with a heart of tenacity, spirit of conviction, source of clarity, and most importantly with intentionality. It’s not just busy work, but it’s strategic work with a level of sophistication that can only be achieved by being intentional. In order to fully leverage intentionality, one must believe that the purpose can be fulfilled and that there is a benefit for that in which you are trying to accomplish. Believing there is purpose and a benefit is the prerequisite for exercising intentionality. To put this in perspective, minority businesses in America account for \$1 trillion in gross receipts and support almost six million jobs. That is a significant source of economic growth in America. And yet, the average minority owned firm is still much smaller and has a lower payroll than other businesses, and has a lower chance of success without sufficient support.

- **Everyone must invest:** Diverse suppliers must invest in themselves and each other. Individuals in the community and corporations must invest in diverse suppliers. The marketplace is extremely competitive. It’s not enough to just know your craft or trade, diverse suppliers must couple that knowledge with critical business acumen to compete effectively. Bold business leaders pair action with knowledge. Bold leaders are prone to

action, they apply the same sense of action to learning and due diligence as they do to any other activity. Diverse suppliers must invest in each other and must realize that the ability to protect the full turf is by supporting other WBEs/MBEs. Women and minorities accomplishing success has a leverage effect – when one wins, all win. To the community at large, and concerned citizens who are seeking to in any small way be a part of the solution to foster economic inclusion, you are encouraged to invest as well. Support MBEs/WBEs – refer them if you had a good experience, and if you didn’t, be bold and responsible enough to share that feedback. If they are missing the mark they need to know. If you don’t tell them, you are perpetuating the problem. Be thoughtful about your own spending habits and where you can, be proactive in seeking out a WBE/MBE. To the corporate community, you must expand the way you think about supplier diversity and bring a heightened level of innovation to this work. It’s no longer enough to just have diverse supplier spend goals, but corporations must be thoughtful and realistic about the true issues that cause disparities and work to address those circumstances. The goal should be to determine what is potentially preventing a competitive opportunity for disadvantaged businesses and work to remove those barriers.

- **Communicate the importance of the work of economic inclusion.** I can appreciate the impact economics has on so many other important social, community, and society issues. We cannot afford to ignore key sectors of the business community, especially considering the vast changes in the demographics upon us where we are moving to a point where America will not have a racial majority. We need to salute WBEs/MBEs and keep telling the success stories and why economic inclusion matters. WBEs and MBEs are effective engines for wealth creation and job creation. Communities that are intentional in creating opportunities for all members of the business community are more cohesive, vibrant, safe and healthy cities. This in turn builds communities that are attractive to individuals and businesses involved in the creation of new ideas, products and services. And it builds a more inclusive business community which attracts talent and corporations to the area. So you see, the results are more far reaching than just a one successful business. And this is why we must never get weary in telling the story of the importance of economic inclusion. We must communicate on this topic and communicate on it often.





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For more information, please visit [www.johnsoncontrols.com](http://www.johnsoncontrols.com).



## NEW CHAMBER RELATIONS DIRECTOR NAMED

Submitted by Patricia Burkett, Marketing Consultant



Jay Lavrinc

The Greater Florence Chamber of Commerce announced the addition of Jay Lavrinc to the staff in May as Director of Membership Relations. Lavrinc comes to the Chamber from ABB of North America where, before his retirement, he served as VP of Medium Voltage Services.

Trish Burkett will take on a substantial marketing consulting role with the Chamber as Jay focuses on chamber member affairs and sales efforts. Jay will also be recruiting event sponsors and handling business ribbon cutting services.

Jay currently serves in several community service roles and his community involvement over the years has included the Florence Breakfast Rotary, the FDTC funding board, the First Reliance Board of Advisors, the Florence County Progress Board, the American Heart Association and the McLeod Fellows program.

“We are delighted to have Jay at the Chamber. His experience will go a long way in helping bring stronger programs for the business community. Additionally, he’s a great compliment to our already talented team here at the Chamber,” said Chamber President Mike Miller.

“Taking on this new position with the Florence Chamber of Commerce gives me the opportunity to help businesses grow within the community and also help the community grow,” Lavrinc said.

For more information about the Greater Florence Chamber of Commerce and its staff members, visit: <http://www.flochamber.com/our-chamber/chamber-staff>

For more information on the event, please contact: Patricia Burkett, Marketing Consultant, Greater Florence Chamber of Commerce.





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# COUNTY TEAM PULLING TOGETHER

by Ta' Meeka Epps



Stanley S. Pasley

**KINGSTREE**-- As the county seat of Williamsburg, Kingstree houses the office of the County Supervisor Stanley S. Pasley, chief administrative officer. Williamsburg County is rich in history and there is a large historic district to attest to the fact, the honor bestowed upon the town in 1982 by the National Register of Historic Places in part because of its Robert Mills designed courthouse built in 1823, one of only two Robert Mills designed courthouses that still functions as a courthouse today.

Pasley is well aware of the rich history surrounding Williamsburg County and by accepting the oath of office he became chairman of County Council, making a commitment to serve. "Anyone accepting the role of a leader should do so out of a desire to be of service to others, a willingness to create opportunities and a longing to see the people grow," he affirmed.

The residents have entrusted him with solidifying the financial future of the county as well as creating opportunities for growth for the residents. He has made a commitment to serve understanding the economic climate in which the residents are operating as well as the reality of the state of Williamsburg County.

That reality being that Williamsburg County has seen its share of employers leave the county for destinations overseas; it has dealt with the blow of the floods and the aftermath of the cleanup, they have seen their hospital doors close then open again as a mobile unit and anticipate the day the doors open once again in the permanent new building.

The supervisor's office implements programs and projects which align with the priorities of the Council and its citizens while remaining transparent and accountable; even when the perception of some does not align with the reality of the state of Williamsburg County.

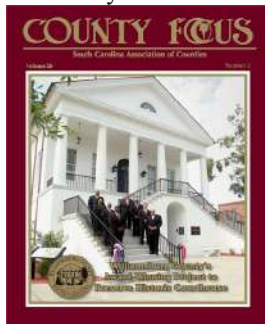
The state of Williamsburg County is alive and well, poised to prosper well into the future. Under the current administration the County has seen an increased credit rating and now holds an A grade. The County successfully undertook a \$30 million capital improvement campaign. Funds secured from the campaign were used to improve the physical aesthetics and functions through renovations of existing structures and construction of new facilities.

A new facility for emergency management was constructed, improving the overall functionality and making it comparable to any system in the entire country for a county the size of Williamsburg. The historic courthouse was renovated keeping the original structural design in place and a brand new public service administration building was constructed which houses the administrative offices of the county. The capital improvements were made with minimal tax impact on the citizens and has safeguarded future generations from having to undertake such projects.

The focus is shifting in the county and energy is being refocused through a strategic plan addressing economic development initiatives within the county which will see training and education aligned with the needs of industry, making the county marketable to various types of industry leaders. The county has already secured a company (United Phosphorous Inc.) to reoccupy the building vacated by Firestone and the potential for growth is immeasurable.

Economic growth and job creation is the focus of the administration of Williamsburg County while strengthening all institutions of the community; family, church, educational system and government.

When these institutions within a community are functioning at a high level, the impact will produce a striving and vibrant environment conducive to growth and development, Pasley said.



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# RUIZ FOODS WELCOMES NEW STAFF MEMBERS

Submitted by Darryl Davids, SHRM



Dennis Beckley

Several new members have joined the Ruiz Foods team.

Dennis Beckley is Director of Operations. Dennis comes with 25+ years of plant operations and general manager experience and he has previous experiences as Manufacturing Engineering Manager, Operations Manager and Director of Operations at TreeHouse Foods Inc., Mrs. Clark's Foods and Oscar Mayer Foods. He holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Industrial Engineering as well as currently pursuing his MBA in Business Administration. His past experience and education has groomed him for his new responsibilities at Ruiz Foods. Beckley will be very instrumental in the completion of the plant build-out project as well as ensuring a successful plant startup that he will have the ongoing responsibility for Florence's daily operational positive results. His objectives will be to ensure that all Departmental Goals and operating budgets are met and maintained while ensuring all company standards and expectations are administered. Dennis will play an important role within our plant safety objectives of people and food as well as our Lean Manufacturing initiatives and the Supply Chain LRP strategies. Dennis will report to David Owens. Dennis has

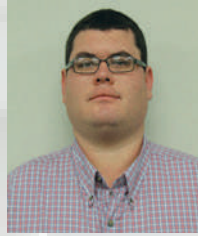
relocated to South Carolina along with his wife Leigh Anne and son Caleb," according to Davids.



Jim Bowman

Jim Bowman is the new Operations Manager here at the Florence plant, coming from Kraft-Heinz in Davenport, IA, where he worked for 19+ years, starting as a production worker and moving upward to a Superintendent/Business Unit Manager. Jim has a degree in Business Administration. He and his wife, Chris, have two children, and they

have relocated to the Florence area.



Josh Brown

Josh Brown is Safety Tech. Josh's background includes: EMT trained and certified, certified in CPR AED, SC Fire Academy Fire Fighter trained, Fire Inspector and NFPA II trained, OSHA HazMat Technician, FEMA Incident Commander and Hazardous Materials for Medical Personal, Incident Safety Officer, and in June of 2015 Josh received

recognition for the SC State Firefighters Association EMT trophy from Gov. Nikki Haley.



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## CHAMBER OFFERS BUSINESS COUNSELING SERVICES

Submitted by Quinetta M. Buterbaugh, President



**HARTSVILLE** – The Greater Hartsville Chamber of Commerce offers business counseling services to entrepreneurs through the Service Corps of Retired Executives (SCORE) and the SC Small Business Development Center (SBDC).

SCORE counsels clients on the first and third Wednesday's in the chamber's boardroom. A representative from the SBDC has begun helping clients on the last Tuesday of every month, also in the chamber's boardroom.

"SCORE is a vital part of the chamber and has been since the 1990's. Members have counseled hundreds of business people in many stages of business. Now, the chamber is happy to announce the addition of services offered by the SBDC," says chamber president Quinetta Buterbaugh. SCORE is a nonprofit association dedicated to helping small businesses get off the ground, grow, and achieve their goals through education and mentorship. At this time, our SCORE group has several expert volunteers in areas like business planning, startup, marketing, human resources, finance, budgeting, manufacturing, legal, accounting, and communications.

The SC Small Business Development Center (SBDC) has 21 locations across the state dedicated to working with companies in all stages of development- from a person with an innovative product but no idea how to move it forward to the owner of a company looking to capture new markets. The SBDC office in Florence counsels many clients from the greater Hartsville area on a regular basis. Now clients wishing to meet with an SBDC consultant may do so in Hartsville.

Both organizations offer free, confidential counseling to entrepreneurs who are just starting out or who are already established and need help in specific areas. Counseling services are not limited to chamber members.

The Greater Hartsville Chamber of Commerce is a membership-based business advocacy organization founded in 1910. The Chamber provides a voice for local businesses, supports economic development, and promotes the vibrant and personal community that makes Hartsville appealing to businesses and residents.

## HARTSVILLE NAMED ALL- AMERICA CITY 2016

Submitted by Rebecca Edwards, Communications and Finance Coordinator



**HARTSVILLE** – On June 19, 2016, the City of Hartsville received the title of All-America City for 2016. The City won the title in 1996 and has won it for the second time 20 years later. This award is an honor given each year to towns, cities, counties, tribes, neighborhoods, and metropolitan regions for outstanding civic accomplishments.

Criteria for this year's award was based on impact, inclusiveness, public engagement and the use of collaborative problem-solving strategies among the private, public, and nonprofit sectors. A specific emphasis was placed on community efforts to "ensure that all our children are healthy and successful in school and life".



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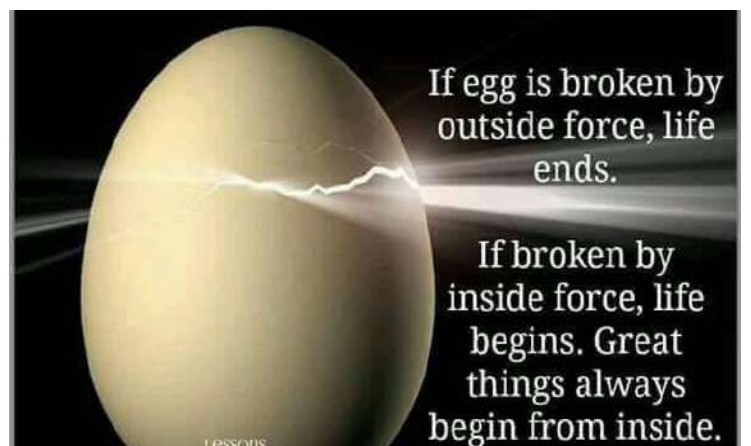
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## USING FEEDBACK TO MOVE FORWARD

by Ta' Meeka Epps



What do people who have actually done business with you think about the level of care, concern and customer service shown to them during the process?

Answering that question is one of the most fundamental forms of feedback a business will receive, and it is as simple to do as it is important. You simply ask your clientele how effective was the service provided and the level of care shown during the process.

Attorney Edwards has been serving the Pee Dee Area for more than four years and the following testimonials will speak to the degree of service and care shown to his clients from consultation to litigation or settlement.

At the Law Office of Linward C. Edwards II, operatives pride themselves on providing all clients with individualized attention as well as empowering them with information.



“Linward Edwards is a phenomenal lawyer. After having a bad experience and reaching out to him he gave me reassurance about lawyers. His office staff was very professional. Linward Edwards has a wealth of knowledge on

personal injuries and accident law. He has an amazing ability to make everyone feel important. I have never met another lawyer who was prepared and focused. Integrity and dedication are two words to describe his law firm. I can't begin to say how much I appreciate Edwards's

generosity and willingness to help me in my time of need. I've dealt with several lawyers but he's one of the most ethical lawyers I know. I understand why his staff and everyone that knows him admire him.”

Ms. Farrah Graves

“Attorney Edwards was very helpful throughout the last couple of months. This was my first accident and didn't know which way to go. I was going home one night, I was going through a green light, a man ran straight through a red light and T-boned my car. Luckily nobody was on the passenger side of my car. When he hit my car, it burst out the left side windows and spilt the frame of my car. My car did a 360[sic] and hit another car. My left shoulder was hurt and my chest were hurt. I wasn't able to work for about a week or two. It felt like my chest was going to explode, that was scariest thing ever, and it happened so fast. I went to Mr. Edwards's office the next morning and they started on my case the same day. Everyone there was professional, nice, and they explained everything to me that was going to happen over the next couple of weeks. During the next couple of months I heard from them at least one or two times out the week with updates of what was going on. I would recommend Mr. Edwards to everyone. His firm is the best. They really take care of their clients.”

Ms. Nicole Brown



# CITY PLANS A PROACTIVE APPROACH TO ZIKA VIRUS CONCERNS

Submitted by Amanda P. Pope, CMO Administrator



*Aedes aegypti Mosquito*

News media has inundated the public recently with reports of the Zika virus. Due to its transmittal by the *Aedes aegypti* mosquito, residents in Florence have a particular interest given the prevalence of mosquitos in our area during summer months, and

information that this species of mosquito is found in small numbers in some areas of South Carolina. The media has also highlighted the flooding which occurred during October, 2015 as an indicator conditions may create a large mosquito population, although some studies indicate it is difficult to predict the impact flooding will have on the number of mosquitoes that develop. With the understanding that community concerns are heightened, City staff has mandated a proactive approach in our mosquito control efforts.

For years the City of Florence Public Works Department has included a mosquito truck equipped with a fogger machine as part of normal operations. City residents can request this service by work order during warm weather months as long as weather conditions allow (wind and cooler temperatures decrease the efficiency of the pesticide). An employee of the Public Works Department is assigned to this task and operates the truck during late evening hours responding to customer work orders. The hours near dusk or twilight are a more effective time to spray as this is the time of day when adult mosquitoes are active and more vulnerable to the pesticide. The City of Florence also plans to have crews continue regular larval control efforts which entail treating standing water areas with larvicide to eliminate mosquito's larval habitat.

In addition to these regular activities, city staff will assist residents with educational information and resources on mosquito prevention and protection as requested and through various social media outlets. The City will also have larvicide briquettes available for pickup for use on private property through the Public Works Department at (843) 665-3236. A single briquette covers approximately 100 square feet and lasts up to 30 days.

As an added measure, the City's Codes Enforcement office will actively address nuisance concerns where residents are negligent in property maintenance which creates breeding environments for mosquitos. Residents are encouraged to report nuisance maintenance concerns that need attention by contacting the City's Codes Enforcement office at (843) 665-3294. It is imperative that residents are attentive to any area on their property that holds water and inspect their property for potential breeding sites using these preventative measures:

- Keep boats drained, covered or overturned.
- Empty, overturn or remove water-holding containers.
- Change the water in pet dishes, birdbaths and containers used to root plants at least once a week.
- Clean leaves and pine straw from clogged roof gutters.
- Stock ornamental ponds with top-feeding minnows.
- Maintain swimming pools properly.
- Repair any holes in window and door screens.
- Place mosquito larvicide briquettes or tablets in ditches or other areas of shallow standing water on your property and clear any obstructions such as debris and weeds that might prohibit appropriate drainage.

The South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control offers the following suggestions for protecting yourself from mosquito bites:

- Keep mosquitoes outside: Use air conditioning or make sure that you repair and use window/door screens.
- Avoid mosquitoes: Most mosquito species bite during dawn, dusk, twilight hour, and night. Some species bite during the day, especially

in wooded or other shaded areas. Avoid exposure during these times and in these areas.

- Wear insect repellent: When used as directed, insect repellent is the best way to protect you from mosquito bites – even children and pregnant women should protect themselves.
- Cover up: When weather permits, wear long-sleeved shirts and pants. The following flyers and websites will provide helpful information on mosquito control and information on protecting you and your family from the Zika Virus.

- [www.cityofflorence.com](http://www.cityofflorence.com)
- Mosquito Prevention and Protection, and more information at [www.mosquito.org](http://www.mosquito.org)
- Help Control Mosquitoes that Spread the Zika Virus, and more information at [www.cdc.gov/zika](http://www.cdc.gov/zika)
- SC Department of Health & Environmental Control (DHEC) - <http://www.scdhec.gov/HomeAndEnvironment/Insects/Mosquitoes/>

For questions or additional information, please contact the Public Works & Utilities Department at (843) 665-3236.



*Photo staged for demonstration purposes. The mosquito control truck operates during late evening hours near dusk or twilight as weather conditions allow.*

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# GUESS WHO'S COMING TO DINNER! IS IT DIVERSITY OR JUST A CLONE?

Submitted by Simma Lieberman



**ALBANY, CA--** In 1967 there was a comedy-drama about interracial marriage with Sydney Poitier, Katherine Hepburn, Beah Richards, and Spencer Tracy. Interracial marriage was still illegal in some states when the film was made.

At the time, the film and its subject were a “big deal.” While there are still people who “shudder” at the idea, and despite

what some people think --we are not post-racial-- but overall, interracial marriage is no longer a “shocker.

The title was also provocative because for a vast majority of people in the United States, they never had to guess who was coming to dinner; it was people who were just like them.

However, as much as we talk about diversity and inclusion (which is a good thing,) and organizations are spending more money, time and resources to increase diversity in all of its dimensions in the workforce, the issue of race is still an issue today.

Unless it's part of your identity, most people don't want to be called racist, and want to be on the “right side” of the conversation. There are loud proclamations against racism, and condemnation when we hear about discrimination of any kind. We can't imagine participating in that “kind of behavior,” or saying “those kind of things.” We join the call for apologies, suspension, and ostracism when someone else makes a racist, sexist or homophobic statement.

But how often do we (a collective we) ask why bias, assumptions, and “fear of the other” exist? How often do we (a collective we) wonder how to stop bias, assumptions and “fear of the other?”

When I consult in organizations I tell people to “take diversity to lunch,” and get to know people who are different.

My experience, research and observation is that the more meaningful, interpersonal interactions people have with people who are different from them, the more likely it is that bias, stereotypes and “fear of the other,” will be prevented or dramatically reduced.

\* Be curious. Sharing a meal with someone different from you, and talking about differences and finding commonalities can break down barriers, reduce tension and be the beginning of new relationships. (I was in a Palestinian-Jewish Dialogue Group and over dinner a Palestinian and a Jewish member discovered they both loved playing guitar and they both loved playing Bob Dylan songs. That was the beginning of a great friendship among two people who never thought they would be able to work together.) So...

\* Take a few minutes to think about the people you go to lunch with or dinner.

\* Ask yourself, “Who's coming to dinner or who will be at dinner?” If you always know that it's going to be people who are just like you, it's time to make a change.

\* Take diversity to lunch, ask diversity to dinner, and get to know people who are different from you.



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## PROFILING THE SERIAL ENTREPRENEUR

by Ta'Meeka Epps



La'Tanya Epps

**KINGSTREE** ---Not everyone is fortunate enough to discover what drives them or what they are passionate about when they are in their youth. For most of us we are long into our adult years before it hits us like an epiphany just what it is we were born to do. Ms. La'Tanya Epps knew before she reached her teen years she would find her place in the world of beauty and fashion; what she did not know is how the journey would unfold.

Tan as she is affectionately called is a master cosmetologist, licensed high school and continuing education instructor and businesswoman. She has been living her passion for 23 years, instructing others for 10 years and growing her brand for 16 years while raising her daughters and fluently navigating the highs and lows of life. Two days after graduating from Kingstree Senior High she enrolled in Chris Logan Career College and less than 365 days later she was a licensed cosmetologist.

She may have earned her license to style at age 19 however she was styling long before the state board of South Carolina knew her name. Tan had her first client when she was a teenager, the shop having been her mother's kitchen: humble beginnings that always remind her to remain humble while turning her dreams into plans and her plans into action. Tan realized early if one did not fit in with a crowd perhaps they were meant to lead it; add to that her small town living made it only natural for her to be an innovator creating her own lane among the masses in the fashion and beauty industry.

Just Kuttin Up or JKU is not only the name of Ms. Tan's salon, it is also her brand. A brand which continues to grow as she constantly evolves from an entrepreneur to business proprietor and event coordinator. In 2006 the First annual Stunt Fest Fashion and Hair Show was held giving the community the opportunity to floss or show off while in an entertaining and creative environment. Stun Fest has grown into a two day event, with the grand finale being a parade down Main Street and a car and bike show on the final day every Fourth of July Weekend in Williamsburg County.

Step into the mind of a go getter and determination is what you will find. Tan is the epitome of a go getter, knowing she is her only competition and the only person she has to out work is the person she was yesterday. Adding to her impressive resume she set the bar a little higher in 2014, giving back to the community of her profession by, creating a cosmetology association allowing all those in need of continuing education credits to certify through the sessions she teaches throughout the state of South Carolina. She also joined the Williamsburg County School District becoming a contract instructor for the Kingstree Senior High Cosmetology Department in January 2015.

Ms. Tan believes in giving back and every year before school recommences JKU hosts a back to school event where they distribute a minimum of two hundred backpacks filled with supplies to the community. She can be found in her community feeding the senior citizens, assisting with area carnivals giving back of her time, energy and resources.

So who is La'Tanya Epps? She is the serial entrepreneur.





# GRAHAM'S POWERFUL FINGER IS ON THE OPERATIONS BUTTON

by Mallory Brayboy



Katrina Graham

If you are like the majority of us, then you've seen the name ADP on your paycheck or paystub. The company is known to most people as the #1 payroll provider in the world according to Katrina Graham, Operations Manager at ADP's Florence location. Her site does Tax Credits through a program called Work Opportunity Tax Credit, a program that rewards businesses for employing individuals who do not have the same opportunity for full employment as others, such as individuals with felonies on their record, receivers of government assistance, or veterans coming back from overseas that have a difficult

time adjusting to the work force. When businesses hire people from categories, such as these and keep them on their payroll for a specific amount of time, the government allows the business to claim them for a tax credit. With locations in more than 55 countries and 55,000 employees, Graham's business location is the only one that offers this program for ADP.

Graham, a native of Wisconsin, relocated to the sunny south about 10 years ago. She worked in Charlotte, NC before moving to South Carolina to take her position at ADP. She is approaching five years at the company. "My department is directly responsible for making outbound contact via email and phone to secure any outstanding documents that we need to get the tax credit for our clients. I have a team of approximately 25 people that help support that goal", says Graham. Her department also provides backup support for the site's call center.

With 400 individual and unique employees on site, ADP works hard to maintain an inclusive and collaborative work environment. A key way to achieving this is through Business Resource Groups (BRG) within the location. BRGs provide a way for employees with similar experiences and their allies to drive key business initiatives, gain access to mentors and executive sponsors, and build connections to their clients and communities. Graham has been active in diversity initiatives upon her arrival and continues to stay active as chair of the LEAD group alongside LaKecha Rainey. "It's a lot of fun. We try to keep the site involved in many different things", says Graham. The LEAD Committee's responsibilities include: Enhancing the local work environment, Fostering their ONE ADP sense of community, Providing philanthropic/diversity opportunities for associate engagement in the local community, and volunteering for roles that include coordination and marketing of local and national programs.

The site has a variety of BRGs that target different demographics. Some of these groups include Military Strong, Adelante, A.S.I.A., and iWin (International Women's Inclusion Network). Each group plays a part in events like the Spring Fling Fun Day, GO RED Campaign for American Heart Association, and the Relay for Life Campaign. Graham is particularly proud of ADP's involvement in the local schools. "We also have a program whose operatives go out to schools weekly and read to them and the students read to them as well. Enhancing their literacy skills is something we really believe in." Graham knows the importance the groups have on maintaining a high morale in ADP's employees. "It keeps them engaged and wanting to come back into the office and have a great feeling every day."



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# WH TRUCKING CELEBRATES GRAND OPENING

Submitted by Nika White, Marketing and Business Development



**DUNCAN** - - WH Trucking, LLC celebrated the opening of their new facility located at 610 Leonard Road in Duncan, South Carolina on June 7, 2016, with an attendance of approximately 120 supporters. WH Trucking is a veteran owned, certified minority business enterprise, operating 48 states motor carrier committed to the promise to safely deliver clients' freights securely and satisfactorily.

WH Trucking specializes in regional and short haul delivery of non-hazardous dry freight with the capacity to drop 53ft dry van trailers for dedicated accounts. WH Trucking headquarters consist of an 8,800 square foot warehouse to include 35 door motor freight terminal conveniently located right off of I-85. Company owned assets currently consist of 15 semi-trucks (day cabs and sleepers) with further growth plans underway. WH Trucking was established in May of 2015 by owner Carlo White, who serves as President and CEO of the company. The transportation and logistics firm employs about 20 full time equivalents and is seeking additional drivers.

The ribbon cutting and grand opening ceremony coincided with WH Trucking's one year anniversary. Guests were treated to tours of the facility, viewing of capabilities video, and a networking lunch. During the ceremony, White recognized several partners, colleagues,

and presented a check to SHARE to put one person through their LADDER program with a commitment to continue this investment each year. SHARE is a local nonprofit Community Action Agency dedicated to providing services to low and moderate-income residents in the Upstate to help them become self-sufficient. LADDER is a comprehensive job training/improvement and placement program.

WH Trucking has three key focus areas: safety, security and satisfaction. Safety refers to the company's high equipment standards, experienced drivers, and proven safety records. WH Trucking leverages a combination of technology with real time tracking and risk management practices to provide clients with the security assurance needed that no loss or damage will occur to their freight. Satisfaction addresses WH Trucking's philosophy of exceptionalism in all areas of operations.

WH Trucking prides itself on being a focused, flexible, and feasible short haul transportation provider. Central to delivering on these promises is WH Trucking's emphasis on intentional communication with clients as well as a dedication to building long-lasting relationships.

### About WH Trucking.

WH Trucking is a veteran owned, certified minority business enterprise operating 48 states motor carrier that is committed to its promise of safely delivering our clients' freight on time and on budget. We specialize in regional and short haul delivery with the capacity to drop trailers for dedicated accounts. For more information, visit [whtrucks.com](http://whtrucks.com) or call 864-332-9795.





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# READY, SET, SUMMER! FIVE TIPS TO GAIN A BUSINESS ADVANTAGE

Submitted by Roanne Bacchus



Kids are out of school, the sand and sea are calling, families are on vacation and the heat just has a way of slowing everything down. It must be summer! The anticipation of summer comes with such joy, unless you run a business that's seasonally focused on summer. Then, the summer months can be slow and less than joy-filled. It's not an impossible task to generate lots of revenue in the summer, however I want to suggest taking time to do what is referred to as "sharpening your axe." A story

is told of a Woodsman who was asked, "What would you do if you had just five minutes to chop down a tree?" He answered, "I would spend the first two and a half minutes sharpening my axe."

In September, life goes back to it's rhythm of work and school, and everyone's looking ahead to the windfall of the holiday season. A lot of business owners wait until this time to start getting ready for it. What if you could gain an advantage?

You see, the advantage is not gained in exercising strength, it is gained in the time spent preparing. Whether you are a small, medium or micro business owner, here are some suggestions to 'sharpen your axe' over the summer.

## Clean up

This is pretty straight forward. Go through and clean up your contact lists: snail mail, email, phone numbers. Sort and file your receipts and other paperwork. Take physical inventory of what you have. Taking inventory helps you gear up by determining what you need to get or replace.

## Connect

Ever heard the term 'top-of-mind'? In Marketing, it means being first or top in the customers mind when they think of a product or service in your category. And that's where you want to be. This does not mean bombarding your customer with advertising, especially over the summer as people can be away from home or just involved with family. You want them to remember you're there, but you want it to be a good experience for them also. So two to three times would be a good number to make contact.

Make the contact memorable by making it personal. Give your customer the joy of opening something other than a bill by sending a handwritten card. If your customer list makes this a huge challenge, use a handwriting font but be sure it is readable and customize their note with their name.

You can even make a good old fashioned phone call. Letting your customer know that you are calling to update and confirm information is a perfectly good reason. It could also be a good opportunity to do a quick survey for the upcoming fall, so that you are on top of providing exactly what your customer needs.

Summer promotions or giveaways are another way to engage customers during the season of fun. If you're going to use a giveaway, make it practical and something they will either use

over the summer or use to start off the fall season. Remember, 'top-of-mind'.

## Look Back

Remember those goals you started the year with? Now would be the perfect time to check in with them. Did you hit your sales target? How is your marketing plan working? Did you get the product out that you intended? Have you made significant progress toward those goals? You've already 'cleaned up' your paperwork in tip one, so it should be easy to find where your business stands with regard to achieving your goals. Looking back can admittedly be a tedious task, but it's the only way to chart a course forward.

## Look forward

Driving directions require two things, the starting point and the end point. Now that you have taken tally of where you are, you can plan how to get to your business goals by the end of the year. What resources will you need? What contacts? What action will you need to take and how often? Grab a calendar and layout your course. Be sure to set some way points too. Pick a time to check in on your progress over the next 4-6 months, depending on when you're reading this.

## Recharge

If you run a small or micro business, chances are you wear several hats, if not all of them. You are central to the continuation of your business and so it's super important to put You on the list. Take time to recharge your battery. Whether you travel to do it, or do it at home, do it for a month or just a day, unplugging is key. No checking emails. No business calls. No meetings. No presentations. Unplug. Allow yourself that space and time. You may be surprised how it can actually increase your productivity and overall happiness.

If you don't belong to the solo-preneur category, be sure to encourage your employees/support system to unplug and recharge also. Employees can assume that by working longer and harder, it makes them more valuable to the team. In reality, it makes them the weaker link because they are physically, emotionally and mentally drained. While forcing them to take time off may not be on your agenda, planning an employee focused event such as a picnic or family fun day is still great for team bonding and building morale.

So here's to a great summer, for you and your business.





# CHARACTER DRIVEN PERFORMANCE FITS THIS STRATEGIST

Submitted by Toyinda Smith



Toyinda Smith

**HARTSVILLE** -- Purposeful, passionate and persistent are just a few words that describe her character. Toyinda Smith was born and raised in Gary, IN. She moved to Hartsville in August 2015.

Toyinda is the founder and lead consultant for Leadership Strategy and Consulting, LLC, a team and leader growth & development firm that provides keynote speaking, personality and talent assessments as well as leadership seminars.

She started her professional career at Purdue University where she provided 14 years of service in various leadership capacities. In March 2014, she founded Leadership Strategy & Consulting, LLC where she works with organizations, sports teams and businesses to develop their teams' intangibles like group influence and innovation, as these are the qualities required to increase the tangibles such as remarkable results and community impact. She is known for her ability to prepare individuals with tools to leverage leadership, personality strengths and genuine team relationships to better accomplish objectives and vision.

Toyinda is passionate about leadership growth and development and has completed seminars and keynote speeches for the Byerly Foundation, Greater Florence Chamber of Commerce Emerging Leaders Summer Institute, Hartsville Chapter of 100 Girls of Code, West Florence Track & Field Club, Indianapolis Indiana's Community Leadership Initiative, Chick-Fil-A Lafayette, United Way, Fifth Third Bank-Indianapolis, YWCA – Greater Lafayette, United States Tennis Association/Midwest, Purdue University departments including Engineering Professional Education, Women in Leadership Institute

and Intercollegiate Athletics. For the past three year's Leadership Strategy & Consulting, LLC has partnered with the John Maxwell Company to host the Live2Lead Leadership Broadcast in Indiana. This year, it will be held on Friday, November 4 from 8:30-12:30 PM at the Center Theater in Hartsville.

Smith's live leadership experiences and persistence have allowed her to garner several awards over her lifetime including inducted into two athletic halls of fame – Indiana Association of Track and Cross Country Coaches and Purdue University Intercollegiate Athletics. In 2005, Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc.'s national magazine, The Aurora, named her to its Top 20 Under 40. In 2012, The Times of Northwest Indiana newspaper named her among the top 40 most influential females in athletics in the region. In March 2015, Toyinda was named the YWCA of Greater Lafayette Woman of Innovation.

She earned an associate's degree in organizational leadership and supervision and double bachelor degrees in psychology and sociology at Purdue University. She has a master's degree in student affairs and higher education from Indiana State University. As a woman who understands her purpose to make positive impact, Toyinda is certified to facilitate the Real Colors® Personality Instrument, trained to integrate Clifton Strengths Finder Assessment and is a certified leadership Speaker, Trainer and Coach with the John Maxwell Team. She is also a graduate of the 2016 Leadership Hartsville Class, she is the owner of the Hartsville Balloon Company LLC a balloons and event décor company that builds, designs and creates lasting memories using balloons. Toyinda serves as an Adjunct Professor of Communication at Coker College as well as the Head Track and Field Coach at the South Carolina Governor's School for Science and Mathematics, located in Hartsville.

Website: [www.leadershipstrategyandconsulting.com](http://www.leadershipstrategyandconsulting.com)

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# A DIFFERENT KIND OF HONEYMOON IS UNDERWAY

by Rennie Lunn-McAllister



Barbara Blain Bellamy

**CONWAY** – What a time it continues to be for The Hon. Barbara Blain Bellamy, a recent ‘newlywed’. A mere three days after she married longtime acquaintance Bobby who had over years become her best friend, this city’s first black female mayor made another long term commitment to 17,000 others. Sounds like a divided focus? She is anything but.

Learning of diversity and inclusion very early in life, Bellamy was not actually formally introduced to that level of consciousness; she was more of an unwitting chap. “As a seven-year-old angel cast in a Christmas play out in Fallon, NV, I just knew that the makeup artist wouldn’t – could not – put rouge and lipstick on me and then apply some from the same palette on the next (Caucasian) girl in the stage lineup. I had been waiting in a long line of actresses for the curtain to open and the closer she got to me, I shut my eyes reeeaaaally tightly because I didn’t want to see or feel the burn of her skipping me and moving to the next girl... as the only African-American, I just knew that she would not apply that lipstick to my mouth and use the same on any other (white) girl”.

As her parents had never taught her any racial discrimination practices, then where did she get those preconceived notions? “I was aware of certain things because I was first from Conway, SC, where people that looked like me could not go into a department store and try on clothes or drink from certain fountains, eat at certain restaurants or use facilities.” Many years later in her adulthood she wrote to the nearest (Reno) community newspaper to seek out and thank that stage manager for shaping her early life perceptions about diversity. A fixer? That is what she is.

A military traveling brat who followed her parents to posts in western America, she had carried much of her South Carolina roots and experiences with her. However, having been so young, she was not hardened to the 1950’s ways of life that her peers were living out ‘back home’.



Even when her father severed from the military and moved back to coastal South Carolina, the avid reader of non fiction observed that life and times were changing but ever so slowly. “As the first black

Horry County policeman, my daddy, a giant of a man, did a good job, provided a good living for his family and he did it all while bearing the brunt of discrimination on the job. He had to drive his own car, wear his own clothes, could not carry a gun and he was limited to some of the most unruly ethnic areas of the county to settle whatever was going wrong criminally. You see he taught us that we are not responsible for only ourselves, but for everyone else around us,” she told.

As a devotee to public service all of her adult life, Bellamy has served Conway City Council 1993-1998 and 2012-2016, was mayor pro-tempore in 1996 and 2015, was Assistant City Administrator for four years and in 2011 she founded Community Legal Services, a non traditional private law office providing legal aid to low and moderate income families. In her heyday she is still accomplishing much, wearing titles such as her alma mater’s (Whittemore High)

queen in 1970, later a graduate of the Inaugural Waccamaw Class of the American Leadership Forum, Leadership Institutes of the Grand Strand and South Carolina, Municipal Elected Officials Institute of Government and now serves as board member of the PALM Motor Sports School. Add to that her Ann Debock Leadership Award, her Mary Brewer Women of Distinction Award from the Girl Scouts, her Omega Psi Phi Community Service Award and her NAACP Leadership Award, a representative mix of who she is and what she stands for becomes clearer. “I am big on building relationships and believe that a leader, an ambassador and a spokesperson who relates well to others is wholly accepted by others as the most likely to succeed at nurturing partnerships with folks around the city and anywhere,” said the University of South Carolina grad who holds advanced degrees in Education, Sociology and Jurisprudence.

Yes, there are other factors in the development of Mayor Bellamy such as passing the state bar exam in her late 40s (age 49!!) and she views challenges on that level as “really welcome”, most currently her role as mayor. “This election’s voters’ choices said more about the precincts than about me. I now know that they expect us all to honor the things that God has given us (tangibles like trees) and to show true positive character toward each other (intangibles). They feel themselves to be a bigger part of the city and will become more engaged, vocal and active. Council meets twice monthly and there are some 30 citizens who reliably come to those sessions; for the others who don’t we will go to them via town halls and are inviting/recruiting those to come serve on boards and commissions to establish a greater exchange with our hidden talents out there. And the diversity of it all is so fruitful and fun!”



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## WEARING THE NEW HAT

Submitted by Tressa Gardner



Tressa Gardner

Tressa Gardner has been named Associate VP of the Southeastern Institute of Manufacturing and Technology (SiMT) at Florence-Darlington Technical College. Ms. Gardner connects business, industry, inventors and entrepreneurs to the advanced technical resources of the SiMT's six business units, to increase innovation, expand capabilities, and improve efficiency and time to market. The SiMT specializes in the development of 3D content: 3D virtual and augmented reality interactive simulations are used by industry for marketing and training simulations. The SiMT's extensive

Additive Manufacturing, aka 3D printing, capabilities support aerospace, automotive, medical device, advanced manufacturing and R&D in 28 states and 13 countries.

Ms. Gardner received a Bachelor of Science in Economics degree from Francis Marion University and a Master of Arts in Economics from Clemson University. She served as Project Manager and Co-PI on numerous National Science Foundation Advanced Technological Education (ATE) and S-STEM grants to Florence-Darlington Technical College from 2003-2013, and joined the SiMT as Director of Business Development in 2013. She serves on the boards of Florence Regional Arts Alliance and Pee Dee Speech and Hearing Center and is a member of the Rotary Club of Darlington. She and her husband Phillip reside in Darlington.



## NEW VP NAMED

Submitted by Tressa Gardner, Associate VP of SiMT at Florence Darlington Technical College



Lauren Holland

Lauren Holland is the new Associate Vice President of Corporate and Workforce Development at FDTC. She brings ten years of technical college experience to help business and industry assess, develop and deliver training solutions, in addition to providing programs that help individuals acquire new skills that lead to employment. A resident of Kannapolis, NC, Holland brings ten years of experience in higher education to her new post. She previously worked as a Program Manager for Richmond

Community College in Hamlet, NC, where she provided training sales and assessment of training needs to business and industry.

Other previous technical college experience includes work as the Director of High School Relations at Sandhills Community College in Pinehurst, NC, as well as work in Student Services and as an adjunct instructor.

Lauren is a graduate of Appalachian State University, where she earned her B.A. and M.A.

She and her husband have a daughter who is a student at USC and twin boys who are in high school.



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# YOU'RE IN THE DRIVER'S SEAT

Submitted by Rachel Baggett, Director of Marketing and Initiatives United Way of Florence County

For the past several decades, the United Way of Florence County (UWFC) has held an annual campaign focused on raising donations for 17 health and human services partnering agencies. Through these donations, the agencies can provide services to thousands of Florence County residents. For each new campaign year, the UWFC creates a different theme that not only ties in with the message of United Way, but also helps motivates the donors in a fun and exciting way.

"When we selected 'You're in the Driver's Seat' for the 2015-2016 campaign, it was, on one hand, a literal meaning that we were going to put a donor in the driver's seat of a brand new car," said James L. Aikens Jr., Senior Director at ADP Tax Credits and 2016 UWFC campaign chair. "On the other hand, we also wanted to convey to the donors that they had the power to drive change. Whether it is increasing their donation, holding a fundraiser at work, or simply spreading the message of United Way; they are the ones behind the wheel that can help decide the future of Florence County."

To celebrate the end of the 2015-2016 campaign, the UWFC held an Annual Luncheon and Awards Celebration at the end of April. More than 45 companies and individuals were awarded or recognized for their incredible support and drive during the campaign.



Candy Howle, Director at PGBA, LCC, accepts the 2016 Overall Top Giver and Platinum Campaign Excellence Award from Wendy Bird, UWFC President.

## Top Giver Awards

Honors the companies with the highest total giving, combining corporate and employee support, in each Campaign Excellence level.

Overall Recipient: PGBA, LLC, \$190,360

Gold Level Recipient: Johnson Controls Battery Recycling Center, \$54,861

Silver Level Recipient: Pepsi-Cola Bottling Co., \$29,141

Bronze Level Recipient: First Reliance Bank, \$8,348

## Partner Agency Award

Recognizes the partner agency that has demonstrated commitment to the cooperative relationship between United Way and its agencies by providing projects for Day of Caring, running a campaign, sending staff to trainings, and participating in company presentations.

Recipient: Senior Citizens Association

## Campaign Advancement Award

Honors the company with the greatest percentage increase in giving from last year's campaign.

Recipient: Florence School District One (42% increase)

## Spirit Award

Recognizes the company that embraces the annual campaign theme enthusiastically, encouraging giving through a festive fundraising environment.

Recipient: Carolinas Hospital System

Kirk Sansbury of Ruiz Foods accepts the 2016 Rising Star Award from James L. Aikens Jr., Senior Director at ADP Tax Credits and 2016 campaign chair.



Dr. Randy Bridges, Superintendent of Florence School District One, accepts the 2016 Campaign Advancement Award from James L. Aikens Jr., Senior Director at ADP Tax Credits and 2016 UWFC campaign chair.



Kirk Sansbury of Ruiz Foods accepts the 2016 Rising Star Award from James L. Aikens Jr., Senior Director at ADP Tax Credits and 2016 campaign chair.

## Rising Star Award

Recognizes a company in their first year of support and volunteerism with the United Way.

Recipient: Ruiz Foods

## Campaign All-Around Award

Honors a company that skillfully administers their campaign, making sure to include every necessary component as recommended by United Way Staff.

Recipient: McLeod Health

## LIVE UNITED Award

Honors a company that serves as a consistent example of what it means to LIVE UNITED by integrating itself into the community in a supportive and giving way.

Recipient: Assurant



Wendy Bird, UWFC President, poses with 2016 Ashpy P. Lowrimore Award winners Dave and Daphne Aycock and their children Huey and Daphne Gayle.

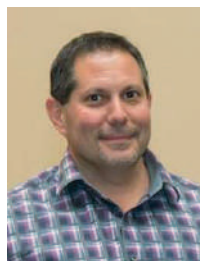
## Ashpy P. Lowrimore Award

Presented annually to an individual or individuals that model Mr. Lowrimore's legacy of humanity and generosity through financial and public support of the Florence County Community.

Recipients: Dave and Daphne Aycock

## Campaign Excellence Awards

These awards are presented to companies in recognition of total employee and corporate giving of \$5,000 or more during the campaign. The United Way wishes it could highlight every company and individual that supports the campaign, but their efforts help ensure the continuation of invaluable services to our community. 32 companies were presented with Campaign Excellence Awards honoring their corporate and employee giving at Bronze (\$5,000-\$9,999), Silver (\$10,000-\$39,999), Gold (\$40,000-\$69,999), and Platinum (\$70,000+) levels. A full list of Campaign Excellence Award winners can be found at [www.uwflorence.org](http://www.uwflorence.org).

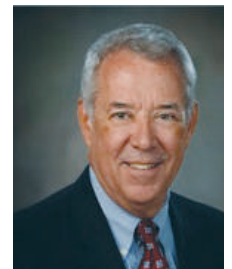


John Cariati, Quality Operations Manager at Assurant and newly appointed 2016-2017 UWFC campaign chair.

## Going Forward

Now that the 2015-2016 campaign has come to a close, the United Way has started to prepare for the 2016-2017 campaign and the new campaign theme. With a new campaign comes a new campaign chair and the United Way is very excited to have John Cariati, Quality Operations Manager at Assurant, serve as the 2016-2017 campaign chair.

The United Way is also happy to announce that Quincy Kennedy, CCO at Signature Wealth Strategies, has agreed to serve as the United Way Board Chair for a second year in a row. The 2016-2017 United Way campaign will kick off on September 16, 2016 at the United Way's Annual Day of Caring.



Quincy Kennedy, CCO at Signature Wealth Strategies and newly appointed 2016-2017 UWFC board chair.



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## THE IMPORTANCE OF YOUR FIRST 10 MINUTES - FIVE STEPS TO ENTER THE DAY WELL

by Robin L. Lewis, Sozo Life & Leadership



Imagine there's a way to think and act in the first 10 minutes of waking that could provide joy, passion, and focus and help you accomplish over and above what you normally experience in your day. Would you want to know? Don't just HOPE you feel good in the morning, do what is necessary to feel good!

Every day is created brand new and given to you as a gift from God; how you approach each day determines how you will experience it. Each morning give your first 10 minutes to yourself as a gift. Use the following practices to begin your day in order to experience greater joy and fulfillment. In the first 10 minutes, set your spirit, soul, and body for the day!

**Step One: Experience Waking!** Let your first response be a simple, intentional smile and feel your emotions get positive immediately. Choose a thought you want to begin your day with. For example, "God loves me and I love me. God helps me love others. Today is going to be a great day."

Emotion is created by movement and the way you move helps determine the way you feel. Rise and drink a glass of clean water to bless your heart and organ functions for the day. Keeping that smile, change your breathing by taking 3 deep-cleansing breaths, filling your lungs to full capacity, then emptying them completely before the next slow, down-reaching breath. Enjoy the feeling of air moving in and out of your lungs. Stretch your body slowly and thank God for your arms, back, legs, and toes. Thank Him that He lives within you. Thank Him for the ability to breathe and move. Ask for His healing, protection, and blessing over your body.

**Step Two: Experience God!** Find a quiet place like a favorite cozy chair. Ask the Lord to open your heart to hear His voice whisper into your spirit. Tell Him that



you want to experience His peace, then set aside all your concerns, mistakes, and failings from yesterday. Focus your thoughts on God and let yourself linger there as if you're with a favorite friend. Begin to affirm who God is to you - your Protector, Savior, Provider, Counselor, or Strong Tower. He is the love that envelops you.

**Step Three: Experience Gratitude!** Think of at least 3 things you are thankful for and speak out prayers of gratitude to God. Feelings of fear, anger, or worry melt away because it's impossible to worry or entertain fear when you are grateful. Thank Him that even your smile creates emotions of hope and expectation. Thank Him that your life has the power to influence others around you for good. Thank Him for wanting to reveal Himself to you today and walk with you through what every moment brings. Visualize His smile and His open arms.

**Step Four: Experience Prayer!** Pray for yourself, your family, and your friends and also for your business and clients. Be specific and express any concerns you have. Acknowledge God working in each person's life. We don't change others, but our prayers of faith are highly effective! Ask Him to meet every need of spirit, soul, and body including healing, provision, and faith. Ask for hope and worship to be birthed in each heart and release each person into His care. Visualize them leaving your hands and stepping into His hands. Write down anything you sense the Lord saying to you.

**Step Five: Experience Commitment for the Day!** Ask God to help you submit to the Lordship of Jesus in your life. Call for the day to come into order under the grace-authority of Jesus. Let your heart and mind receive His power and strength for the day. Pray over the top 3 things you want to accomplish today, visualizing God helping and guiding you by His Spirit, blessing you with power, love, a focused mind,

and self-discipline. Recommit your life to Him and visualize your life as an effective and positive force for good in your world. God will help you grow so that you fulfill every moment of purpose that He has placed within you. End your prayer with a hearty Amen in the Name of Jesus!



### Priming the Pump

During part of my childhood in the 1960's, we had a water pump in the back yard. My Dad would raise and lower the handle repeatedly until fresh, cool water flowed from the artesian well that was more than 400 feet deep. The water was always sweet and refreshing, but to enjoy the water, the pump had to be primed.

Like that old pump, we must intentionally prime ourselves for the day in order for the living water of Jesus to flow in our lives. Tony Robbins says, "We are primed by our environment. If we don't take control of our environment, it takes control of us!"

My coaching clients are learning to better manage their lives and move toward their purpose, but sometimes even they hit a difficult and wearisome place. Everyone feels angry, frustrated, or disheartened at times, so when you do, the right step forward is in realizing that you don't have to stay there! Process your thoughts and emotions, telling God honestly about them, and thank Him for helping you. Forgive others instead of rehearsing the past. Even the most difficult experiences can be turned for good when we give them to the Lord.

Renew and prime your life each morning with your focus on God by using these 5 steps. As you sow seeds of gratitude, prayer, and commitment you will reap more faith, joy, and strength and your life will be sweeter and more refreshing to others just like that old well water. Make your first 10 minutes the most



significant and vital minutes of your day and enjoy the blessings!

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# BUILDING A MEANINGFUL LIFE, STEP BY STEP

Submitted by Karen Caulder



Karen Caulder

Have you ever thought about your life and asked yourself, “How did I get here?” As I started to write this article, that’s exactly the question that ran through my head. Then, as quickly as it was a question, the answer came loudly and clearly: for only by the grace and love of God am I here at all. My early life was filled with secretive chaos and trauma. I knew well the valley of the shadow of death and hopelessness, yet I gained the skills to reflect to the world an acceptable picture.

I went on to marry the man of my dreams only to find out that he wasn’t. When that picture began to fade, it revealed an emptiness and grief which I was not prepared for at all. My complete brokenness provided a place for God to come into my life and heal me. The abundant life promised in the Bible was not one I knew, but every day in every way He taught me who I really am and healed me physically and emotionally. My own restoration has now led me to be able to offer that to other people.

As I began that process of healing, I purchased a \$5.00 disposable camera one day and headed out to walk and pray. Something would catch my eye and I would take a picture of it. When I got the pictures developed I would see something in the pictures that I had not seen before, and I began to feel a stirring within me that I soon realized was hope. Can’t say I could explain it, but it happened again and again. My photography time with God increased, and so did the quality of my photos and the hope I received. I wanted to share that hope with others, and note cards seemed the perfect way to do that. In this modern time of tweets, texts, posts, etc., there is still something quite special about seeing your name handwritten on an envelope with a note inside that says, “I care about you and wanted to take the time to tell you so.” It wasn’t long before there were calendars and datebooks filled with my photos and words of hope and encouragement. Karing Creations, LLC was born.



During this time as well, I learned the power and beauty of the gift of prayer. At first my prayers were timid, short, and much rehearsed. So I began to read about prayer and I began to talk out loud to Him about everything in my life. I really did not understand just how much God would have us walk in relationship with Him, and that

includes prayer. I had lots of questions and had never been given an opportunity to ask. Now I took full advantage of the opportunity He was giving me. I began to grow in my relationship with God as I interceded for others, sought His wisdom and guidance, and began to pray in the discernment and revelation that He gave me. I began to stand in the gap for individuals, businesses, and other aspects of the Body of Christ. I encouraged them to pray, connect, and do warfare on behalf of each other as well as themselves for the growth of God’s Kingdom. I encouraged them to walk in the power of who they are and who they are to be. From this process the Plumline Prayer Project, LLC was born, an enterprise that provides professional intercession for individuals and businesses.



My story is not that different from your story. A hopeful and abundant life in His grace and love is His desire for us all. God continues to establish me in various business ministries. It is not a typical business position, nor a typical ministry position, but a business of ministries.

With each step of faith that I took on my own journey, God brought me into a place of His healing. It is that place of His empowerment that enables me to help others on their journey.

## IDENTIFYING THE TRUE SERVANT

Submitted by Rev. Cynthia J. Walters

..... Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be slave of all. (Mark 10:43-44, NIV)



Rev. Cynthia J. Walters

**COLUMBIA** --A true servant of God knows their purpose, plan and position in Christ. And although not exempt from the trials and tribulations of this world, a true servant seeks to serve mankind and achieve all that God has charged to their hands in this earthly life. Let’s look at the characteristics of **A TRUE SERVANT**.

First, a true servant is **CONFIDENT**: Jesus knew who he was, why he was here and what he had to do. He knew His purpose and His calling. He did not doubt God or have a spirit of fear. Jesus did not worry about what others said or tried to do to Him. He knew that even though His enemies would come against Him, as long as He was confident in whom He was, they would stumble and fall. He knew that God would fight his battle, Jesus was confident. Are you confident or are you like a ship upon a wave, being tossed about, letting others bring you down, throw you off course causing you to be double minded when it comes to your purpose, plan and position in Christ?

Secondly, a true servant is **CONCERNED**: Jesus came to serve: heal the sick, cast out demons, give sight to the blind, build disciples and point the way to eternal life! As a true servant, we must wake up daily and ask the question: “Lord, what would you have me do today to build your kingdom?” Jesus’ plan as He walked this earth was to give Himself away as a sacrificial ransom for you and me. How concerned are you about others? What are you willing to sacrifice to do God’s work?

Finally, a true servant is **COMMITTED**: Jesus came to point a dying world to God. He did not let temptations, trials or any type of tribulations deter HIM. He stayed prayed up and focused on what His Father wanted Him to do. The true servant is not swayed by men (or women) but does what God calls him/her to do and follows closely God’s word. How committed are you to your purpose, plan and position in Christ?

As you continue your journey of being a TRUE SERVANT, keep the same mindset as Christ Jesus: be confident, be concerned and be committed. When you come to the end of your journey, my prayer is that God will judge you as faithful.

Rev. Cynthia J. Walters, Ed.D is founder of Women of Wisdom Ministries ([www.wowleap.com](http://www.wowleap.com)), Associate Minister, Zion Baptist Church, Columbia, SC and Corporate Director of Inclusion, Palmetto Health System, Columbia, SC

## IMPROVING LIVES THROUGH LITERACY AT THE FALC

by Stephanie Navarro



Christina Lawson

Imagine being in a foreign country, unable to read street signs. Or entering a store, unable to read labels or tags. All of a sudden, almost every simple task is made difficult and difficult tasks become nearly impossible.

This is how individuals struggling with illiteracy feel on a daily basis. In the United States, illiteracy is an invisible and often misunderstood issue.

In Florence County alone, one in every three people is functionally illiterate. This means a person may be able to sound out a word, but they can't fill out a job application, read a prescription bottle or help children with homework. According to Christina Lawson, Executive Director of the Florence Area Literacy Council (FALC), literacy is a difficult issue to explain. "I can't take away somebody's ability to read to show them what it feels like," says Christina. "I try to challenge people to spend the next 24 hours thinking about every moment in your day that you have to read. You won't find very many seconds when you're not reading something." The ability to read and comprehend builds confidence, helps individuals lift themselves out of poverty and is essential to a person's quality of life. "Seeing people read a sentence for the first time with no mistakes or listening to our students read a paragraph and discuss what's happening because they understood it, there's no a good way to describe it," says Christina. "It's something that we don't realize we take for granted. To finally have that ability after so much work; it's pretty big."

FALC focuses its efforts not only on literacy, but on improving the lives of their clients through general education. FALC supports educational improvement in basic literacy, English as a Second Language literacy and the knowledge necessary to prepare for the Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery (ASVAB) and GED which includes math and science. The goal, however, is not simply to help students pass a test. "One of the things we realize with students is there's a need for critical thinking skills, problem solving and comprehension beyond basic literacy skills," says Christina. "Being able to break information down is important in test taking and any workplace

environment." To address these needs, FALC ties comprehension and problem solving into every aspect of the program. Students are encouraged to express their opinions, discuss various topics and talk through difficult subject matter together. George Beshere, a math tutor at FALC for more than three years, especially spends time making sure the new information a student learns is applicable to everyday life. "I relate everything back to something in a student's life," explains George. "As soon as you see the relationship for how this information is going to be useful, you're more willing to learn it."

The individual learning needs of each client are addressed by FALC through small group classes and self-paced computer learning as well as one-on-one tutoring, a unique feature of the FALC program. Tutoring is provided by volunteers like George. "Teaching and tutoring are two different things," explains George. "In



Volunteer math tutor George Beshere works with FALC adult learner Tracey Nelson. After passing the GED, Tracey plans to pursue a Psychology degree so she can counsel abused women.

tutoring, it's one person at a time and it's conversational. I can sense by looking at the person if the lights haven't turned on yet so I can change to a different approach. It's about what works for each individual student."

And the best part of all of these efforts? The results are permanent. "If someone comes to this program and they are reading at a 2nd grade level and we work with them and get them to a 7th or 8th grade reading level, we have changed their lives," says Christina. "Whatever progress they make while they are with us is theirs forever."

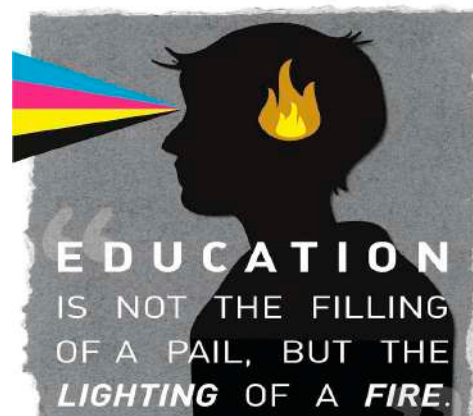
Progress is the goal because increasing literacy and education, especially in adult learners, takes time, hard work and dedication. Tracey Nelson can attest to this. This is the second program she has attempted in pursuit of her goal to obtain her GED by her 50th birthday in October. She completed



The sign outside the Florence Area Literacy Council highlights the agency's motto, "Each One Teach One." One-on-one attention and personalized planning for each adult learner is a cornerstone of the FALC's efforts.

all four years of high school, but was unable to pass the required math courses. She has also taken the GED test twice, failing the math sections both times. "Math, I tell you, it confuses me," says Tracey. "But the environment here is nice. I'm glad I can see other people who want the same goal as me. It's very inspirational." Tracey works in the group classes and on the computers throughout the week and then one-on-one with George on Thursdays. "When math class is really confusing I'm not as frustrated because I know I can come to Mr. George and then the light bulb comes on," says Tracey. "It helps a lot and I really enjoy it. I am learning and I thank God for this program. I am going to get my GED this time."

FALC is open to adult learners older than 18. Visit their office at 238-240 South Dargan Street in downtown Florence or on the web at [www.florencearealiteracycouncil.com](http://www.florencearealiteracycouncil.com) for more information about the program or how to become a tutor. Support FALC throughout the year at their annual fundraisers including the Legwarmers & Literacy 5K in January and the Novel Event in June. Like them on Facebook to keep up with all upcoming events.





# INITIAL FELLOWS PROGRAM SEGUES WITH SCHOOL YEAR END

Submitted by Patricia Burket, Marketing Consultant



*Fellows in Education 2016 Graduating Class*

A ceremony took place in June for the inaugural class of the Fellows in Education program. The local leaders who made up the effort received commemorative certificates and were recognized for their efforts in completing the 9-month, intensive program focused on a better understanding of issues facing area schools.

The Fellows program was designed to give local leaders a unique, behind-the-scenes look into several schools within Florence School District One. Over the course of nine months, leaders saw firsthand some of the daily struggles and constraints educators face in the classroom. Leaders heard about seismic shifts in student needs and the additional state and federal requirements now placed on schools, teachers and administrators in Florence District One.

The program is a joint effort between Florence District One, the Florence Chamber and the School Foundation. This year's class included: Jill Bramblett, Dr. Fred Carter, Dr. Ben Dillard III, Nicole Echols, Asa Godbold, Rev. Merritt Graves, Joy Knight

Higgs, Rev. Anthony Hodge, Joe King, Jean Leatherman, John Kleine, Diana Murphy, Dolly Om, Rev. Calvin Robinson, Jeff Stevens, Kim Turner, Richard Walker, Kyle Baxter, Octavia Williams-Blake, Laura Wukela, Debbie Hyler, Mindy Taylor and Michael Miller. Chamber President Michael Miller said of the inaugural class, "This was a very special group of people committed to learning more about our education system here in Florence School District One. Each of us found many new and impressive ways that our teachers and education leaders are working to bring our students to a higher level of learning. It was an exceptional experience."



FELLOWS IN EDUCATION

A JOINT PROGRAM OF:



The Fellows program took place over the course of nine months. Each month's program centered on a different educational experience that was unique to the classroom. The Fellows in Education program offered opportunities for community leaders to contribute to the development

of better education policies in the communities in which they live and work.

For more information on the Fellows in Education program, please contact: Debbie Hyler, Executive Director, The School Foundation (843) 662-9996 or [dhyler@theschoolfoundation.org](mailto:dhyler@theschoolfoundation.org)

Michael Miller, President, Greater Florence Chamber of Commerce (843) 665-0515 or [mmiller@flochamber.com](mailto:mmiller@flochamber.com)



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*Mr. Alphonso Bradley, Director*



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have been awarded  
to South Carolina students.

\*Figures current from 2002 though 2014.

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## DARLINGTON HIGH SCHOOL JOINS INNOVATIVE SCHOOL NETWORK: TRANSFORMSC

*Submitted by Christopher McKagen, DCSD Communications Specialist*

**DARLINGTON** – Darlington High School is now a member of a growing group of schools accepted into TransformSC’s network of innovative institutions.

TransformSC, an education initiative of the South Carolina Council on Competitiveness, is a collaboration of business leaders, educators, students, parents and policy makers transforming the public education system so that every student graduates prepared for careers, college and citizenship. TransformSC schools and districts are designing, launching, promoting and proving transformative practices in the classroom.

TransformSC announced Tuesday that Darlington High School, along with 10 other schools, joined the network.

“We are proud of Darlington High School’s hard work and accomplishments,” said Dr. Eddie Ingram, Darlington County School District superintendent. “It is an important breakthrough for not only Darlington County School District but also for the Pee Dee, an area under represented in the TransformSC initiative. We look forward to adding more schools in the near future.”

Dr. Greg Harrison, principal of Darlington High School, said his school is eager to take advantage of membership in TransformSC.

“We are excited to join this transformational group of educators and business leaders as we shift our educational practices to best prepare our students for a 21st century world,” Harrison said. “We look forward to sharing and learning from others around our state who share this vision.”

The new TransformSC schools include Darlington High School, Sandhills Middle School, Westwood High School, Spring Valley High School, Blythewood High School, Meadow Glen Middle

School, Ridge View High School, Richland Northeast High School, Frances Mack Intermediate School, Sandhills Elementary School and Swansea High School.

To be accepted into the TransformSC network, the schools submitted a three-year innovation plan that is evaluated and approved by TransformSC’s Action Team Chairs and staff.

TransformSC schools commit to create a culture of innovation in their schools and to implement some combination of TransformSC’s four innovative practices: project-based learning, blended learning, continuous assessment and competency-based progression, in order to transform learning and teaching for every student and every teacher in every classroom every day.

TransformSC schools receive a variety of supports and opportunities through participation in the network, including access to national experts, mentorship opportunities with other innovative schools and assistance with the implementation of innovation plans.

Schools at all levels and stages of development are encouraged to apply for inclusion to the TransformSC network.

Currently, there are 51 schools from 19 districts, as well as three entire districts in the TransformSC network. For more information, visit [www.sccompetes.org/transformsc](http://www.sccompetes.org/transformsc).



# CCU ENDOWMENT: CALLING ALL IN

by Anna Bowman



Mark Roach

**CONWAY** -- "I'M IN – The Endowment Campaign for Coastal Carolina University" was publicly launched in April with a goal to raise CCU's endowment fund by \$20 million by 2020. The additional funding will support student scholarships and academic excellence at the University. Mark Roach, CCU's vice president for philanthropy for the last three years, is confident that the University will reach

its goal. He says the campaign has already successfully raised \$7 million in cash and pledges, with several major gifts under consideration.

Roach, along with a 22-member staff, works with alumni, community members and friends of the University to raise funds to support CCU's academic and athletic programs. "The alumni relations staff works with our more than 27,000 alumni to help them remain connected, or to reconnect, with their alma mater through various events and other activities," said Roach.

Coastal is a vibrant, growing University, and in the Fall of 2015, enrollment at CCU was at an all-time high of 10,263, which included both undergraduate and graduate students. According to Roach, the growing enrollment and expanding campus offerings help attract donors.

As a former student-athlete and graduate of Coastal, Roach is enthusiastic about working in the area of philanthropy to help raise funds for his alma mater. "I feel very fortunate to have the

opportunity to work at Coastal Carolina University," he said, "It has been incredible to come back and be a part of all the wonderful things that are happening on campus." He said he is often asked if it's hard to be a fundraiser, and he's proud to say, "It's not difficult if you believe in what you are doing and have a great product to promote." He added, "There's nothing better than playing a role in helping to educate society's future leaders."

Roach said the one of best parts of his job is interacting with the faculty, staff and students. "Everyone is truly excited to be here, and I think that has become contagious on campus. I also very much enjoy partnering with our alumni and friends of the University to secure donations that help support the financial needs of the University."

Roach and the University look forward to reaching the goal of \$20 million by 2020. "We are very excited about the direction of our 'I'M IN – Endowment Campaign, and how it will positively impact our students and the future success of Coastal Carolina University," Roach said. "Our alumni are excited about the direction of the University and the community understands the importance of CCU's \$500 million annual economic impact on the state."

To learn more about the campaign, visit [coastal.edu/endowment](http://coastal.edu/endowment) or call 843-349-2964.



**Campaign goal:**  
Increase CCU's endowment \$20 million by 2020

**What it means:**  
\$800,000 in additional funding for student scholarships and academic excellence



Thanks to the support of many of you, Coastal Carolina University has experienced extraordinary progress. The determination of the people here is unmatched by any that Terri and I have ever encountered. Now is the time for transformational philanthropy to shape the University's future. With your financial support during this campaign, imagine how many more students will discover their passions and follow their dreams. Together, we will help extend CCU's impact well beyond Horry County, beyond our state borders, and beyond even the expectations of our founding fathers who, 62 years ago, made higher education a priority and this University a reality. I'm in. Are you?"

— David A. DeCenzo, Ph.D.  
President, Coastal Carolina University

#CCUgive  
[coastal.edu/endowment](http://coastal.edu/endowment)

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# MARION COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT BEGINS NEW YEAR WITH NEW LEADERSHIP

Submitted by Deborah D. Wimberly, Coordinator of Student Information Systems and Public Relations



Dr. Kandace Bethea

**MARION** -- The Marion County School District Board of Education appointed Dr. Kandace Bethea to the position of Interim Superintendent, taking the place of retiring superintendent Dr. Dan Strickland. Bethea has served the district as Deputy Superintendent for the past four years. As a native of Marion County, Bethea has the advantage of knowing the community, its strengths and opportunities for growth. She graduated from Mullins High School and continued her studies at the University of South Carolina where she earned her undergraduate degree in elementary education going on to earn her Master of Education, Educational Specialist and Doctorate in Educational Leadership from the same university. The daughter of veteran high school English teacher, Deborah Rhames, Bethea began her career in education as an elementary teacher in Lexington School District Two and served as a school administrator in Sumter District 17 and Richland School District Two. Upon her return to Marion County, she has served a school and district administrator

for Marion County School District 1 prior to the merging of the three Marion districts.

With a transition plan soundly in place, Dr. Bethea is looking forward to preparing the district for the new school year. With a theme of pride, "We Are Marion County", and three words from the districts statement of purpose: Educate, Prepare and Inspire, she is assembling her leadership team and setting the tone. "The transition plan is focused on building strong, collaborative, productive relationships with Marion's school community," states Bethea. The district's direction, purpose and beliefs are deeply imbedded in the transition plan and will be used throughout next year to help guide all decision making. With the aim of "100 stakeholders in 100 days", she plans on many "Listen and Learn" sessions to understand current perceptions and desires for the future of students in Marion County. "I want to talk with educators, parents, students, business leaders, faith based leaders, county and city administrations, local press, civic clubs and community organizations." She also plans on continuing the Superintendent's cabinets and advisory councils.

There will be a strong focus on instructional excellence and success for all students. Three

taskforces will be created to evaluate district matters in academics, technology, and behavior interventions and support. In the upcoming year, Dr. Bethea has devised a new professional development initiative that will be implemented and is geared at engaging all staff, both in and out of the classroom, using expertise of already employed staff in the district. The G.E.M.S program, which stands for Guiding Educators for Marion's Success is not only about providing in house training requested by staff but also to build capacity within the ranks.

"I am looking to develop a transformation plan which will promote innovation in the school district" says Bethea. Many considerations are being reviewed including creating theme based schools, expanding curriculum options for early childhood as well as middle and high schools and redefining opportunities for the Gifted and Talented. "I am very excited about next year," claims Bethea. "We have a dedicated administrative team that is focused on students and together we plan to educate, prepare and inspire." Dr. Bethea has a very active life outside of her new role as Interim Superintendent with her husband, Jeremy who is a pastor at Mt. Olive Baptist Church in Mullins and their two children Jamison and Jillian.



## We Are Marion County Educate•Prepare•Inspire

### Our Direction

Marion County School District: Preparing all students to live and work effectively, responsibly and productively within our society.

### Our Purpose

Marion County School District educates, prepares and inspires students to be productive citizens in a changing global society.

### Our Beliefs

- All students can become productive members of society.
- Education is a partnership among students, families, schools, and community.
- Our children are the center of all decision making.
- Education should prepare students to succeed academically and socially so they can compete for quality jobs and become productive members of society.
- Each person has intrinsic value and worth and is a unique individual with different needs and abilities.

# FMU PROFESSORS RECOGNIZED FOR EXCELLENCE

Submitted by Angela Crosland, FMU Director of Communications



(L-R): Kennedy, Gardner, Myers, Bartz, and Knowles

Three Francis Marion University faculty members were honored for outstanding individual work during the past year at an annual faculty recognition banquet.

Professor of History Dr. Christopher M. Kennedy received the Award of Excellence in Teaching; Associate Professor of English Phillip J. Gardner received the Award of Excellence in Research; and Assistant Professor of Mathematics Dr. Jeremiah Bartz received the Award of Excellence in Service.

Dr. Fred Carter, president of FMU, said the recipients were exemplars of the overall excellence of the university's faculty.

"The entire campus joins me in congratulating Jeremiah, Phillip and Chris on these awards," said Carter. "These three colleagues are the epitome of the teacher-scholar and are among the finest members of this faculty."

Kennedy, the chair of FMU's Department of History, earned the Ph.D. in Modern European/Irish History from the National University

of Ireland/University College Cork in Cork, Ireland. He earned the M.A. in Modern European History from Providence College in Providence, R.I. and the B.S. in History from Northern Michigan University in Marquette, MI.

Gardner received the M.A. and B.A. in English from the University of North Carolina in Charlotte, NC.

Bartz earned the Ph.D. in Mathematics from the University of Oregon. He earned the M.S. and B.S. in Mathematics and the B.S. in Mechanical Engineering from the University of North Dakota.

Associate Professor of Biology and Coordinator of Wild Sumaco Biology Field Station Travis W. Knowles received the Charlene Wages Shared Governance Award, a special award presented by FMU chapter of the American Association of University Professors, at FMU's annual faculty awards dinners.

The shared governance award is given to a faculty member who has made significant contributions to shared governance -- the balance between faculty and administrative leadership at a university -- at FMU.

Knowles, a former winner of FMU's J. Lorin Mason Distinguished Professor Award, earned the M.S. and B.A. in Biology from Wake Forest University.

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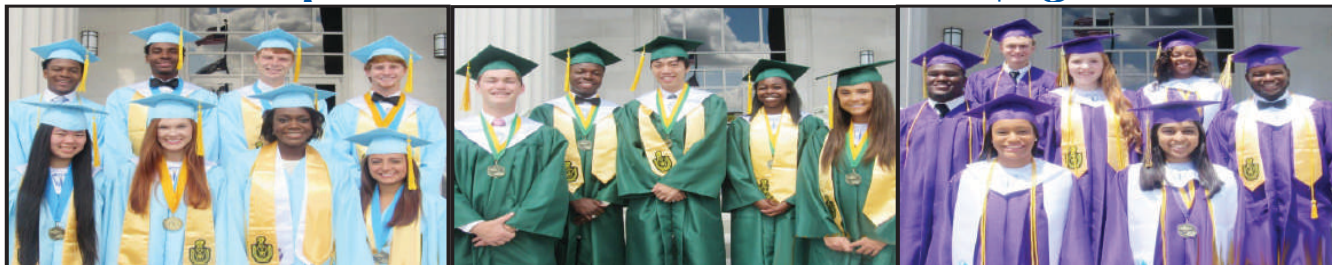


## Florence Public School District One Salutes Academic Excellence:

# The Class of 2016

—896 Graduates—

**Scholarships Awarded Total More Than \$25.8 Million**



South Florence High School

West Florence High School

Wilson High School

## The Class of 2016 Produced:

**2 National Merit Finalists**

**18 SC Academic Achievement Honors Awardees**

**105 Board of Trustees Scholars**

(Named by earning a Grade Point Average of 4.5 or higher in the Uniform Grading System)

**44 Palmetto Fellows**

(Named by earning a Grade Point Average of 3.5, a score of at least 1200 on the SAT, and/or a ranking in the top 5 percent of the graduating class)

**234 Life Scholarship Winners**

(Named by earning at least two of the following: a Grade Point Average of 3.0 or higher, a score of at least 1100 on the SAT, and/or a ranking in the top 30 percent of the graduating class)

**106 Double-Cord Graduates**

(Named by earning a Grade Point Average of 4.0 - 4.99 in the Uniform Grading System)

**236 Single-Cord Graduates**

(Named by earning a Grade Point Average of 3.0 - 3.99 in the Uniform Grading System)

**Over 74% of the Class of 2016 will be attending post-secondary institutions this fall.**

## NEW SCHOOL ADMINISTRATORS NAMED IN FLORENCE SCHOOL DISTRICT ONE

*Submitted by Pamela Little McDaniel, Florence School District One Director of Public Information*

The Florence One Board of Trustees approved the appointment of three new school administrators for the 2016-17 school year, effective July 1. They include; **David Copeland, Jr.**, Principal, Savannah Grove Elementary and **Cedrick Kennedy**, Director, Alfred E. Rush Academy; and **Stanley R. Brunson**, Assistant Superintendent of Finance and Budgeting Services.



David Copeland, Jr.

**David Copeland, Jr.**, has been named the new principal of **Savannah Grove Elementary School**. For the past three years, he has served as Assistant Principal at McLaurin Elementary. Prior to that time, Copeland held the position of mathematics and science teacher at Greenwood Elementary. He is a recipient of a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Elementary Education from Francis Marion University and a Master of Arts in Education Administration from Cambridge College in Cambridge, MA.

Mr. Copeland has received an endorsement for having completed the South Carolina Department of Education's (SDE) Transformational Leadership Academy (SCTLA). It utilizes a uniquely designed preparation program to equip individuals who aspire to be transformational school principals with a highly-specialized skill set and intensive practice in honing those skills in real school settings. The Transformational Leadership Academy design included quarterly seminars, coaching, and experiences at case-study schools. According to the SDE, participants completing the Transformational Leadership Academy, will be ready to turn around student growth in South Carolina's most challenging schools.



Cedrick Kennedy

**Cedrick Kennedy** has been named the Director of **Alfred Rush Academy**. A certified teacher and administrator, Kennedy received a Bachelor of Science in Business Management from South Carolina State University in 2004; a Master of Arts in Teaching in Business Education degree from Winthrop University

in 2006; and a Specialist in Educational Leadership degree from South Carolina State University in 2008.

He most recently served as an Assistant Principal at South Florence High School where he supervised school activities; performed teacher evaluations; facilitated a mentorship program for targeted students; and managed the Safe and Supportive Schools grant.

Prior to that time, Kennedy was a business education teacher at the Florence Career Center. His experiences also include: Dean of Students at McClintock Middle School in Charlotte, NC; Career and Technology Education Teacher; Turning Point Academy, Charlotte, NC; Technology Teacher and Robotics Coach; Carver School of Technology, Atlanta; and Business Education Teacher at Wilson High School.



Stanley E. Brunson, Jr.

**Stanley E. Brunson, Jr.**, named **Assistant Superintendent of Finance and Budget Services**, replaces retiring Chief Financial Officer Luther Rabon. Since December of 2014, Brunson has served as Director of Finance for Marion County School District in Marion, SC. Prior to that he served as Chief Financial Officer for the School District of Williamsburg County in Kingstree, SC.

Other previous positions held by Brunson include Independent Marketing Executive and Insurance Producer of Atlantic Financial Group (Myrtle Beach); Accounting/Property Manager, Galivants Ferry Farms Corporation (Aynor); Controller, The Meadows Assisted Living/Peoples Pharmacy (Wilmington, NC); and as Staff Accountant of accounting firms in Conway and Myrtle Beach. In addition, he has held the position of Assistant Controller, Corporate Trainer, and IT Coordinator for InterSouth Investments, Incorporated, in Charleston, SC. Brunson holds an MBA from Webster University and a Bachelor of Science degree in Business and Human Resources Management from Southern Wesleyan University. He is also licensed as a South Carolina School Business Official.

# THE SCHOOL GRANT FOUNDATION AWARDS MORE THAN \$114,000 TO FSD1 IN GRANTS

Submitted by Debbie Hyler, Executive Director



Major Grant Winners

School District One (FSD1) for the 2016-2017 school year. The announcement was made at a grants reception held at the Floyd Conference Center on Monday.

The TSF Grants Committee reviewed ten applications requesting a total of \$181,354.38. Five requests for Mini-Grants (projects up to \$500), were funded for the upcoming year. "Bookbags with S.W.A.G." will provide students with an opportunity to practice individual skills at home and encourages parents to get actively involved with their child's education. "Authors at Work" will teach students to use mentor texts as guides to author and publish their own individual books. "Ready, Set, Read!" will fund 11 sets of chapter books so students will be able to read and enjoy books on their level while challenging their reading ability so they can grow and become better readers. "Move it!" will fund activities that will develop the habits of mind that are necessary for scientific thinking and allow students to engage in science in ways that are similar to those used by scientists and engineers. "The Power of Steam" will fund supplies to build models in an effort to demonstrate the importance of integrating science, technology, engineering, art, and math and how we use them in the real world.

Of the five applications received in its Major Grants category (projects of \$10,000 or more), four applications were funded. Williams Middle School was awarded \$40,386.38 for "A Magical and Revolutionary Approach in Learning Foreign Languages", designed to provide better, more comprehensive, intensified foreign language instructions that allow students to improve their communication skills, sharpen their listening comprehension, improve their pronunciation,

Trisha Caulder, Chair of The School Foundation's Grants Committee (TSF) announced that the Foundation distributed a total of \$114,006.36 in grant awards to schools in Florence

be engaged and involved, and gain confidence to speak in a foreign language. John W. Moore Intermediate School was awarded \$39,489.12 for their grant "Chromebook Classrooms: Impacting our Community Through Digital Literacy", designed to engage students through the use of Google Apps for Education. Teachers will set up their classroom and students will direct their own instruction by choosing what they want to learn and how they will convey that learning to their teacher. Wilson High School was awarded \$26,326.08 for "Chromebooks and Science Literacy", which will allow the 9th grade science teachers to purchase Chromebooks and 2 Chromebook carts. This will increase the access to technology within the science classes and also increase the reading, writing and research skills of approximately 300 freshman students. Southside Middle School was awarded \$5,321.36 for "Smart Table for Smart Kids", which will purchase a Smart Table that will serve students with varying special needs. The table will provide students with Orthopedic and Intellectual disabilities the opportunity to engage in collaborative learning through the use of technology.

"We are so appreciative of the time, effort and research our teachers spent to compile these grant applications," Trisha stated. "I am amazed at the dedication and talents displayed by our FSD1 educators." Debbie Hyler, Executive Director of TSF stated "We are just thrilled by the level of excitement shown by these teachers each year. We are confident this enthusiasm will carry over into the classroom. FSD1 is very fortunate to have such dedicated and caring educators."



Mini Grant Winners

To date, over \$1,091,355.76 in funds have been distributed by TSF to FSD1. This funding would not be possible without the support of the community and our donors. For additional information, contact Debbie Hyler,

Executive Director, at [dhyler@theschoolfoundation.org](mailto:dhyler@theschoolfoundation.org) or call (843) 662-9996.



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# ENORMOUS OUTLOOK FOR UP AND COMING ATCHA!!!

by Anna Bowman



Andrea Snow

**CONWAY** – In today’s economy, people are looking for careers that will allow them to make a steady income in a tight job market. They’re looking for training that’s affordable, instructors with vast knowledge who can relate to each student on a personal level, along with hands-on experience. All of these special characteristics can be found on the campus of Miller-Motte Technical College in Conway.

The Conway campus offers degree, diploma and certificate programs in fields like Allied Health and Cosmetic Arts programs, as well as their CDL program. With a current enrollment of 600, students receive individual attention that they need to succeed academically. The smaller class environment allows students to interact with their instructors for an in-depth training experience, where they can train for a career in 18 to 24 months in their chosen career path.


Miller-Motte Technical College (MMTC) can attribute its growing success to a faculty and staff that ensures that each student is provided with a career track that will allow them to be successful upon graduation. Andrea Snow, Director of Education, is responsible for overseeing all things “academics” at the Conway campus. She is responsible for curriculum/course management, student management, and managing the Program Directors, instructors, and Academics staff. She is also responsible for completing HR/Payroll tasks, advising other campuses and Directors of Education and attending community events on behalf of MMTC, as she enthusiastically stated, “No two days are the same in my world!”

Snow, who has been with the college since 2011, had been in her current position since July 2014, and absolutely loves working with students, who are really looking to change their future and their life. “Our enrollment is growing due to the positive impact we have with

our student population. I’m able to be involved with making a difference in our students’ lives as they embark on their career journey, and in turn, these students are obtaining employment and making a difference in their communities.”

She proudly stated, “Miller-Motte Technical College does a great job of living up to our mantra, “Changing Futures, Changing Lives.” You can speak to any one of our graduates to affirm this statement, she said, adding, “Our staff and faculty are top notch. I have been given a wonderful gift to be a part of the journey of our students, and I hope to continue to assist them on this path and continue to ensure our campus, students, and graduates are making a positive impact in our community along the Grand Strand.”

Miller-Motte Technical College assists students upon graduation with their Career Services team, by assisting graduates with preparation for the workforce and to provide with job placement assistance. These services aren’t only for recent graduates, but throughout an individual’s entire career. For additional information, individuals can contact MMTC at 800.705.9182 to speak to an Admissions Representative about your career plans. You can also request information via online to get additional details about various programs.

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## MOORE FOUNDATION PRESENTS GIFT

Submitted by FDTC



Darla Moore and Dr. Ben R. Dillard, President

The Darla Moore Foundation announced a \$5 million gift to the Florence-Darlington Technical College (FDTC) Educational Foundation at a ceremony held at the Southeastern Institute of Manufacturing and Technology (SiMT). This award is thought to be the largest gift of its kind ever to a South Carolina technical college.

“It is with much gratitude that I would like to thank the Darla Moore Foundation for this unprecedented and generous gift to one of South Carolina’s technical colleges,” said FDTC President Dr. Ben P. Dillard.

“We believe that this gift will significantly enhance the opportunities and services offered to students in the Lake City area of Florence County,” said Darla Moore of the Darla Moore Foundation Board of Trustees.

“We are excited about the possibilities that this gift affords us for moving FDTC forward in Lake City,” said Jill Lewis, FDTC’s Vice President for Institutional Advancement.

The primary focus of this \$5 million gift will be the creation of a culinary and hospitality program at FDTC’s Lake City site. In addition, a portion of the money will be used to provide emergency grants, loans, and academic scholarships to students at FDTC’s Lake City campus.

Another goal of the gift is to enhance the dual credit/dual enrollment program (known as FDTC’s Early College Program) within Florence (Public) School District 3. Finally, the gift is intended to assist FDTC in its economic development activities in the Lake City area and in its efforts to secure employment for graduates of FDTC’s Lake City site.

## FDTC REBRANDS ITS ONLINE COLLEGE

Submitted by FDTC



One of Florence-Darlington Technical College’s (FDTC) most popular academic programs has been rebranded. FDTC’s Online College is now called the South Carolina Virtual College of FDTC.

FDTC was the first college in the state to offer complete academic programs on the Internet. In addition, the South Carolina Virtual College of FDTC offers more than 100 courses, ranging from public speaking to accounting and everything in-between. Over the last year, there have been many student-focused initiatives implemented to help students succeed in the online education environment. To name a few, some of these initiatives include online tutoring support, online library services and an online bookstore. The new South Carolina Virtual College of FDTC has even a changed how online classes look and feel with a weekly format.

“Student success in online classes is one of my top priorities,” said director of the South Carolina Virtual College of FDTC, Derk Riechers. “It is vital that today’s online student has all campus related services available in the online environment. For instance, having online tutoring support for all students 24/7 helps students directly succeed in their classes. I am very excited about the future of online education at FDTC, as there are many exciting initiatives on the horizon to further support success in the online classroom.”

The South Carolina Virtual College of FDTC is a convenient educational option for students who are unable to attend classes on a daily basis or for students who are trying to make up ground by getting ahead before the next semester. Many students also take the courses because they feel more comfortable completing their work from home, rather than in a classroom full of students.

If you think the South Carolina Virtual College of FDTC is a better fit for your busy schedule, be sure to stop by Room 5214 in the 5000 Building on the main campus and talk with Derk Riechers or Lamar Younginger.

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For more information contact FDTC’s Dual Enrollment Office at 843-661-8120.

## [www.fdtc.edu](http://www.fdtc.edu)



# He's an Attorney

## JEBAILY IS KNOWN FOR BOUNDLESS TALENTS



Ron Jebaily

Ron Jebaily is a man of many titles, including husband, father, grandfather, friend, attorney, and at times, philosopher and historian. Around Florence, he is known for his passion for justice within the legal system as a Workers' Compensation attorney and founding partner at Jebaily Law Firm. Since he was a young man, Ron always wanted to help people in any way he could. He felt it was his calling to work within the justice system.

Ron's parents, John and Sylvia, first moved from Brooklyn, New York to Florence with three of his brothers in 1963. After he graduated from St. John's University in New York, Ron followed suit in 1966. Ron established Jebaily Law Firm after graduating from the University of South Carolina's Law School in 1969. Ron purchased the property on the corner of Evans and Coit Streets, an abandoned Esso station, with the intention of establishing his firm as a downtown presence. It is strategically located a block from the Florence County Courthouse and a block from the Federal Courthouse. The firm remains at the same location.

Ron "laid the cornerstone" of an ever-growing and successful practice that has been praised for years because of its passionate lawyers and dedicated staff. For 47 years he has been practicing law and sticking up for the "little man." Through the years, Ron practiced many different kinds of law- Criminal, Domestic, Personal Injury and Bankruptcy, but truly found his calling with Workers' Compensation. "I came to believe that injured workers are number two, after injured children, in terms of being deserving, and I feel wonderful representing them," Ron said.

Ron's brother, George, joined his practice in 1984, and took over the Personal Injury practice. Suzanne, Ron's wife, joined him in practicing Workers' Compensation in 2008. This year, Ron and George's nephew, Brian Yost, joined the Workers' Compensation team. With the other attorneys in the office, they are truly the embodiment of a family owned and operated practice. For Ron and George, family is very important, so to be able to work with family adds an advantage by working together to find solutions for their clients.

Ron thoroughly enjoys his job and being able to help injured people. The part he enjoys most is being able to successfully help his clients get all the benefits they are entitled to under the law. People come to see him scared, angry, and in pain. Seeing clients

be able to regain a sense of normalcy in their lives has an uplifting effect on Ron. It motivates him to continue on in his quest for justice. He credits his success as an attorney to two virtues, compassion and courage.

Ron states, "In my own life, I've

been able to boil down everything that steers us as humans to being compassionate and courageous. If I live everyday with these two, all the other virtues will take care of themselves. As Winston Churchill observed, "courage is the queen of all virtues, not because she is the greatest but because she makes the rest of them possible."

As a Workers' Compensation attorney, Ron is an active member of the legal community. Ron is a member of the Florence County



Ron Jebaily receives Life Achievement Award

and SC Bar Associations, and the South Carolina Association for Justice, as well as a member of the National Workplace Injury Law and Advocacy Group. Ron is a longtime member and past president of the SC Injured Workers' Advocates (IWA). Within the IWA, he is an active member, founder, and former chairman of the Judicial Affairs Committee. In 2012, the IWA honored Ron with the "Friend of the Little Man Award," the award most coveted by the organization for his many years of dedication to the wellbeing of the working people of South Carolina. Ron is also a longtime member

of the SC Workers' Compensation Education Association (SCWCEA), where he has served as a board member and co-chairman of the SCWCEA's Program Committee. The SCWCEA presented Ron with the Lifetime Achievement Award in 2015, for his many years of dedicated commitment to the advancement of Workers' Compensation law.

Today, Jebaily Law Firm has attorneys that cover cases in Workers' Compensation, Personal Injury, Social Security Disability, Probate, and Family Law. Along with Ron, George, Suzanne, and Brian, the firm also employs Rangeley Bailey and Brooke Allen as attorneys. Rangeley's practice focuses on Personal Injury and Social Security Disability and Brooke's practice is primarily Family Law and Probate. Time and time again, the firm has been recognized for excellence in client service and dedication to the community. Its family values and small business approach make clients feel at home and comfortable with their attorneys and paralegals. At Jebaily Law Firm, clients are not just another number or file; they are treated like the individuals they are, and the staff at the firm will do everything they can to help them navigate their way through their encounter with the law. The advantages of being a family owned-business include stability and continuity, as well as enhancing opportunities for community involvement. The firm prides itself on maintaining a family atmosphere and welcoming clients as part of the extended family when handling their legal matters. Ron Jebaily's past and continued work in the legal field will leave a legacy in Florence that will not be forgotten.

Jebaily Law Firm is one of South Carolina's long-established and well-respected law firms. The firm offers legal help for people with injuries caused by others, job-related injuries, Social Security Disability, Family Law problems, and probate issues. They serve people in the Pee Dee and surrounding regions of South Carolina. For answers to your legal questions, contact Jebaily Law Firm at 843-667-0400 to get the answers and help you need.



Ron Jebaily and his family





# Appreciating Our Postal Workers



## ONE OF A KIND IN SERVICE

by Anna Bowman



Renee Graham

Before the Internet introduced the world to the World Wide Web, and eventually email, one of the ways for people to keep in contact, other than the telephone, was to send someone something through the United States Postal Service.

Often times, people, especially children, would wait on “pins and needles,” for a special letter to arrive in their mail box; perhaps a child’s birthday card from their grandparents, with a little monetary surprise for their birthday! Or maybe a wedding invitation from a close family friend. Even though the rate of letters, sent and received, has declined over the years, the significance of the postal service, has, and always will be an extremely important part of our culture. In fact, Even though the advent of the Internet has cut the use of First Class mail for the use of Bill Presentment for many Americans, e-commerce has added growth in the need for

package delivery for the Postal Service, with an increase of 10% per year for the last five years.

During her 29-year career with the postal service, Renee Graham, has seen many changes, but like all postal employees, she understands the importance of their service to the community.

After graduating from college, Graham worked in the retail industry, but soon wanted to try her hands at doing something different. “In December of 1987, I started off working as a LSM operator (Letter Sorting Machine),” said Graham. In 1993, she took the position of General Clerk, and today she’s an Acceptance Agent with the Postal Service.

Graham proudly stated, “I’m the only Acceptance Agent in the city of Florence, with the exception of one person, who is currently being trained.” Since joining the USPS in 1993, Renee Graham has been the voice of customer service at the Florence Post Office, taking all phone calls and handling important retail needs: Passport applications, post office box rentals, and all related customer retail and delivery issues.

A graduate of Francis Marion College, (now Francis Marion University), Graham, who has a bachelor’s degree in Business Administration, believes the most important skills needed to work in her position are to be patient and courteous of the needs of everyone you encountered throughout the workday. “With the amount of calls that we receive daily, I have to treat each and every one as if it was the only call I received. I treat each customer with the respect that they deserve,” she explained.

Graham, a married mother of two children, a son and step-daughter, is also the grandmother of two grandsons. In her leisure time, she enjoys reading and she’s also an amateur jewelry maker.



## REED FIRMLY ROOTED IN HIS COUNTRY’S PROTECTION AND ADVANCEMENTS

by Anna Bowman



Rick Reed

**HILTON HEAD** – In a few short months, Rick Reed will celebrate a 20-year milestone with the US Postal Service; the last three years, of which, he’s served as the Postmaster in the renowned coastal resort town of Hilton Head.

After an impressive 22-year career in the United States Air Force, as a flight crew member on the KC-135 Model Aircraft, Reed decided to pursue a career with the US Postal Service. An enthusiastic Reed explained the reason why he intentionally transitioned to his current career. “I decided on the path with the postal service after my military career, primarily because I was committed to working in the Federal Sector. I was used to the structure and possibilities that may present itself with

someone such as myself that was dedicated and possessed a solid work ethic that would entail growth potential,” he said.

His decision to pursue a career with the US Postal Service has afforded Reed a second career, and his current extraordinary position as postmaster. Reed exuberantly summarizes his daily duties, “As Postmaster, I am responsible for all US Postal related activities in the town of Hilton Head Island which includes, but is not limited to, a staff of approximately 90 employees, all postal facilities and their upkeep, mail delivery, collection of mail, the protection and sanctity of the mails, all sales and service operations, Passport Operations and the maintenance of the professional relationships with the commitment to providing the absolute best service possible to our customers.”

It’s no secret, but when most people think of the “Post Office,” they often think of people delivering mail – which is a major operation for the postal service – however Reed is quick to set the record straight. Since the 1700s, the Postal Service, has steadily grown and embraced new inventions/ technology to better serve a growing population with all of its postal services.

People don’t normally think about the Postal Service during the time of the country’s

natural disaster, but, occurring to Reed, they should. “We are generally the first Federal Agency that is on the scene when there’s a natural disaster; attempting to recover, clean up and rebuild the transportation network to provide mail delivery services,” he said, adding, “We tend to put our own personal situations on hold until the Postal Service and our facilities are back running up to speed.

Reed also stated, that since the Internet introduced online shops via the web, the Postal Service has become the number one company of choice for all Amazon Prime deliveries, to include Sunday and holiday deliveries. The USPS also partners with local food shelters in the communities

Community involvement is also important to the USPS, as well. The company allows its more than 10,000 letters carriers to participate in the annual, “Stamp Out Hunger National Food Drive,” which is the largest one-day food drive in the nation.

Reed, the father of two sons and two daughters, is also “Papa” to five grandchildren. During his leisure time, he enjoys pursuing his two passions: cooking and deep sea fishing.





# Appreciating Our Parks & Recreation

## CITY REC LIVING ITS NAME TO THE FULLEST

by Ta'Meeka Epps



Glamour Girlz

Community is defined by Webster-Merriam dictionary as an “interacting population of various kinds of individuals in a common location. Add to that definition, the Director of the City of Florence Parks and Recreation Ms. Darlene Buchanan’s definition, “A diverse group of people living in and near the city of Florence who participate

in our programs as well as the ones we desire to introduce and draw into our programs; and you have the perfect definition of what Parks and Recreation embodies: Community

The City operates and maintains 16 neighborhood park sites and facilities totaling more than 600 acres, including several miles of an extensive trail system, 27 ballfields, 52 tennis courts, 13 outdoor basketball courts, 10 playgrounds, 10 picnic shelters, an administrative office and five community center buildings. Program opportunities are geared to various age groups and are coordinated through department staff with community organizations to provide a wide range of programs and activities which enhance the quality of life for the Florence resident. While many of the athletic programs are geared to accommodate the at-large community population, specific activities, such as the summer playground program, after school program, Glamour Girlz dance team and P.A.L. program, are directed at neighborhood parks and community residents.

(Retrieved from URL [cityofflorence.com/departments/parks](http://cityofflorence.com/departments/parks))

Parks are such a vital component of a livable, sustainable, community that it is difficult to imagine a community without parks, trails, and other recreational resources and the positive changes such parks and recreation centers create for the entire neighborhood.



Youth Basketball

Prior to 1985 June was celebrated as national Park and Recreation month when Walter Payton, Hall of Fame running back of the Chicago Bears, was brought on board in July 1985 to endorse the change to July as Park and Recreation Month.

He said, “Children, and really this applies to all of us, at times must be ‘sold’ on recreation. I know my own four-year-old son, Jarett, is much more likely to be interested in an activity or a certain toy once he sees other children have found it to be a good time.”

While technology has advanced and information about Park and Recreation Month has certainly changed, unfortunately the goals for “selling” the idea of parks and recreation have remained the same. Darlene Buchanan stated, “It is a fact that citizen participation is a desired and necessary part of any community based program, the Park and Recreation department is as diverse as the communities that they serve, the individuals who choose to participate in the programs offered by Parks and Recreation make a personal choice to be involved thus making the work of the agency interesting, fun and necessary.”

At the heart of the Parks and Recreation programs are the children, their safety and enjoyment. The program seeks to fulfill the needs of the total person, physical, mental and social and as the child grows so does the Parks and Recreation program. Parks and Recreation offers programs and services for all ages, intellect and abilities.

Parks and recreation offer many values that make them essential services to communities:

- **Strengthens community image and sense of belonging**

The City of Florence’s parks and community centers provide a place

for citizens to gather for citywide festivals, as well as public and private events. Florence’s Parks and Recreation hosts a variety of citywide events that bring the community together. Parks provide gathering places for families and social groups, as well as for individuals of all ages and economic status, regardless of their ability to pay for access. Community pride is generated through leisure and park facilities.

- **Promotes health and wellness**

There are numerous national campaigns promoting an active lifestyle echoing the belief of Parks and Recreation, participating in regular physical activity is one of the most important things that people of all ages can do to improve their overall well being and health.

Parks and Recreation provides athletic programs, fitness and nutrition informational sessions, and recreation activities to get people moving and improving their health and fitness. It also provides facilities for residents to be active on their own, parks, trails, outdoor fitness stations, and recreation centers.

Positive and enjoyable recreation experiences can decrease stress and mental anguish. Leisure activities provide people with the opportunity to expel energy and emotion not being released in other aspects of their lives.



Freedom Park

- **Supports human development**

The City of Florence’s Parks and Recreation is about expanding the richness of human life while bringing together people of diverse backgrounds creating community through shared activities and experiences. Services

provided by Parks and Recreation foster social, intellectual, physical and emotional development across all age groups.

There is no greater opportunity for people to experience self-actualization and the spiritual renewal, creative expression, discovery and stimulation than leisure/recreational activities offers. After school study programs, athletic team play, as well as arts and crafts classes enlighten children about the concept of team play: Together Everyone Achieves More. Positive conflict resolution is a skill which can be applied throughout one’s entire life; a skill all instructors aim to instill within each participant of the program.

- **Provides recreational experiences**

Individuals participate in recreational activities for enjoyment, amusement, pleasure and lastly educational benefits for overall better health and fitness. Parks and Recreation through year round programmed and self-facilitated recreation, individualized through the ratio of participants to instructors, offers a variety of benefits to individuals. Recreational experiences are important as a means for personal enjoyment for youth, teenagers and seniors. The Department of Parks and Recreation is concerned with providing an experience for participants when they choose to spend their free time utilizing the community centers, athletic/dance programs, parks and trails.



The organized recreation programs are designed to meet a variety of physical, mental, and social needs and have led to recreation playing a role as a social instrument for well-being and growth and, in some cases, change. Leaders are being

trained, developed and nurtured through leisure organizations and various athletic teams and programs. The City of Florence’s Parks and Recreation department is a breeding ground of individuals who perform and succeed on the highest levels in competition, scholastic achievement and grow to become responsible productive human beings in society; strengthening the Community.



# Appreciating Our Parks & Recreation

## SUMMERING IN DOWNTOWN DARLINGTON

Submitted by Lisa Chaplain-Rock, Planning Director



**DARLINGTON--** The kids are out of school, and the question becomes, "What to do?" In the City of Darlington, there are a variety of activities and events for young and old alike to enjoy.

**Go swimming.** What's summer without at least one afternoon by the pool? **The Darlington City Pool** is open to the public Tuesday through Saturday from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. for just \$1 per day. Members at the **Darlington Family YMCA** and **Darlington Country Club** also have poolside options. Darlington Area Recreation also offers swimming lessons by appointment.

**Curl up with a good book.** Head to the Darlington Library at 204 N. Main St. to catch up on your summer reading. You'll find the usual books, magazines, and newspapers, but you also can register to download e-Books at home if you prefer tech to paperbacks.

**Practice your favorite sports.** Darlington Area Recreation has a host of camps including basketball and football as well as a summer basketball league ongoing at both of the City's gyms. You can check into karate, boxing, and summer dance classes with Patsy Hathcock too. Call 843-398-4030 for details.

**Explore the outdoors.** Take a hike and birdwatch through Williamson Park, a 70-acre woodland preserve just a few blocks from downtown. Home to more than 300 species of flora and fauna, **Williamson Park** serves as home sweet home to Barred Owls, Red Shouldered Hawks, and Pileated woodpeckers along with many others and is an ideal bird watching venue. Abundant seed- and nectar-producing plants provide a great refueling station for birds passing through the area. The trails are a mix of natural paths and wooden boardwalks crossing Swift Creek. For more information, visit [www.williamsonpark.org](http://www.williamsonpark.org).

**Go treasure hunting!** Darlington offers several antiques outlets for those who love to search for buried treasures. Dig through more than 20,000 square feet of furniture, handmade rugs, and other collectibles at **Scarlett's Antiques** at 500 E. Broad St., housed inside an old tobacco warehouse where the crop was once dried, packed, and sold. Then, stop by the historic downtown and see an extensive collection of custom, handmade fine jewelry, silverware and silver plates as well as many other antique items including furniture and artwork at **The Jewelers Bench** at 60 Public Square. Around the corner, **All Star Sports Cards Plus** at 114 Cashua St. has a collectible (or two) for you no matter your favorite sport. Come explore the rich history of the region at the **Darlington County Historical Commission**, housed in the old county jail. Head to **B&B Variety & Antiques** at 703 Pearl St. to search two buildings full of antique and modern collectibles. In the shadow of the Track Too Tough To Tame, the **Darlington Raceway Stock Car Museum** houses a large collection of stock cars, including those driven to victory by Richard Petty, Bill Elliott, David Pearson and others. Admission is \$5 for adults and free for children ages 12 and younger.

**Hit the Market.** The **Market on Darlington Square** has vendors, live music, food, and special events on the first Saturday of the month May through October from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Special events include the Ag-Simulator in August, a children's sidewalk chalk art contest in September, and the Showdown at the Square Chili Cook-Off in October.

Visit [www.darlingtonSConline.com](http://www.darlingtonSConline.com) for the latest Calendar of Events, or follow the City of Darlington on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/DarlingtonSC](http://www.facebook.com/DarlingtonSC).

[williamsonpark.org](http://williamsonpark.org)

Become  
One  
With  
Nature



More than 300  
Species of Plants  
and Animals

Darlington 5000  
5K Run/Walk  
September 10th



Learn and  
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South Carolina  
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[DiscoverSouthCarolina.com](http://DiscoverSouthCarolina.com)

[www.DarlingtonSConline.com](http://www.DarlingtonSConline.com)



# Appreciating Our Parks & Recreation

## SUMMER'S MOSAIC OF OFFERINGS

Contributed by the Florence Convention and Visitors Bureau



2016 Plant and Flower Festival

Using flower sight-seeing as an excuse to go exploring across the region should lift the spirits of anyone who experienced this wet winter. How about planning a Friday night stay somewhere delightful and spending the morning at one of these colorful summer celebrations?

There are so many, you could throw a dart and pop a balloon flower just about anywhere in the region. To name just a few...

In McBee, **McLeod Farms**, family-owned and operated since 1916, invites the community to celebrate its hand-picked peach harvest on the Saturday after the Fourth of July. McLeod Farms is one of the largest peach growers in the Southeast.

Otherwise, you might like to try the new boutique hotel in Lake City, called Inna at the Crossroads. There's a farmers' market every week in Lake City, but an opportunity for experiencing Moore Farms Botanical Garden would be the Rain as a Resource class Saturday, July 16, or Foodscaping 101, a landscaping class that embraces beauty and utility in its function. Guest presenter Brie Arthur will explain why pairing edibles with ornamentals is functional and attractive.



RedWolves

In Florence, the **RedWolves** baseball team is in full swing at Francis Marion University's Sparrow Stadium. The affiliate of the Coastal Plain League provides fun for the entire family through August. For the team's schedule, visit [florencewolves.com](http://florencewolves.com).

Head to the beach for coastal comfort food for supper, such as shrimp and grits, or head to **Brookgreen Gardens'** Gullah Program. There will be an entertaining and informative session about the culture, food, language and history of the Gullah Geechee people presented by Ron Daiase, vice president of Creative Education and a Gullah descendant. Brookgreen is a gardener's delight, and their staff and guest gardening experts are sure to be excellent. The event is free with admission.

For an old-fashioned and hands-on experience, there's an event note likely likeable in the Tobacco Heritage Day on Aug. 13 at the **L. W. Paul Living History Farm** in Conway. This event includes hand-typing and stringing tobacco as well as domestic activities such as grinding grits and meal. Live music, children's activities, rural farm life interpretations will be featured as well. Also at L.W. Paul Living History Farm is a series of Saturday afternoon programs offered free to the public that include such subjects as Gullah history to wildlife and music.

At the **Williams Muscadine Vineyard and Farm**, go back in history on a 5-acre vineyard with an 80-year-old farm house. Muscadine season runs from mid-August to mid-September. Go see what farm life was like for African Americans, and while you're there you also can tour an animal farm and taste the best muscadines on a preeminent farm. And don't miss out on the farm's Labor Day weekend festival.

Although there is much more to see and do, this should give you some idea of where to start. Check the [www.visitflo.com/events](http://www.visitflo.com/events) calendar for more details and look at [www.easternsheritage.com/inns/](http://www.easternsheritage.com/inns/) for ideas on where to stay. You are sure to enjoy spring when you get out and about in eastern South Carolina to smell the roses, and maybe even buy a few for your own garden.

# South Carolina's REVOLUTIONARY RIVERS

Don't just read history... paddle history.

[visitflo.com/sc-revolutionary-rivers](http://visitflo.com/sc-revolutionary-rivers)

South Carolina  
Just right.





# Diversity Awareness Month

## CELEBRATING DIVERSITY LIMITLESSLY

Submitted by Andrea Frondorf



Andrea Frondorf

When I think of the word, **diversity**, it makes me think about how we actually make ourselves known to one another. Whether we are referring to race, religion, education, type of food we prefer, kind of music we listen to, where we like to vacation or the various career paths we choose, we are known by our diverse choices. We also have the ability to embrace each other in our diverse choices. I believe that this word and concept is to be celebrated

because no matter how you look at it, when you view it as a whole, it is always greater than the sum of its parts. If we were to compare this to our Downtown Revitalization that is continuing to skyrocket, we can embrace the diverse activity all around us! Again, the whole (Downtown) is greater than the sum of its parts (one particular restaurant, event or person). We all make up the celebration, individually, together!

Being involved with the Downtown revitalization has allowed me many opportunities to appreciate the vast differences in our community. When I began managing Dolce Vita Chocolate & Wine Shop when it opened three years ago, there was a huge range of people exploring the newness of S. Dargan Street and all we had to offer. We now have more restaurants, the museum, the Waters Building on over to Evans Street with the hotel, even more restaurants, as well as shopping and continued growth as the downtown's diversity expands. It is evident that the more diverse we become, the greater there is to offer and explore. Our atmosphere



Photo Credit Phillip with True Light Photography

has developed into a fun, inviting and electric atmosphere that simply draws people in and together. It doesn't matter if you are white, black, Asian, mixed, older, younger or even a toddler...it simply doesn't matter as we are all growing together, having fun downtown, together.

To many of us, we have been embracing this diversity for years and celebrating the fact that we all can come together and enjoy new experiences and new people! We have been trying new foods, sampling new drinks and dancing literally in the streets and courtyards with a vast array of different genres of music - beach music to Painted Man dance music, to classic rock, to southern rock...the diversity has been fun and is continuing! The food choices continue to expand and the events continue to grow. There is so much celebration in our choices of where we get to go and what we get to do!

The history of our city may have shown diverse separations in our past, but the future of our city shows diverse togetherness. If we continue to embrace and celebrate this word, diversity, we can gain a more creative, enjoyable life as we gain new perspective and appreciate our differences. We are allowing the potential to embrace new relationships, new experiences and new events as we get to know each other better and actually celebrate each other, with all of our differences. When you stay fixated on the vision of where you're going, the value of diversity increases!

As the people of Florence have been looking for new outlets to enjoy, new people to meet and new experiences to embrace, I am here to say it's never been as great of a time to celebrate our diversity as it is now - and it will continue to get better and better!



## ALL THAT AND MORE

by Les Echols



Les Echols

There are a number of events and months to celebrate cultural awareness, ethnicity, and different populations throughout the year. From Black History Month to LGBT history Month, there are several groups that have celebrations dedicated on their behalf. Although many of these are highly effective individually, they are still limited because they are fragmented into different subsets of people. Unfortunately, it also seems that even in 2016, many are unaware of the true impact of diversity. Diversity

Awareness Month, is a month that can assist in these areas by giving an aggregate perspective by combining the best aspects of each culture.

Diversity Awareness Month is not just a random combination of every ethnicity; it is an opportunity to look at all of them as one. Other forms of recognition, such as heritage celebrations and awareness weeks, are important in that our learning is continuous and involves a variety of professionals with experiences, identities and characteristics that can challenge and diversify our mindsets. Discussions of social justice and inclusion can be brought to the table, as many feel that no diversity conversation is complete without those two aspects. A number of major corporations celebrate Diversity Awareness, and rightfully so. With some of the biggest employers in the state, the Pee Dee region is an area that is particularly conscious of differing cultures and races.

A plethora of differing celebrations and events take place across the nation. Many Fortune 500 companies don't just celebrate diversity; they immerse themselves in celebrating both the differences and similarities of their respective human resources. Colleges and universities proudly celebrate diversity with festivals, forums and open houses.

Diversity Awareness Month has come a long way from being just a mark on the calendar. It is an effective and efficient way to celebrate different aspects of diversity under one inclusive umbrella.



A Series Of Events Designed To Increase Awareness And Stimulate Conversations About The Value Of Diversity In America



# Artist Appreciation Month

## SOUL-SEARCHING ART WINS 2016 ARTFIELDS

by Stephanie Navarro



*Top Prize Winner for the 2016 ArtFields, Charles Clary, is an art teacher at the Governor's School for the Performing Arts in Tennessee and works to empower his students, helping them find their own potential.*

ArtFields is one of the premier art competitions in the Southeast region, celebrating art by showcasing regional artists specializing in a broad range of styles and mediums. Made famous for its integration of art and community, ArtFields awards over \$100,000 in prize money each year. This year's Top Prize Winner, Charles Clary, walked away with \$50,000 for *Be Kind Rewind*, an

inventive, nostalgic installation of retrofitted VHS tapes each individually incorporating Charles' unique paper sculptures. Catching up with Charles between a well-deserved honeymoon in Scotland with wife Mary and preparing to return to work, I was able to learn more about his art, inspiration and incredible journey.

### DW: Was art important to you growing up?

As far back as I can remember, I have been drawing and making things. I remember whittling a sailboat out of some scrap wood and using toothpicks and paper for the sails when I was in the fifth grade.

### DW: What inspires your art?

When I was in middle school, I wanted to be a microbiologist but then I saw movies like *The Andromeda Strain* and quickly changed my mind. Those images of bacteria and viruses stayed with me though and I'm still fascinated by fungi and bacterium. I am also inspired by



*Charles Clary's winning installation, Be Kind Rewind, featured 210 VHS tapes each meticulously inlaid with Charles' signature paper sculptures. Charles has 200 additional VHS tapes completed and another 1500 waiting to be started.*

open pit mining, hot springs, electron microscope imagery, mold growth, rotten food, Dr. Seuss, animated cartoons and color.

### DW: How has your art developed over time and why did you begin working with paper?

In college, I painted and explored how music



*This large-scale installation of 204 paper towers represented Charles' mother's battle with and eventual passing from cancer. "I wish she had been able to see it," says Charles.*

was a Dr. Seussian virus that used the listener as a carrier to infect other spaces. After going to New York City for a residency, I started incorporating cut out drawings into the environment of my paintings. I knew the paintings weren't working for me and I finally realized that I was creating 2-D depictions of a world that needed to be realized as 3-D. On a whim, I stopped by a paper store and saw that Martha Stewart had a great selection of scrapbook paper. I'm a bit embarrassed to admit that I bought a handful of sheets and took them back to my studio, but I haven't looked back since. Soon, my art became more about fungal growths taking over a space. I started with small experiments no bigger than 12 inches by 12 inches and 5 layers deep and quickly evolved into large-scale installations.

### DW: What specifically influenced your 2016 ArtFields entry *Be Kind Rewind*?

In February of 2013, I lost both my parents to cancer. Dealing with my parents passing forced me to look back on my childhood. I was the youngest of three children and was raised by my mother Kristen Clary, who was a single parent. As a child, I had to endure a lot of personal traumas: divorce, alcoholism, bullying, depression, anxiety. On the weekends movies became my surrogate parents allowing me to have an hour or two reprieve. As I walked

through thrift stores and flea markets, I began to notice all of these wonderful films that had essentially saved me as a child being sold for pennies on the dollar. I wanted to save them and reenergize them with life, almost to pay them back for all they had done for me.

### DW: Was there a difference in your art before and after the passing of your parents?

Before their passing, the work was music-centered and jovial. After, the process became internalized, emotional and cathartic. It centers around aggression and deep-seated trauma that eventually heals itself. The idea is that we all carry around our own beautiful scars. I use drywall and repurposed wallpaper and create violent openings and then allow my paper sculptures to heal those wounds.

My mother's passing hit me the hardest. Eventually, when I was able to pick up a knife again, I used my art to investigate cancer and what it might look like if it were Dr. Seussian. I ended up creating an exhibition as a memorial to her. From diagnosis to death, my mother survived seven months. The installation I created was 8 feet by 45 feet by 10 inches, my largest, and had a paper tower that represented the months, weeks and days of that time period with 204 towers in total. It took me 6 months to complete and during that time, it was like I could take all of those days back and be with her again.

### DW: Will you take a break now that you've won ArtFields?

I'm not happy unless I'm making something every day. For me, art is a meditative experience and a bit of an obsession. I plan on doing several large scale projects in the near future. I don't think I've reached my full potential with paper and I'm just thankful for the opportunity to continue my work.

Originally from East Tennessee, Charles earned a Bachelor of Fine Arts in painting with a minor in Illustration from Middle Tennessee State University and a Master of Fine Arts from the Savannah College of Art and Design. He has shown his work around the world and has received numerous awards and accolades throughout his decade long career. Besides producing his extensive body of work, Charles has dedicated the past seven years to teaching, serving at Middle Tennessee State University, Coastal Carolina University and the Governor's School for the Performing Arts in Tennessee. To see more of Charles' art, visit his website at [www.charlesclary.com](http://www.charlesclary.com).







# Artist Appreciation Month

## THE ARTS COMMUNITY BESTOWS 2016 AWARDS

Submitted by Uschi Jeffcoat, Executive Director of FRAA

Annually, The Florence Regional Arts Alliance presents a series of awards recognizing the important contributions that individuals, groups and businesses make to the cultural life of our community. In addition, the efforts and hard work of students dedicated to the arts are celebrated through awards and scholarships. Nominations are solicited each spring from the community and awarded by the Florence Regional Arts Alliances Board of Directors. The awards themselves are a work of art. Ms. Jen Ervin was commissioned by the Florence Regional Arts Alliance's Awards committee to create the 2016 Arts Awards. An exhibit featuring her work was open for viewing through June 10 in the Waters Gallery, located at 135 South Dargan Street. Gallery hours are Monday through Friday 10 am to 5 pm.

The following individuals were recognized through these awards at a reception held in their honor:



President Elect Sandy Cook, President Michele Pridgen and Kelly Jokish

Kelly M. Jokish was awarded the John W. Baker Award. This Award recognizes an individual from Florence County who has significantly impacted the quality of life in our community through his/her activities, contributions, and/or accomplishments in the arts. Mrs. Jokish has taken a university/community concert band and with her talents developed musical events that the Florence community can boast about. Not to mention sharing her talents in community churches and military memorial services throughout Florence, as she extends honor and gifts through her music.

The Business & Partnership Award Recipient went to Florence County. The Business and Arts Partnership Award recognizes a vital commitment to the arts as evidence by operational and/or project support provided on a substantial and ongoing basis. In 2008 Florence County accepted a grant award from the State of South Carolina to construct a museum. This matching grant was met with two commitments, one from Florence County and another from the Drs. Bruce and Lee



Florence County Vice Chairman and President Elect Sandy Cook, President Michele Pridgen

Foundation. Since that time Florence County Council has supported the construction and operations of the Florence County Museum and the National Bean Market Museum in



The Lake City Concert Series

Lake City. This continued commitment in support of the arts and culture will continue to impact lives for generations.

The Outstanding Arts Organization Recipient was awarded to the Lake City Concert Series. This award is presented annually to the Florence County arts organization that has a tremendous impact on the community. This may be through programming, projects, resource development, advocacy or other innovation. The Lake City Concert Series promotes the arts in Lake City and the surrounding area by sponsoring musical concerts of talented artists from all over the country every year and has for over 30 years. The organization also promotes arts in education by providing diverse and inclusive artists in residencies at all of the schools in Florence.



The Figuerases

The Greg Fry Arts Educator Award Recipient went to Erick J. Figueras. Dr. Figueras directs and teaches the award winning South Florence High School Choraliers. He has passion for music to great proportions and according to his students, he never runs out of information to share. He treats them like family, as they do to him. He respects, loves and especially trains his students to be award winning singers and dancers.



President Michele Pridgen Director Uschi Jeffcoat, President-Elect Sandy Cook

Uschi Jeffcoat was the Frank H. Crow Award Recipient. This award is presented annually to a Florence Regional Arts Alliance board member, staff member or volunteer who has had a tremendous impact on the organization's



Betty Ann Darby Scholarship Recipients Molly Watkins and Kathleen Covington



Betty Ann Darby Scholarship Recipient Gillian Skipper and friends Tyler Jackson and Charles Jeffcoat

growth and success (either over the past year or longer period of time). Mrs. Jeffcoat has served the Florence Regional Arts Alliance since July 2014 as the role of executive director.

In addition to these awards, the Florence Regional Arts Alliance introduced the 2016 recipients of the Betty Ann Darby Scholarship Program. They are Kathleen Covington, Gillian Skipper, and Molly Watkins. Ms. Covington and Ms. Watkins delighted the audience with a musical performance. A sampling of Ms. Skipper's work in film was debuted.



Reynolds Williams and Janis Hobbs



East Clarendon Middle School and Reynolds Williams

Reynolds Williams of "Play Me I'm Yours, Florence" presented awards to piano artists Janis Hobbes, Ellen Walker and Charlotte Driggers' students at East Clarendon Middle School. Many were present to celebrate all these steadfast and significant contributions to the Arts within Florence County.

For more information about the Alliance's awards and scholarship program, visit the Florence Regional Arts Alliance's website at [www.florenceartsalliance.org](http://www.florenceartsalliance.org) or contact the director, Uschi Jeffcoat at 843-407-3092 or by email [director@florenceartsalliance.org](mailto:director@florenceartsalliance.org).



Arts Awards Night Guests



# Artist Appreciation Month

## INTERACTIVE ART EXHIBITION INVITES PUBLIC INTERACTION TO EXPLORE RACIAL IDENTITIES

Submitted by Uschi Jeffcoat, FRAA Executive Director



IlaSahai Prouty

The Florence Regional Arts Alliance has introduced a new exhibition to the Florence County Museum's Waters Gallery.

The exhibition features the work of Ms. IlaSahai Prouty and included an opening in the Waters Gallery. All were invited to explore the work and meet the artist. The Gallery is located at 135 South Dargan Street in Florence.

This exhibition titled "A Social Construction", offers the possibility of reclaiming and redefining the language we use to construct the categories of race. It includes the "Paper Bag Test," an interactive installation that invites the public to define and reclaim skin tones and color as associated with race.

Historically, the paper bag test was said to have been used to separate black people into two categories – those lighter than a paper bag, and those darker. Access to parties and clubs was assigned based on these criteria. The artist remembers thinking, "Which paper bag are we using?" when she first heard about the test.

The artist's goals are to engage people in thinking about how we use words to describe, imply and evaluate race, to ask them to reflect on how they see their own skin tone and the skin tones of others, and to present race as a social, as opposed to scientific, construction. "I want to add back the nuance and discovery that comes when we truly try to understand and know one another."

Her work prompts us to contemplate how we define and give power, develop identity and build the narratives of our culture. For those who wish to learn more, an in-depth Q&A session took place in June.

Prouty is an Assistant Professor of Art at Appalachian State University. She received her MFA from the California College of Art in the Bay Area, and teaches Art for Social Change and Senior Studio, among other courses. She is co-author of three books about experiential education, and trains people on facilitation techniques through Project Adventure, Inc. Prouty was a resident artist at the Penland School of Crafts and has exhibited throughout the United States. Her public works include pieces for the Charlotte, NC Medical Examiners Office and the Waring School in Beverly, MA. Learn more about the artist at [www.ilasahaiprouty.net](http://www.ilasahaiprouty.net).

This exhibition was part of a solo-exhibition award the Florence Regional Arts Alliance in presented to a participating ArtFields® artist this year in collaboration with the Florence County Museum. The support of Florence Downtown and Diversity Works Magazine made this exhibit possible.

The Waters Gallery is open Monday through Friday 10am – 5pm. There is no admission fee and all are encouraged to learn more this summer and explore their own perceptions of identity and labels.

The Florence Regional Arts Alliance is a community-based local arts agency that serves the citizens of Florence County and the Pee Dee. It is funded in part by the South Carolina Arts Commission, which receives support from the National Endowment for the Arts. To learn more about the Florence Regional Arts Alliance and its mission visit [www.florenceartsalliance.org](http://www.florenceartsalliance.org) or contact director Uschi Jeffcoat at 843-407-3092 or [director@florenceartsalliance.org](mailto:director@florenceartsalliance.org).



# A SOCIAL CONSTRUCTION ILASAHAI PROUTY

An interactive installation that invites the public to define and reclaim skin tones and color as associated with race.

ON DISPLAY JUNE 27 - SEPTEMBER 30

The Waters Gallery,  
135 South Dargan Street  
Open Monday through Friday  
10am to 5pm

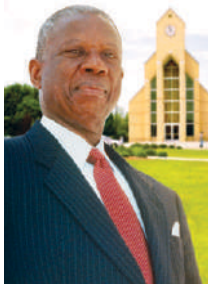
This exhibit is made possible by the Florence Regional Arts Alliance, the Florence County Museum, Diversity Works Magazine, and the Florence Downtown Development Corporation. [www.florenceartsalliance.org](http://www.florenceartsalliance.org) / [www.florencemuseum.org](http://www.florencemuseum.org)



# Celebrating Our HBCU's

## LIVING HISTORY STILL IN THE MAKING

by Les Echols



Dr. Luns C. Richardson

**SUMTER** -- Of the 107 HBCUs that currently exist in the United States, most of them started shortly after the Civil War, with the emphasis on providing an education to those who could not get it at a "mainstream" institution. Morris College President, Dr. Luns C. Richardson,

knows the power of growth in HBCUs.

Coming from a Christian, farm upbringing, Dr. Richardson was endeared to education in an era that was not so kind to African Americans. Growing up in the segregated south meant Dr. Richardson had to work twice as hard to achieve. As a child, reading was his strength, and was encouraged. Dr. Richardson would read to his great-grandmother every night, and for some time wondered; if she couldn't read, why did she stress education so hard? From that moment, Dr. Richardson realized that education was the key for him to overcome the obstacles she herself had faced. After graduating from Butler High School as Valedictorian, he went on to accumulate great honors and was elected class president all four years at Benedict College where he graduated magna cum laude with a degree in

English and social studies. He also received a master's degree in higher education from Teachers College of Columbia University and did further study at other distinguished universities.

Dr. Richardson's stellar career as an educator and administrator began at the South Carolina Area Trade School (now Denmark Technical College) where he worked for 15 years. He went on to serve two years as principal of St. Helena High School in Frogmore, SC and one year as principal of Wilson High School. In 1968, Dr. Richardson served as coordinator of the College Education Achievement Project at Benedict College and Allen University jointly. He went on to successively serve in several administrative positions at Benedict College, including acting president. His collegiate career continued with him serving one year at Voorhees College as executive vice president before being elected the ninth president of Morris College in 1974.

Assuming the presidency under dire circumstances, Dr. Richardson went to work on the Herculean task on strengthening the institution as a reputable center of higher learning. They include some of the following: liquidating a half-million dollar indebtedness, achieving accreditation from the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools in 1978 (accreditation was reaffirmed in 1983, 1993,

2003 and 2012, with no deficiencies), gaining membership in the United Negro College Fund, increasing academic programs from six majors to 21, building the college's infra-structure and achieving NCATE accreditation of the Teacher Education program and ACBSP accreditation for Business Administration and the Organizational Management programs. Also, during his presidency seventeen new buildings have been built, including a new administration building currently nearing completion, and seven buildings have been completely renovated/expanded.

Dr. Richardson, the longest serving college president in the state, has gone on to achieve many lifetime awards and honors, including the prestigious "Order of the Palmetto" from the South Carolina General Assembly. On May 25, 2014, he retired as pastor of Thankful Baptist Church in Bamberg after 56 years of dedicated and faithful service. The congregation has bestowed upon him the honorary title of Pastor Emeritus.

Dr. Richardson is a living testimonial, whose life exemplifies how far HBCU's have come through the past one hundred plus years through adversity and Jim Crow segregation. HBCU's continue to be a superlative institution in the African American community as well as the global workforce.

## HBCU PRODUCTS SHOWING THEMSELVES MIGHTY, STRONG AND FOCUSED

by Les Echols



Across the years, there has emerged a set of schools that specialize in contributing a quality level of higher education for African Americans. These

institutions, known as Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs), are both celebrated and recognized one week in the month of September for the many scholars students, graduates and alumni that have taken the step forward toward an education at HBCUs, while encouraging others to do the same. Many students not only thrive, but gain a new sense of self-awareness and responsibility after receiving an HBCU education.

Johnnie McFadden, a 2013 graduate of Voorhees College in Denmark, saw the HBCU experience as an opportunity to meet new and diverse people and experiences. "Coming from the small rural town of Kingstree, I felt right at home at Voorhees College. The difference was meeting friends and professors from all across the globe".



Johnnie McFadden Voorhees Alumni

Johnnie finished with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Health and Recreation, but he achieved much more than a degree. "Attending an HBCU helped me to gain a better sense of self; I became more confident in what I was able to achieve regardless of my color or anything considered a barrier". Current HBCU students share many of the same opinions.



Shanice and Kelly

Sisters Kelly and Shanice Bailey attend Allen University because it is small and gives them a home away from home experience that they desired. "This experience has better prepared and equipped me for the struggles in life that I will face after graduation. My HBCU has prepared me for the real world and I have no fear about the challenges I will face in life after graduation", said Kelly. Kelly, who stresses that she had heard bad stories about HBCU's prior to attending, but is "happy she followed her heart". Kelly's sister, Shanice, concurs with the positive HBCU experience. "Not only has Allen made me more culturally aware of my own heritage, it opens my mind to want to learn and understand other cultures. I am forming life-long friendships while at the same time enjoying a daily life of love, peace and

empowerment".

With the cost of tuition rising and the help of financial aid falling, HBCU's have faced some disadvantages in recent years. Paine College, an HBCU in Augusta, GA, recently lost its accreditation, but has vowed to regain sound fiscal practices. South Carolina State University in Orangeburg, SC also recently came back from what one publication called "financial disaster". Thankfully, HBCU's have a history of recovery and longevity, and several numbers show this.

According to a study published by the UNCF, historically black colleges and universities are responsible for producing approximately 70% of all black doctors and dentists, 50% of black engineers and public school teachers, and 35% of black lawyers. And in 2015, a Gallup poll was released showing students at HBCUs had a higher sense of well-being in five key areas compared to students who did not attend HBCUs.

HBCU's have come a long way through the past one hundred plus years of adversity and Jim Crow segregation, and continue to be a driving force for a diverse group of students and alumni. HBCUs prove that strong work ethic and education grounded in morals and spiritual values can be a successful combination for any institution. In the case of HBCU's the combination has been a proven formula for long-term success.



# Celebrating Hispanic Heritage Month

## CELEBRATING DIVERSITY CREATES NEW CONNECTIONS

by Stephanie Navarro



*Olivia Mendoza Garcia is from Mexico and lived for a long time in its capital Mexico City. Mexico City is the 5th largest metropolis in the world with over 17 million people living there.*

To celebrate diversity, sometimes we need to understand the diverse nature of something. Maria Wells of Costa Rica and Olivia Mendoza Garcia of Mexico often find themselves clarifying their Hispanic heritage to others. Rather than being bothered by this, Olivia and Maria relish the opportunity to share their culture. “It’s my roots. It’s who I am,” says Maria. “I’m happy to tell people about Costa Rica. We don’t have a military. We’re very peaceful. People should know that a culture like this exists.” Olivia agrees, adding, “It’s good that people want to know more about the world outside the United States. We bring a little bit of that with us so it’s our responsibility to share it here.”

Maria, a teacher with an advanced degree in Education, met her husband Paul while he was teaching English abroad in Costa Rica. They lived in Costa Rica and South Korea before moving to the United States so Paul could pursue his education. The transition to the United States seven years ago was difficult for Maria as a new mom in an unfamiliar country. “I was glad to have my culture at that point,” said Maria. “Hispanic women are fierce mothers so I used the memories of my mom to adjust.” Working at Poynor Adult Education Center’s English as a Second Language program, Maria found support and encouragement through the other Hispanic adults to whom she taught English. “We are all from different places, but we have a shared identity as being Hispanic,” says Maria. “There’s a lot of pride in it.” One of the people she met was Olivia, who was her student for a year.

Olivia, her husband, Froylan, and their two children moved to Florence 4 years ago as part of a work transfer with Otis Elevator. This is the second relocation the

family has undergone with Otis, moving first from Mexico City to Nogales, Sonora (in Mexico) and then from Nogales to Florence. Froylan is a Senior Operations Manager with Otis and has been with the company for 27 years. “It was practical to continue with the company after so long,” says Olivia, though she had some reservations about moving to the United States, particularly because she did not speak English. “I had studied English before in Mexico, but it’s still a limiting factor for me,” explains Olivia. “But I believe it’s an obligation that the people that come here learn English.”

After moving to Florence, Olivia dove right into learning English, starting at Poynor. “I encouraged Olivia and all of my students to go and volunteer,” said Maria. “Both as an opportunity to practice English and as way to get accustomed to life here.” Olivia took that advice and currently volunteers at the front office of Lucy T. Davis Elementary as well as St. Anthony’s Catholic School, both in Florence. Now that her children are older, Olivia, who holds a Bachelor’s Degree in Industrial Engineering, is also considering going back to work. “Just like women here,



*Born and raised in Costa Rica, Maria Wells moved to the United States seven years ago. Costa Rica is located in Central America south of Nicaragua and north of Panama. Costa Rica is known for its 800 miles of coastline and beautiful beaches.*

I had a career but chose to stay at home with my children,” said Olivia. “This is another similarity between our cultures. There are probably more than people think.”

The similarities often get lost in misconceptions. Maria remembers being asked why she spoke Mexican when she was from Costa Rica. The Spanish language is in fact the primary common factor within the Hispanic culture which includes more than 35 countries and territories, not to mention the six regions around the world with strong Hispanic influence. Did you know that

Spanish is still widely spoken in Western Sahara long after imperial Spanish influence has left the region?

With this level of variety, Maria, now a Spanish teacher at Sneed Middle School in Florence, takes special care to highlight the different countries and regions that makes up the Hispanic culture. “In my class, we spend a lot of time on culture as well as language,” says Maria. “I want them to understand that there are differences between Hispanics.” One way she does this is through guest speakers native to the countries that are being studied in her class. On CincoDe Mayo this past year, Maria invited Olivia to speak to her class. Olivia explained that Cinco de Mayo is not actually very popular in Mexico except in the state of Puebla where the battle for which the holiday is named took place. “Most people think it is our Independence Day, but that’s actually September 16,” explains Olivia. “Our Independence Day and the Dia de los Muertos are much more important holidays in Mexico.”

Despite differences in culture, both Olivia and Maria have found the reception in Florence to be very welcoming. Still, Olivia hopes she and others like her and Maria will help clarify misconceptions. “Everyone has been very friendly with us,” says Olivia. “However, I want people to know that we are similar and there are so many reasons we are here. For us, we were brought here by work. For others, they want to improve themselves through education and experience.” For Maria, being grounded in “puravida,” (Costa Rica’s outlook on life) helps her stay positive about increasing cultural awareness. “Puravida just means whether you’re poor or rich, you are still happy because you have everything you need,” says Maria. “The sun, the air, water, nature and most importantly, family. The entire Hispanic culture is very family-oriented, like the southern culture. We can agree on that.”





## FUELING THE SMALL BUSINESS FIRE

by Kayla Jebaily



Lynn Wilson

Since 1936, Carolina Bank has been an active part of the Pee Dee community. Family owned and operated for the past four generations by the Beasley family, Carolina Bank's mission is to provide locally based, community banking services. The bank emphasizes its relationship with small businesses because of its own experience as being a small business itself. Currently, there are 11 Carolina Bank branches around the state, located mainly in the Pee Dee, with two branches located in Florence. Each branch is locally operated by a dedicated branch manager, who ensures that the bank is providing its customers with the highest possible care.

Carolina Bank's Irby Street branch in Florence is fortunate enough to have Lynn Wilson as its branch manager. Prior to

working at Carolina Bank, Lynn worked at Harland Checks for many years where she had the bank as a client. After a quick career change, Lynn left Harland Checks and went to work for the bank in 2009. She has used her prior experience in the finance industry, and knowledge of Carolina Bank from when they were her clients, to help the Irby branch function as smoothly and efficiently as possible. Lynn also knows the importance of small businesses, and the great impact they have on the community. Lynn and her husband, Andy, owned and ran the South Florence Exxon for 12 years. They built it from the ground up after jumping at an opportunity to provide the area with a convenience store. Andy and Lynn bought the land, communicated with Exxon to have the store branded, and operated it in its early years. Being a former owner of a small business helps her understand the small business customers of Carolina Bank and their needs. Lynn enjoys helping the bank foster relationships with both individual customers and businesses, and aiding them in their vision of continuing to be a part of

the community and help small businesses. One of her favorite parts of the job is building relationships, by getting to know customers both personally and professionally. Lynn, and the rest of the bank's staff, feel that connecting with individuals builds the rapport necessary to foster business relationships.

In the future, Lynn hopes to continue to help her branch of Carolina Bank grow. She believes that the local decision making and family dynamic that comes from local owners makes it stand out, and will help it foster growth in the future. Lynn works with Carolina Bank to provide loan options for people who would most likely not qualify elsewhere. They give small businesses a chance to flourish in the ever changing economic climate. Lynn currently resides in Florence with her husband of 27 years, Andy, their two sons, Austin and Benton, and their yellow lab, Buck. In her spare time she enjoys spending time with friends and family, going to the lake and reading. Lynn is excited to continue her work to make Carolina Bank an ever-standing pillar of the Pee Dee community.

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ArborOne offers loans for land, equipment, operating expenses, agribusiness, and recreational property, to name a few. ArborOne also offers a leasing program and a point-of-sale program called “Farm Credit Express”, which allows customers to finance equipment on the spot! Even if you aren’t a farmer, you never know when you might find that special piece of property out in the country for that rural retreat. Like to hunt? Want a special place on the river? ArborOne can finance that, too.

One of the main advantages in doing business with ArborOne is that many of its Relationship Managers (or loan officers) farm themselves—so they can more closely relate to their customers’ needs. ArborOne Farm Credit takes pride in building personal relationships with each and every customer, working with them in good times and in bad times. Farm Credit has been around for 100 years, and has a plan to be around for many, many more.


ArborOne Farm Credit has two branch locations: one in Conway, at 1720 Mill Pond Road, and one in Florence at 800 Woody Jones Boulevard, across from the Florence Civic Center. Visit [www.arborone.com](http://www.arborone.com) for more information, or give Carey Middleton, Relationship Manager, a call at (843) 307-5908.



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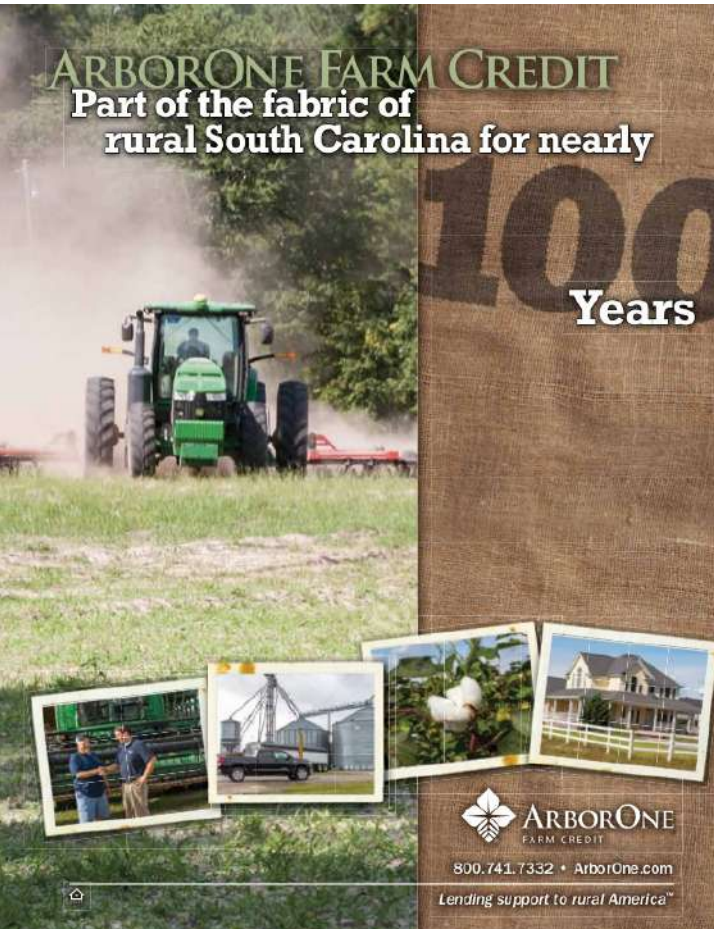
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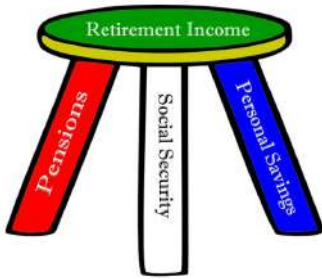
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# WHATEVER HAPPENED TO THE 'THREE-LEGGED STOOL' OF RETIREMENT?



Have you ever heard of the 'three-legged stool' of retirement? If you have, it's probably been a while. Once considered the ideal retirement model, the three-legged stool has fallen out of favor because two of the three legs—Social Security and defined benefit pensions—are not as stable as they once were. Consider the following:

—According to the Bureau of

Labor Statistics, just 18% of private sector workers have a defined benefit pension, thereby eliminating a guaranteed source of lifetime income.

—In 2015, Social Security benefits replace just 40% of the average workers salary. What's more, the Social Security trust fund is expected to deplete its reserves by 2034, and will be able to fund approximately 75% of benefits after that.

Fortunately, there are ways to reinforce the third leg of the stool—retirement savings and other personal assets—so that you can still enjoy a long and fulfilling retirement. Here are two proven funding sources you may want to consider if you need to compensate for any shortcomings:

—With people living longer than ever, it's important to make sure the money you have set aside will last the rest of your life. While Social Security provides a lifetime supply of income, it may not be enough to support your desired lifestyle. If you think you'll need additional income and do not have a pension, a lifetime income annuity can be an excellent way to make up the difference.

—Although the primary purpose of life insurance is to deliver

death benefit protection, many permanent life policies accumulate cash value. If your need for protection decreases over time, you can borrow against this cash value—tax-free in most cases—and use the money to supplement your retirement lifestyle.

While the three-legged stool of retirement may be a bit wobbly, the good news is a secure future is still within reach. The main difference these days is that you will most likely have to build it yourself.

This educational third-party article is provided as a courtesy by Julie A Cord, Agent, New York Life Insurance Company. To learn more about the information or topics discussed, please contact Julie A Cord at 317.289.3010 or jacord@ft.newyorklife.com.

Economic Policy Institute, "Private-Sector Pension Coverage Fell by Half over Two Decades," January 11, 2013 @ <http://www.epi.org/blog/private-sector-pension-coverage-decline/>

Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, "Policy Basics: Top Ten Facts about Social Security," August 13, 2015 @ <http://www.cbpp.org/research/social-security/policy-basics-top-ten-facts-about-social-security>

U.S. Department of the Treasury, "Fact Sheet: Social Security and Medicare Trustees Report," July 22, 2015 @ <http://www.treasury.gov/press-center/press-releases/Pages/jl0127.aspx>

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## GLENN GREENE IS ABB'S NEW VP OF BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT



Glenn Greene

**MULLINS** – Anderson Brothers Bank has announced the addition of A. Glenn Greene, III as Business Development Officer for Dillon County and he will be working from the Main location at 101 N. Main Street. Greene's responsibilities include working with local prospective businesses and residents to generate new banking and loan business for Anderson Brothers Bank. Greene is a graduate of Wofford College with a BA in Business Economics. He has previously worked as a community banker in the Latta area for more than 29 years with his most recent position with First Bank in Latta. Glenn resides in Latta with his wife, Beth and their two children. Greene is very active in the community with involvement in Latta Rotary Club, Latta Down Town Revitalization, Dillon Chamber of Commerce and Pee Dee Regional Airport Authority to name a few.

"We are very excited that Glenn is joining our bank family," said Johnny Floyd, Marion County Executive of Anderson Brothers Bank. "His abundance of business and banking experience and knowledge of the Dillon County area will be an immeasurable asset to our customers as well as our organization."

## ABB PROMOTES WANDA LEWIS TO BRANCH OPERATIONS COORDINATOR



Wanda Lewis

Anderson Brothers Bank has named Wanda Lewis to the position of Branch Operations Coordinator with the bank and as such, her responsibilities include managing work activities of tellers along with customer service representatives, while having authority to make decisions and approvals necessary in daily branch operations. In addition, she is involved in assisting loan officers and branch administration.

Wanda has more than 24 years of banking experience and has been with Anderson Brothers Bank since 2006, serving as a head teller and customer service representative. She resides in Nichols with her son Ryan Lewis and has a daughter, Ashley Rogers of Florence.

"Wanda has been an important part of the Anderson Brothers Bank family since joining us," said Johnny Floyd, Marion County Executive of Anderson Brothers Bank. "We are proud to announce her promotion to Branch Operations Coordinator and know that she will continue to be a vital part of the bank as we continue to grow."

## SHERRY YOUNG JOINS ANDERSON BROTHERS BANK AS CALL CENTER MANAGER



Sherry Young

Anderson Brothers Bank has announced the addition of Sherry Young as Call Center Manager at its Corporate location. Young's responsibilities include managing and working with other local Call Center employees.

She has 23 years of call center experience and previously worked with HTC's call center, as service representative. She resides in Galivants Ferry in Horry County with her husband, James, and four children.

"We are excited that Sherry has joined our bank family," said Betty Byrd, VP Branch Administration of Anderson Brothers Bank. "Her abundance of business and banking experience and knowledge of customer service will be an immeasurable asset to our customers as well as our organization."

### About Anderson Brothers Bank

Anderson Brothers Bank is a full service community bank offering a complete range of competitive loan services and deposit products. Founded in 1933, this family-owned bank blends the elements of traditional personal service, local market awareness, and advanced technology to meet the financial needs of its customers. Anderson Brothers Bank offers 20 branches conveniently located in 14 communities throughout the Pee Dee and Coastal regions of South Carolina with plans for growth in Myrtle Beach area in 2016. The bank's main office is located at 101 North Main Street, P.O. Box 310 in Mullins, South Carolina. For additional information about Anderson Brothers Bank, call (843) 464-6271 or visit [ABBank.com](http://ABBank.com).

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## HERE'S TO YOUR HEALTH

## TOP CANCER RISKS FOR MEN LISTED

Submitted by Ziad G. Skaff, M.D.



Dr. Ziad G. Skaff, M.D.

For all the wives, daughters and girlfriends who have wrung their hands over the health habits of the men in their lives, science is beginning to back up their argument. Men's notorious reluctance to see a doctor may be contributing to a growing gap in cancer rates between men and women.

According to a recent study, men are more likely to develop and die from cancer than women – even those cancers affecting both sexes. And the difference is not biological, but behavioral, based on 2009 research by the

National Cancer Intelligence Network: men are less health conscious, more reluctant to visit a doctor when symptoms arise, and less likely to make lifestyle changes.

At least one third of all cancers can be prevented through lifestyle changes, according to the World Health Organization: avoiding tobacco, eating healthy, staying active and losing weight. Regular screenings and self-examinations for certain cancers are part of the prescription for good health, too. While screenings and self-awareness won't prevent cancer, they do increase the chance of discovering cancer early, when it is most treatable. In addition to genetics and lifestyle habits, advancing age is a major risk factor for cancer in both sexes.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention ranks the 10 most common cancers diagnosed among American men in order of prevalence as:

1. Prostate Cancer
2. Lung Cancer
3. Colon and Rectal cancer
4. Urinary and Bladder cancer
5. Skin Cancer
6. Non-Hodgkins Lymphoma
7. Kidney Cancer
8. Mouth and Throat Cancer
9. Leukemia
10. Pancreatic Cancer

A man's preventive health regime should include initial cancer screenings and repeat checks for the following common cancers:

#### Prostate Cancer

##### Prostate Cancer Risk Factors

- Are you older than 50?
- Do you have a father, brother or son who was diagnosed with prostate cancer before they were 65?
- Do you eat a lot of red meat or high-fat dairy products?
- Are you overweight?

Beginning at age 50, men should undergo an annual prostate-specific antigen (PSA) blood test and digital rectal exam (DRE). Men with risk factors such as a first-degree relative or multiple relatives with prostate

cancer, or African-American heritage, should consider beginning screenings earlier, at age 40 to 45.

#### Testicular Cancer

Testicular cancer has no known risk factors and is most common among Caucasian men age 20 to 54. It can develop in one or both testicles of men at any age. Testicular cancer is highly treatable and can usually be cured. Self-screenings should be performed regularly and changes in appearance or feel of the testes should be reported to your doctor.

#### Colorectal Cancer

Beginning at age 50, men should be screened using one of the following tests: a fecal occult blood test (annually), fecal immunochemical test (annually), or a stool DNA test.

Other, more invasive tests that find both polyps and cancer include a flexible sigmoidoscopy (every 5 years), a colonoscopy (every 10 years), and a double contrast barium enema (every 5 years). Recent data suggests that virtual colonoscopy is not as sensitive as a colonoscopy at detecting colon cancer. .

#### Bladder Cancer

##### Bladder Cancer – Risk Factors

- Smoking
- Occupational risk factors
  - Industrial chemicals such as 2-naphthylamine and acrolein
- Chronic urinary stasis (increased risk of squamous metaplasia)
  - Long term catheter
  - Bladder stones
  - Paraplegia
- Chronic infection with Schistosomiasis (squamous cell Ca)

Though no clear cause exists, certain risks have been linked to bladder cancer: smoking, age, race, working in industries with frequent exposure to chemicals, and gender – men are four times as likely to develop bladder cancer as women. Symptoms

include blood in the urine or changes in bladder habits, although these symptoms do not necessarily point to bladder cancer.

Screening tests include urine cytology or cystoscopy, in which the walls and/or cells of the bladder are examined, a urine culture or a biopsy. Regular screenings are not recommended unless symptoms or risk factors are present.

#### Skin Cancer

##### Skin Cancer – Risk Factors

- UV Rays
  - UVB rays cause a much greater risk than UVA
  - UVA rays increase the damaging effects of UVB
  - As elevation increases, UV light gets stronger
- Heredity: family history
  - People with fair skin and a northern European heritage appear to be most susceptible
- Multiple or atypical moles
- Exposure to coal and arsenic compounds
- Repeated exposure to x-rays
- Scars from disease and burns

Skin cancer is the most common form of cancer in the U.S. – and men's risk is nearly double that of women, according to the Skin Cancer Foundation. Additionally, the American Academy of Dermatology points out that men also have the highest chances of dying of melanoma, the

most serious form of the disease. Why? Because men get more ultraviolet exposure, use sunscreen less, and have higher rates of sunburn and later detection.

Risk factors include a fair complexion, repeat sunburns, past skin cancers, and being over age 50. An annual skin cancer screening – a head-to-toe visual check of the skin and any moles, freckles or abnormal patches of skin – is a simple way to prevent or detect skin cancer.

For more information, visit Carolinas Hospital System's Health Library at [www.CarolinasHospital.com](http://www.CarolinasHospital.com)

About the Author: Dr. Ziad Skaff is board certified in Internal Medicine and Hematology/Oncology. He is associated with Carolinas Hematology & Oncology, an affiliate of Carolinas Medical Alliance and he is a member of the medical staff at Carolinas Hospital System. Dr. Skaff is accepting new patients. To refer a patient, please contact Dr. Skaff's office by calling 843-674-6460.

Sources: The American Cancer Society ([cancer.org](http://cancer.org)), National Cancer Institute ([cancer.gov](http://cancer.gov)), Centers for Disease Control and Prevention ([cdc.gov](http://cdc.gov))





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## ONE WAY TO END UP ON TOP OF WEIGHT CHALLENGES

by Kayla Jebaily



Crystal and Sherry

Ever wondered how to take off weight in a healthy, cost effective manner? At TOPS, they teach a hands on, pounds off approach to weight loss. Founded in 1948, TOPS, or Take Off Pounds Sensibly, is a nonprofit weight loss group targeted towards any person wanting to gain a healthier lifestyle through support and education based in the United States and Canada. South Carolina currently has 48 chapters, split into 4 sections, and is rapidly growing. Florence is a part of the Grand Strand section of the state, which currently has 11 chapters. Chapters meet weekly for weigh ins and to discuss progress. They also participate in local, state and national award events, parades, and walk-a-thons.

Sherry Gibson is the Area Captain for the Grand Strand Chapters of South Carolina. As Area Captain, she monitors current chapters, plans and attends events, and helps foster new chapters. Sherry and her sister, Crystal Moore, both became active in TOPS at the start of 2015. They said they both struggled with their weight their whole lives, and wanted to find a cost

effective way to lose the pounds and keep them off. After many unsuccessful attempts at dieting programs, Sherry remembered TOPS, an organization she participated in during high school. She looked them up, and began attending the meetings once more. Sherry quickly started to see results, and caught the attention of her sister, Crystal, who then decided to join as well. After only a little over a year in TOPS, Sherry has lost over 30 pounds and Crystal has lost almost 100 pounds. They contribute their success stories to TOPS' encouragement to work at your own pace, and promotion of food in moderation instead of restriction.

Crystal's success has caught the eye of state and national TOPS leaders. At the TOPS State Recognition Day, Crystal was one of five people from two Florence chapters to receive state recognition for their weight loss achievements. She has also become a publicity volunteer, to raise awareness about TOPS and the results it can provide. Crystal travels around the area and speaks about TOPS to attract interest. Both Sherry and Crystal will



Sherry Gibson



Crystal Moore

attend the IRD, International Recognition Day, this year in Orlando, FL. The awards ceremony will be held at Disney World, in the Disney Coronado Springs Resort. Along with the SRD's and IRD's, Sherry and Crystal enjoy attending TOPS walk-a-thons, and other events. TOPS has themed parties, and play games at meetings, so weight loss does not seem like a chore.

After reaching the TOPS goal weight set upon joining, members are then considered to be KOPS, Keep Off Weight Sensibly. KOPS continue to attend meeting and participate in events, to keep the recently shed weight off. Sherry and Crystal are excited about the opportunity to broaden the TOPS family, and would like to extend the offer for anyone interested in joining. Membership fees are only \$32 dollars a year, and the benefits far outweigh the costs. Local TOPS groups can be joined by speaking with Sherry, and new chapters can be launched for anyone whose time schedule does not fit those of current chapters! Gather at least four friends and start the journey to a healthier you!



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## ASK A DIETITIAN: ALTERNATIVES TO OUTDOOR EXERCISING

Submitted by Kitty Finklea, RD

Question – It’s too hot to exercise outside so I usually fall off my routine in the summer. What else can I do to stay fit?



Kitty Finklea is a registered dietitian nutritionist and certified personal trainer as well as a diabetes educator and nutrition counselor at HopeHealth, Inc. (Photo by Chris Meade Photography)

When the thermometer reads higher than 100 degrees outside it can be dangerous to exercise outside. The biggest risk of exercising outside is heat exhaustion, which can lead to heat stroke. The signs of heat exhaustion include: confusion, dizziness, fainting, fatigue, headache, muscle or abdominal cramps, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea and dark colored urine. If you or someone you’re with have the symptoms, get inside to a cool place, drink plenty of water, take a cool shower or bath (even a sponge bath). If symptoms are not relieved in 15 minutes, seek emergency medical help. Heat stroke is a medical emergency and can lead to death.

If you still want to go out, the best time to exercise outside is early morning or late evening when it is the coolest part of the day. If you’re not used to exercising in hotter weather, make sure to acclimate. Start out with 10 minutes three times a week and add 5 minutes a week until you can stay out for 30 minutes. Make sure to drink plenty of water to avoid dehydration – drink 8-16 oz. of water 30-45 minutes before you go out and consume at least 8-16 oz. for every 20-30 minutes of exercise. Alternate water with a fluid and electrolyte sports drink such as Gatorade, G2, 10K or other sports drink.



Anita Longan, diabetes center coordinator and nutrition counselor, discusses nutrition choices with a patient at the HopeHealth Medical Plaza. (Photo by Bradley Lail)

If you don’t want to go outside, it’s important to keep up your routine by finding indoor activities you enjoy. Some people get a gym membership for the hot and cold months but you can also get creative and walk at the mall or rec center. If you have an exercise game such as Wii, Xbox or PlayStation, find an active game or dance that you enjoy. There are tons of exercise videos for all different levels of fitness or you can also go online to YouTube and check out fitness videos. There are chair exercises for those who are not mobile or you can put in a search for cardio exercise and see what comes up. Watch it first and always adapt videos to suit your fitness level. If they are doing something that you can’t or don’t want to do, you can walk in place or do other moves you are comfortable with.

Kitty Finklea, RD, AFAA-CPT, is a registered dietitian/nutritionist at HopeHealth Diabetes Center at the HopeHealth Medical Plaza in Florence and a certified personal trainer. She received a degree in dietetics from Winthrop College and specializes in diabetes, weight management, and eating disorders. She enjoys helping clients and families achieve their goal of optimal health and energy and works with HopeHealth patients on developing healthy eating habits and diabetes management.

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# AGGRESSIVELY PREVENTING CERVICAL CANCER

Submitted by Heather Draeger, M.D



Dr. Heather Draeger

One of the great success stories in cancer research, since annual Pap test cervical cancer screenings were introduced in the 1950s, is the news that the amount of cases of what was once the number one cancer in women have plummeted. Human Papillomavirus (HPV) vaccination has further reduced the numbers.

“Today, we know cervical cancer can be prevented with proper screening to find pre-cancers before they develop into invasive cancer,” said Dr. Heather Draeger, an OB/GYN physician. “If a pre-cancer is found, it can be treated, stopping cervical cancer before it really starts.”

One factor in cervical cancer is the prevalence of the human papilloma virus (HPV) in society. At least 80% of sexually active women will become infected with the virus at some point. Although HPV is ubiquitous, only a few high-risk strains are connected to cervical cancer. The vast majority of HPV infections resolve without any treatment or intervention.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommends young women and men receive HPV vaccination at 11 or 12 years of age to provide the best protection long before the start of any sexual activity. Catch-up vaccines are recommended for males through age 21 and for females through 26 years of age. In females, vaccination helps protect against two types of HPV that cause 70 percent of cervical cancer cases. “Unfortunately, the CDC reports more than 4,000 U.S. women still die from cervical cancer every year,” said Dr. Draeger. “Women at risk of dying from the disease today are those who have been screened infrequently – or not at all.”

Recently, changing guidelines about screening frequency have created confusion. What used to be a clear direction from the American Cancer Society – “get a yearly Pap test” – has become less clear. Recommended time between screenings is now longer, and two separate tests are available.

While not all physicians agree on the new guidelines, the following are good rules from the American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists and the American Cancer Society to protect yourself against cervical cancer. Be proactive in discussing with your doctor whether these screening guidelines are right for you.

- All women should begin cervical cancer screening via a Pap test at age 21.
- Women between the ages of 21 and 29 should have a Pap test at least every three years. HPV testing should be done only if needed after an abnormal Pap test.
- Women between the ages of 30 and 65 should have both a Pap test and an HPV test at least every five years.
- Women older than 65 who have had regular screenings with normal results should not be screened for cervical cancer.
- Women who are at increased risk for cervical cancer may need to increase the frequency of these screenings. In short, the American Cancer Society no longer recommends getting a Pap test every year, because it generally takes longer than that (10-20 years) for cervical cancer to develop. As the debate continues, there is also the option to have a separate test for HPV alone. Again, discuss with your doctor the appropriate actions based on your age, lifestyle and risk factors.

To find a physician or learn more about taking care of your health, visit [phillipscokerobgyn.com](http://phillipscokerobgyn.com). Dr. Draeger is board certified in OB/GYN. She is associated with Phillips & Coker OB/GYN, an affiliate of Carolinas Medical Alliance. She is a member of the medical staff at Carolinas Hospital System

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# DEAD WATER TAKES HOST'S LIVELINESS

Submitted by Dr. David Gittens



Water helps nearly every part of the human body function. Considering that our bodies are almost two-thirds water, understanding water's important role in the body can be a fountain of health. The following are just some facts about water and your body:

Blood is 92% water, Brain is 75% water, (moderate dehydration can cause headaches and dizziness) Muscles are 75% water, Bones are 22% water. H<sub>2</sub>O regulates body temperature, carries nutrients and oxygen to all the cells in the body, moistens oxygen for breathing, protects and cushions vital organs, helps to convert food into energy, helps the body absorb nutrients, removes waste products and cushions joints.

Water needs to be viewed as a living thing and only then can we begin to understand what it really is and how it affects life. People who consume large amounts of distilled or reverse osmosis water run the risk of becoming anemic and low of energy because the damage created -- water will take your energy in an effort to reanimate itself. There is a big difference between living water and dead water.

A healthy body maintains an alkaline pH around 7.36 in the blood stream. If the body becomes acid (pH <6.5) the following will happen:

- Calcium is pulled from the bones to buffer and keep the blood alkaline.
- Enter stage right: OSTEOPOROSIS
- Plaque is produced to protect the arteries, so that the acid doesn't burn holes in the arteries.
- Enter stage left: HIGH CHOLESTEROL AND ATHEROSCLEROSIS
- Yeast and parasitic infections grow beautifully in an acid environment.
- Dental cavities thrive in an acid environment.
- Cancer cannot grow in an alkaline environment.

## HOW DO WE GET ACID?

- Emotional stress
- Excess starches, processed foods, sugar, poor diet.
- Acidic water intake.
- Lack of physical exercise.
- Combination of the above.

## RESTORING pH BALANCE

1. Follow a more alkaline diet, non-starchy vegetables; fruits such as melons and papaya; grains such as millet and oats; beans; small amount of raw seeds and nuts; free-range poultry; and fish.

2. Restore the alkaline mineral reserves; Supplement with calcium, magnesium, potassium and zinc. Nutri-West products like DSF, Hypo-D, Upper GI, total Enzymes and Total Veggie may be indicated.

3. Make healthy lifestyle changes. a. drink alkalize water, b. get exercise and fresh air every day, c. have a passion for your work, d. build quality relationships, and e. eat alkalizing foods. Compliments of: GITTENS CHIROPRACTIC CLINIC, 333 W. Palmetto Street, Florence, SC 29501 • 843-678-9394 • www.GittensHealthClinic.com



## Stop Chasing Symptoms and Get to the Root of the problem

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## CAROLINAS HOSPITAL SYSTEM WELCOMES ASSISTANT CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER



Monica Price

## CAROLINAS HOSPITAL SYSTEM

Carolinas Hospital System has announced that Monica Price joins the facility's leadership team as Assistant Chief Financial Officer.

Monica received her Bachelors of Science degree from the University of Notre Dame in Notre Dame, IN and

her Masters of Professional Accounting from University of Texas at Arlington in Arlington, TN. She is a member of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants and the Healthcare Financial Management Association.

Prior to joining Carolinas Hospital System, Monica served as Manager of Decision Support & Finance at Texas Health Presbyterian Hospital of Plano, a 366-bed hospital in Plano, TX. Previous to that role, she served as Senior Financial Analyst and Physician Development at Tenet Healthcare, Inc. in Dallas.



# PREVENTION IS KEY TO AVOIDING HEAT STROKE

Submitted by Dr. Iris D. Ignacio



Iris D. Ignacio, M.D.

Ironically, the first sign of dangerous heat stroke or heat-related illness is often the absence of sweat. As the temperature rises, your body's natural cooling mechanism – perspiration – evaporates and helps to cool your body. But on those really hot and humid days, evaporation is slowed and your body runs a higher risk of heat exhaustion or heat stroke.

“Virtually all heat-related illnesses are preventable,” said Dr. Iris D. Ignacio, a Family Medicine physician.

“Be extra careful when the heat index is 90 degrees or above, and always drink plenty of water or fluids with electrolytes when the heat index is high. If you must be outdoors, take frequent breaks inside or in the shade. Heat stroke can affect people of any age or fitness level – don't underestimate the danger.”

Heat exhaustion is a precursor to heat stroke. If you experience any of these symptoms, get out of the heat immediately and to a cool place, and slowly drink water or other fluids with salt or sugar:

- **Pale skin**
- **Fatigue or weakness**
- **Dizziness or nausea**
- **Profuse sweating**
- **Rapid pulse or fast, shallow breathing**

## • **Muscle weakness or cramps**

Do NOT drink caffeine or alcohol, and if you don't feel better within 30 minutes, seek medical help. Heat exhaustion can progress to heat stroke if not treated. These more dangerous warning signs can indicate heat stroke is imminent:

- **Skin that feels hot and dry, but not sweaty**
- **Confusion or loss of consciousness**
- **Throbbing headache**
- **Frequent vomiting**
- **Trouble breathing**

“Heat stroke is more serious than heat exhaustion, and it can be life-threatening,” said Dr. Ignacio. “If you or someone you know experiences signs of heatstroke, remember NOT to attempt to bring down the temperature too quickly. Don't use ice or ice water. Attempt to bring down the temperature gradually with cool spray or mild air conditioning, and dial 911 or proceed immediately to the nearest ER.”

Certain groups of people are more vulnerable to heat-related illness. Babies and young children, the elderly, and people on certain medications are all at increased risk. So, be an alert and informed neighbor this summer. Check on elderly neighbors regularly, and take action immediately if you see children or pets left in vehicles.

Dr. Ignacio is board certified in Family Medicine. He is associated with Pee Dee Family Physicians, an affiliate of Carolinas Medical Alliance. Dr. Ignacio is accepting new patients. To schedule an appointment, please call 843-664-9696.



# MENTAL HEALTH: MORE THAN A MINDSET

Submitted by Donna Tracy, Communications Coordinator, HopeHealth, Inc.



Psychiatrist Nikunj Kumar Modi began seeing patients at HopeHealth Specialty Services in September 2015 and is one of several behavioral health providers serving HopeHealth patients. Photo by Bradley Lail/HopeHealth

Some health concerns in life are obvious and met with immediate attention: sudden chest pains call for a trip to the emergency department; a head cold or the sniffles get treated with a cold remedy from the local pharmacist. But other health concerns are often overlooked or disregarded for their apparent lack of physical ailments - especially when it comes to mental health, about which HopeHealth is doing something significant.

National statistics reported by the National Institute of Mental Health for 2014 estimate more than 18 percent of all adults in the U.S. had some type of mental illness in the previous year and that one in every five people experience a mental health illness in any given year. That's an estimated 43.6 million adults and does not include patients living with substance abuse nor individuals without a fixed home address or residing in institutionalized homes. In the same year, 8.4 percent of adults - 20.2 million - had a substance abuse disorder.

Additional nationwide studies by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration report at least one fifth of each adult age group experiencing mental health concerns did not receive treatment for their conditions in 2014; nearly half (46.1%) of adults age 18-25 did not receive treatment. In South Carolina, SAMHSA also reported that, during the same period, 55.5 percent of all adults with any mental illness did not receive treatment - up from 52.4 percent in 2013.

Studies indicate that such barriers have profound effects on individuals' overall health and well being as well as their utilization of primary health care. These mental health concerns affect all peoples - the young, the old, the wealthy, the poor - and all communities. Mental illness is associated with a lower use of medical care, reduced adherence to treatment therapies for chronic diseases and higher risks of adverse health outcomes; many individuals who are challenged with mental illness tend to also struggle with chronic illnesses such as diabetes, obesity and heart disease, leaving many battling multiple chronic diagnoses.



Addressing mental health concerns, however, involves overcoming a myriad of barriers, especially for non-English speaking communities and minorities. These barriers include communication problems, cultural differences, beliefs and taboos, racial and ethnic identity, higher levels of mental-health

associated stigma, access to culturally-appropriate care, and the availability of culturally-aware staff in a health care system that is typically culturally insensitive.

According to the National Alliance on Mental Illness, a mental health condition is more prevalent in a higher percentage of white adults (19.3%) than most minorities, their access and use of mental health services is also reportedly higher with 11.3 % of white males,

and 21.5 % of females seeking help. Among black adults, a reported 18.6 % live with a condition, as do 16.3 % of Hispanic adults. Only 6.6 % of black males and 10.3 % of females seek treatment however. And the numbers are even less for Hispanics; 5.5 percent of Hispanic men and 9.2 % of Hispanic women seek treatment.

Addressing these mental health needs does more than help just individuals. Mental health concerns also ripple through families and communities. More than a third of students age 14 and older with a mental illness drop out of school and serious mental illness costs total \$193.2 billion in annual lost earnings.

These issues reinforce the need for more support to address mental health care and the need to integrate behavioral health into primary care and patient-centered medical homes such as at HopeHealth. Such integrated approaches to health care include increased community outreach and the implementation of evidence-based interventions to address mental health care issues.

HopeHealth's *Making Connections* aims to do just that. In the fall of 2015, HopeHealth received an award from the Movember Foundation, in partnership with the Prevention Institute, to conduct focus groups across five South Carolina counties: Aiken, Clarendon, Florence, Orangeburg and Williamsburg. The target communities include African-Americans, Latinos and veterans. These focus groups and interviews in turn are helping HopeHealth update its practices, increase preparedness for staff as well as review partnerships with current and potential community partners. Additionally, HopeHealth is working to establish a Latino services program to better respond to and serve patients during in-office visits as well as in local communities and neighborhoods.

Such programs help foster an environment at HopeHealth that promotes effective communications between our providers and patients to address mental health needs. To find the nearest HopeHealth location, visit <http://www.Hope-Health.org>.



[hope-health.org](http://hope-health.org)

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# HEPATITIS A, B, C, D AND E: KNOW THE DIFFERENCES

Submitted by *Temujin Chavez, M.D.*



*Dr. Temujin Chavez*

condition caused by inflammation and scarring of the liver), liver cancer or liver failure.

Hepatitis A is contracted through ingestion of fecal matter, either from fecal-to-mouth contact or contaminated food or water. Symptoms include:

- Jaundice (yellowing of the skin and eyes in addition to dark urine)
- Abdominal pain
- Loss of appetite
- Nausea
- Fever
- Diarrhea
- Fatigue

The liver disease caused by hepatitis A is acute in nature, generally lasting a few weeks to a few months, yet the Centers for Disease Control report that 10 to 15 percent of those infected with hepatitis A will have prolonged or recurring symptoms for up to nine months. This disease can be prevented with the hepatitis A vaccine.

In accordance with CDC guidelines, most pediatricians routinely recommend the vaccine for all children 12 to 23 months of age. Moreover, anyone considered at risk of contracting hepatitis A, such as those traveling to regions with a high prevalence of the disease (Central or South America, Asia, Africa and Eastern Europe), should also be vaccinated.

Hepatitis B is primarily transmitted through contact with the blood or bodily fluids of an infected person. The source of transmission is much the same as HIV, yet hepatitis B is 100 times more infectious. The disease can be spread with unsanitary needles used for tattooing, intravenous drug use or contact with contaminated objects, such as razor blades or toothbrushes. In addition, newborns can contract the disease from an infected mother at the time of birth. Symptoms of Hepatitis B include:

- Jaundice
- Unusually light-colored stool
- Unexplained fatigue lasting for weeks or months
- Abdominal pain
- Flu-like symptoms

Those infected with this type of hepatitis may not experience symptoms for up to six months. Some develop chronic liver disease which is a longer-lasting and more serious condition that can result in liver cancer. In an effort to thwart Hepatitis B, vaccination is recommended for infants, health care workers and those traveling to regions where the disease is common.

The most serious and non-curable form of hepatitis is type C. Although the symptoms of this virus can be acute, hepatitis C most often becomes a chronic condition and carries a high likelihood of developing into cirrhosis or liver cancer. Its symptoms are similar to type A and B, and there is no vaccine. This disease is spread most commonly through contaminated needles, usually those of infected intravenous drug users.

Hepatitis D is also contracted through blood and bodily fluids. However, unlike the others, it is dependent on the hepatitis B virus in order to grow. This means people must be infected with both types in order for hepatitis D to affect them. Symptoms of hepatitis D are comparable to A, B and C, and there is no vaccine.

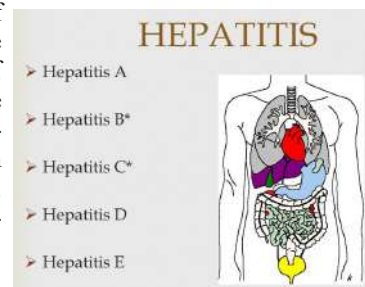
Finally, hepatitis E is contracted by the ingestion of fecal matter, usually related to a contaminated water supply. Although rare in the U.S., it can be very serious. Most outbreaks are acute and do not lead to chronic infection. Hepatitis E also exhibits the symptoms of type A and there is no approved vaccine for type E.

Hepatitis, which means inflammation of the liver, is also the name of a group of viral infections. Although hepatitis A, B, C, D and E are very distinct viruses, they share the commonality of attacking the liver of their host. These potent viruses can do tremendous damage.

Microscopic amounts of the viruses are strong enough to infect humans, and in most cases, the diseases are not fatal. However, if the symptoms are left untreated, many types of hepatitis can lead to cirrhosis, (a potentially life-threatening

Although the types of hepatitis may result from different causes and produce different effects, all are characterized by inflammation of the liver. When left untreated, the symptoms of hepatitis may progress into fatal conditions such as cirrhosis, liver cancer and liver failure. All who are eligible should be vaccinated, but if you are experiencing symptoms related to hepatitis, talk to your physician about appropriate treatment options.

**About the Author:** Dr. Temujin Chavez is board certified in Infectious Disease & Internal Medicine. He is associated with Carolinas Infectious Disease, an affiliate of Carolinas Medical Alliance and he is a member of the medical staff at Carolinas Hospital System. He is accepting new patients and walk-ins are welcome. To make an appointment, please contact Dr. Chavez's office by calling 843-674-6400. Sources: [www.webmd.com](http://www.webmd.com) [www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov)



## CHS RECOGNIZES OUTSTANDING NURSES

Submitted by *Kim Geiger, Marketing Director*

To complete its celebration of National Nurses' Week, Carolinas Hospital System held a special recognition ceremony Thursday, May 12, to honor the many contributions and achievements of its nursing staff.



*Leslie Nesmith, RN, BSN, ONC*

The 2016 Nurse of the Year Award was presented to Leslie Nesmith, RN, BSN, ONC. Leslie has worked in the medical profession for over 20 years. Her commitment to compassionate patient care cannot be superseded. Leslie is a consistent role model for all of the staff, from orienting new staff to coaching seasoned staff, she leads by example and is a great resource for all.



*Amy Falkenmeyer, RN*

Another outstanding and devoted nurse, Amy Falkenmeyer, RN was presented The Patient Choice Award. Amy who works on the second floor of South Tower was selected through nominations solicited from patients in our community. Amy is vastly respected by her patients and peers as well as the hospital medical staff. Her dedication to providing outstanding care not only exceeds our expectations, but those of our patients.

Carolinas Hospital System and Nursing Services presented the following additional awards and recognitions during the ceremony:

- Alecia Anyim, MD – Physician Friend of Nursing
- Mary Ann Carter, Education Coordinator, Education Department – Nursing Leadership Champion
- Sarah Browning, Unit Secretary, Day Hospital – Nursing Support Champion

Dr. Frank B. Lee, Sr. Outstanding Nursing Unit Award was given to the Emergency Department.

"All of our Nursing Services employees are extraordinary and we are inspired by what they do each day. We appreciate the quality care, comfort and compassion they provide our patients and their unwavering dedication to earn the trust and loyalty of our patients," said Costa Cockfield, Chief Nursing Officer. "We are blessed beyond measure to have them as part of our team."



# COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTERS SEEK 100,000 ADVOCATES IN 100 DAYS

by Les Echols



Carl Humphries (left), HopeHealth, Inc. CEO, and Lathran Johnson Woodard, South Carolina Primary Health Care Association CEO, discuss 100K in 100 Days, a campaign for America's health centers, as they tour the HopeHealth Medical Plaza in Florence. HopeHealth is a Federally Qualified Health Center serving three counties in the Pee Dee region. (Photo by Bradley Lail)

HopeHealth is celebrating a milestone 25th year of providing quality service in several parts of South Carolina. Led by Chief Executive Officer Carl Humphries, HopeHealth is a Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC) that has had an undeniable community impact throughout the years. HopeHealth has been committed to offering the very best in affordable, accessible health care to patients by integrating a range of

health resources. Diversity Works sat down with Humphries and his colleague, Lathran Johnson Woodard, chief executive officer (CEO) of the South Carolina Primary Health Care Association (SCPHCA), an organization that supports federally-funded community health centers and community mental health centers that provide vital services to medically underserved communities in the state. Woodard has been with SCPHCA for more than 28 years and Humphries, whose background is in social work, has been with HopeHealth for more than 15 years.

According to Woodard, HopeHealth is a community health center that has served as a visual example of the growth CHCs have had in the years since their inception.

"Health care needs are changing, the demand is changing, technology is changing," said Woodard. "We've had to grow in terms of how we deliver care and think differently from what we did 50 years ago."

"There have been a lot of very positive changes, the sophistication in which community health centers attack the healthcare problems in our communities show better outcomes every year," states Humphries. And, while the similarities exist to other healthcare providers, Humphries stresses what differentiates CHCs from others. "Our board of directors is made up of patients that reflect the patients we serve. The patient environment is patient centered and customer driven, and the people that are making decisions are actually receiving care. Board members and staff buy in, and advocacy helps to create community support. This creates a strong base of built in advocates for CHCs."

To combine efforts across the country, the National Association of Community Health Centers (NACHC) has launched a three-month campaign called "100k in 100 days" that will take place May through National Health Center week in August. The goal is to increase the number of community health center advocates from 80,000 to 100,000 nationally. "We don't want to be healthcare's best-kept secret; we want to create a team of ambassadors to help carry the message to people in need of care," explained Woodard. To become such an ambassador is as simple as signing up as a CHC advocate at <http://www.saveourchcs.org/signup.cfm> (be sure to list HopeHealth as your community health center).

"What we do to contribute towards the health care of the community is, number one, the benefit to the patient, and that comes first," said Humphries. "But it's also a benefit to the system. If we're not here, 21 different health center companies with 144 different sites across South Carolina gone tomorrow, that would be a huge impact on the emergency rooms and other health care systems in each of those communities."

It is important to note that in 2015, SC Community Health Centers saw 1.35 million patients; 91 percent were under 200 percent of the federal poverty level. However, Humphries stresses the diversity of patients for which they care. "Whether you are underprivileged, have great insurance, are liberal or conservative, there is a reason to believe in and trust in the care of community health centers." Both he and Woodard agree on the high level of which CHCs have grown; HopeHealth's growth has increased from 8,776 patients served in 2011 to 34,255 patients in 2015.

"As economic engines for jobs and healthcare in the community, we have had to grow and think differently to keep up in areas like technology," confirmed Woodard, before going on to elaborate on the incredible history of CHCs.

According to Woodard, CHCs began with Dr. H. Jack Geiger and Dr. Sidney Kark, who have become pioneers in the community health arena. Then young doctors studying in South Africa, Kark and Geiger witnessed how a unique community-based health care model brought about astonishing health improvements for the poorest citizens of that community.

"The unique integration of behavioral health and primary care will



Carl Humphries and Lathran Johnson Woodard

not be found in other providers," explained Woodard. "The CHC model also contributes to the local economy by helping to create jobs and maintaining healthy employees. The centers all started with a few people, a dedicated team that exhibited that when they stick together, a group of diverse individuals can make a difference.

CHCs have to be in federally-designated, medically-underserved areas. That is, the numbers of people who are uninsured or underserved don't have enough providers to serve them. But progressing as a country starts at a local level with CHCs. It is important to note that CHCs are about equity, not equality." Equity, not equality, will help eliminate the health disparities gap we have in the state," concludes Woodard.

According to NACHC, South Carolina health centers have an impact of \$465 million. To put that into perspective, if not for CHCs, 350,000 people would lose access to healthcare. Hundreds of jobs would be lost, as well as the mentoring patients receive in our holistic healthcare environment.

HopeHealth continues to grow and thrive in all its service areas with the Florence medical plaza's completion of Phase 1 of a nearly 50,000 square foot community plaza health center, a project that took several years to come to full fruition, the opening of the newest center in Greeleyville, and a major upcoming renovation project in Kingstree. The organization continues to work hard to not only foster a diverse and inclusive environment, but also create millions of dollars in economic impact, hundreds of jobs, and equitable accessibility to quality healthcare. For more information, visit <http://www.hopehealth.org>.



# STATUE AT FMU'S CARTER CENTER WILL HONOR DR. BECK

Submitted by Angela Crosland, FMU Director of Communications



Dr. Roswell Nathaniel Beck, Sr.

Francis Marion University will celebrate the life of legendary Florence family physician and community activist Dr. Roswell Nathaniel Beck, Sr. with a unique bronze statue on the public plaza in front of the new Luther F. Carter Center for Health Sciences in downtown Florence.

The 500-pound, six-and-a-half-foot high bronze statue depicts Beck examining a young child. It will be placed near a linear fountain on the plaza, and will be a focal point of Irby Street-W. Evans Street intersection, where the health sciences center is located. The statue will be installed later this summer, just before the Carter Center opens for classes this fall. Dr. Fred Carter, FMU's president, says the idea for the statue came out of discussions with Florence Mayor Stephen Wukela.

"Mayor Wukela and I agreed upon this in about two seconds," says Carter. "Dr. Beck's life was the epitome for everything that this building represents. He was one of the most distinguished physicians to practice in this community, and his work impacted thousands of lives, one office visit at a time. This statute is an appropriate way to honor his service."

Celeste Barbara Beck Abdallah, Dr. Beck's daughter, says the family is delighted with the honor, especially since the statue will stand just a few blocks away from Beck's old N. Dargan Street office.

"(My father) practiced medicine for 56 years and gave 100 percent of his time, medical expertise and friendship to his patients, community and for the advancement of civil rights for all," says Beck Abdallah. "I want to thank Francis Marion University for this great honor."

Beck may be best known for his work as a physician, but his impact stretched far beyond his office doors. He was a humanitarian, a military veteran, a community leader, an accomplished musician and a family man. Beck was born in Georgetown, attended Fisk University and received his medical degree at Meharry College of Medicine in Nashville, TN. After completing his residency, Beck served with distinction in the Korean War as a medic in the Medical Corps. He earned a Bronze Star for service rendered in the war. He moved to Florence to live and practice medicine after the war.

Beck organized the Florence Committee for Community Affairs, was instrumental in bringing the first Head Start program to Florence, served as chairman of the Voter Education Project, was an active member of the S.C. Commission on Alcohol and Drug Abuse and the S.C. Human Affairs Commission, and served as a trustee of the Medical University of South Carolina. Beck's honors include the Order of the Palmetto given to him by former Gov. Dick Riley. He also received the Medical Doctor of the Year Award from the intercounty Medical, Dental and Pharmaceutical Association and the Meharry Medical College President's Award, given for service to mankind.

The U.S. Post Office on W. Evans Street and the R.N. Beck Child Development Center on Sumter Street, both in Florence,



Beck Statue Model

have been named in Beck's honor. He and his wife Barbara, who is now also deceased, have three children: Janice Beck (deceased), Celeste Barbara Beck Abdallah and Dr. Roswell N. Beck, Jr. Beck died in January 2003.

The statue is 80 inches high, 48 inches wide and 24 inches deep. It will be a part of the fountain structure on the Irby Street side of the Carter Center plaza. The university and city commissioned Palkovich, a renowned sculptor who's completed a number of works around Florence and the Pee Dee, to create the statue.

## SURPRISING FOODS THAT PACK A PROTEIN PUNCH



It helps you build muscle and tissues. You need it to make blood, antibodies and hair. It keeps you satisfied for longer so you can fight hunger pangs. Protein isn't just for athletes and bodybuilders - it's essential for everyone striving for a healthy lifestyle.

The amount of protein needed varies based on a variety of factors, such as body weight and activity level. In general, if you eat 2,000 calories each day, you should consume 5 1/2 ounces of protein daily, according to recommendations from the U.S. Department of Agriculture Center for Nutrition Policy and Promotion.

Protein is in every cell in the human body, so it's important to be thoughtful of your protein intake. However, that doesn't mean you're stuck eating meat, beans and peanut butter. There are many surprising sources of protein that make it easy to enhance meals and snacks.

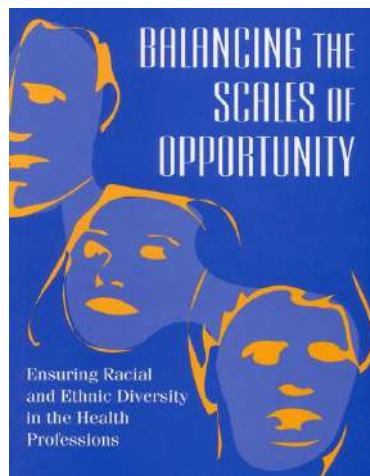
**Edamame:** Tasty edamame (soybeans) are a protein-packed snack. One cup contains a whopping 22 grams of protein, plus calcium, magnesium and more. Eaten alone, it will quickly become a favorite snack. Or, add to salads or sprinkle on top of soups to up the protein ante pronto.

**Spouted grain flake cereal:** Loaded with 7-8 grams of important plant-based protein per 55 gram serving, Ezekiel 4:9 Flourless Sprouted Grain Flakes are sprouted to maximize nutrition and digestibility. Try original, flax+chia, raisin and almond varieties to start your day with a complete protein source containing nine essential amino acids. You can also add to yogurt or crush the flakes and use as a delicious crispy, nutty, sweet breading.

**Sundried tomatoes:** Add zest to pasta and chili with sweet and savory sundried tomatoes. One cup contains 8 grams of protein, so it's the perfect addition to any meal. Reach for sundried tomatoes with cheese and crackers, on sandwiches or to add amazing depth in flavor to sauces.

**Chia seeds:** These tiny seeds are known for their healthy omegas, but they are also an amazing source of protein. Just 2 tablespoons have 3 grams of protein. This is the perfect crunchy addition to yogurt or blended into a smoothie.

**Peas:** They may be small, but they are mighty in the protein department. One cup of raw peas contains 8 grams of protein. Peas are more than just a side dish - add this great green to soup, blend to create a delectable sauce or sprinkle as a colorful garnish.





## IN THE TRENCHES FIRSTHAND

by Michelle Beckham



Shonette Park-Dargan, Pee Dee Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Assault Shelter Program Director

DW - What is your story and why you have a passion for Pee Dee Coalition?

Shonette Dargan (hereinafter referred to as SD) --I originally started with Pee Dee Coalition as an intern in April 2012. I interned with PDC for about 8 months. After seeing the reality of the number of abused women from our community and talking with them on a daily basis, my life had changed. I thought to myself WOW, this does not just happen just on tv but it's here in our community. This internship was more than gaining experience, it was an eye opener for me. I became attached to the women and children. I wanted to make a difference. I wanted to help change the statistics of SC being rated number one in deaths of women due to domestic violence.

DW - In your words, can you tell me more about the 4th Breaking Free annual 5k. (i.e. -What does it mean for the community, what does it bring to Pee Dee Coalition such as maybe marketing or awareness, why you think it's vital to have each year, what a great outcome has to offer, etcetera)

SD -- Yes, the 4th Annual Breaking Free Event is a 5K/15K Walk and Run event held each year in October at Trinity Presbyterian Church Parking Lot, Located 1021 S Ebenezer Road, Florence SC 29501. This year registration opens at 8:00 am and the Walk-Run begins at 9:00 am. The purpose of this event is to bring awareness and education to the community about domestic violence. In addition to remember all the victims that lost their lives due to domestic violence. As mentioned previously SC is rated # 1 in deaths due to domestic violence. Therefore by having this event we are uniting as one standing and breaking free of the violence, we have a voice, we care and we are making a difference in our community. All proceeds from Breaking Free benefit our shelter home. With the help of our community we are able to house the many women and children who are fleeing for safety. We are the only shelter home that will house a mother with her 18 year old son in our community.

DW- If Pee Dee Coalition could make a "wish list", what would be on this list. (Food for thought: Volunteers, supporters, monetary donations etcetera)

SD -- If we could make a wish list to share with our community the list would consist of Children snacks, gift cards, outdoor adventure activities for our women and children such as movie trips, skating, bowling, or eating outings. Most important volunteers or supporters that will invest time in the life of someone. Monetary donations are always needed to assist with unexpected repairs from a clogged toilet to the ceiling repairs. One wish that I personally would like for the shelter would be supporters from our community who could assist with free health, medical, drug and alcohol, mental health, therapy services within our shelter as a partnership. Most services are available outside of the shelter but however there are some cost associated with the services.

DW - Tell me your thoughts on the day of action and awareness in honor of victims and survivors of relationships in our community. Food for thought: What does the day of action and awareness mean for our community? (I also have noted that the proceeds go towards the emergency safe shelter for abused women and children)

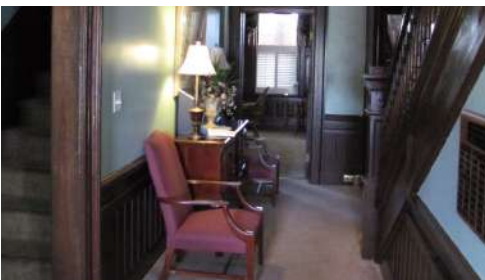
SD -- Coming together as a community for the Breaking Free event brings knowledge and understanding to the issue of domestic violence that there's help and support. They're signs we can look for, there's free counseling and support groups. Awareness opens the eyes of the community to identify and recognize abuse. As a team working in unity we stand tall in Breaking Free from violence and changing SC from being rated #1. WE MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

DW- If you wanted to grab others attention by this article, share wisdom or experience, or make a difference even if to just ONE reader that might have needed it most - what would you say or share? Floor is completely open -- I would really love for you to share your heart on this one.

SD -- As I reminisce and think back on my experiences here at the shelter, my mind goes back to one hot Saturday afternoon. I had just come in to complete some internship hours after leaving my class and traveling back from Columbia to Florence to get in more of the 750 plus intern hours. I walked into the main office and there sat a blond elderly woman with straggly hair, who appeared just to be another female visitor but as the woman turned around and faced me as I walked in...(classes did not prepare me for what I was about to witness) the entire right side of her face was purple and blue, her eye was swollen and blood vessels appeared bright red; but yet she smiled at me. Just in that moment I thought to myself this is not just on Life Time TV but this is real. Oh my! How can someone hurt an elderly woman. I sat down and I completed her intake assessment. I spoke with her on a daily basis as to what her goals were. I remember weeks later working with her to help find a job and support for a life of independence. This woman would compliment me on my dress attire. I thought with all that I have, maybe I could donate and share some clothes with her. I did just that and thought nothing more of it. One day several weeks later I came into the shelter and was told that she had exited but she left me a letter. The letter thanked me for all that I had done for her but the part that stood out for me was how she expressed that receiving the clothes helped her and made her feel as though she was beautiful and intelligent. I'm proud to say she was a success story. She wore the very clothes to her interview and got the job. Who would have thought such a small gesture meant so much to her.

For me what keeps me going in spite of all the trauma and abuse I see everyday are the women and children that do succeed in life. Our goal at the shelter is to provide safety, empower, and motivate victims to survive and break free.

Pee Dee Coalition Shelter can house approximately 22 people. Length of stay is 60 days and could be increased or decreased. No cost for stay. Overall PDC is a non profit organization serving seven counties.



For some victims, this is "a place called home."



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# MORRELL NURSING CENTER EARNS 2016 BRONZE NATIONAL QUALITY AWARD

Submitted by Dianne Dennis, Director of Marketing



**HARTSVILLE – Morrell Nursing Center**, a Wilson Senior Care facility, has been recognized as a 2016 recipient of the *Bronze – Commitment to Quality Award* for its dedication to improving the lives of residents through quality care. The award is the first of three distinctions possible through the National Quality Award Program, presented by the American Health Care Association and National Center for Assisted Living (AHCA/NCAL), the leading association for long term and post-acute care. The program honors providers across the nation that have demonstrated their commitment to improving quality of care for seniors and persons with disabilities.

“It’s an honor to be recognized for the hard work and quality of care our team provides every day,” said **Kelly Pruitt, Executive Director of Morrell Nursing Center**. “We are committed to providing high-quality, person-centered care to our residents and their families. We will never stop improving.”

Implemented by AHCA/NCAL in 1996, the National Quality Award Program is centered on the core values and criteria of the *Baldrige Performance Excellence Program*, which is the foundation of the metric-based AHCA/NCAL

Quality Initiative. The program assists providers of long term and post-acute care services in achieving their performance excellence goals.

The program has three levels: Bronze, Silver, and Gold. Providers begin the quality improvement process at the Bronze level, where they develop an organizational profile with essential performance elements such as vision and mission statements and an assessment of customers’ expectations. Bronze applicants must also demonstrate their ability to implement a performance improvement system. Trained Examiners review each Bronze application to determine if the center has met the demands of the criteria. As a recipient of the *Bronze - Commitment to Quality Award*, Morrell Nursing Center may now move forward in developing approaches and achieving performance levels that meet the criteria required for the Silver - Achievement in Quality Award.

“I applaud the women and men of Morrell Nursing Center for their commitment to improve quality care,” said the AHCA/NCAL National Quality Award Board of Overseers Chair Christine Boldt. “This award is the first step in a program that serves as an essential guide to performance excellence. I encourage Morrell Nursing Center to continue their quality journey.”

The awards will be presented during AHCA/NCAL’s 67th Annual Convention and Exposition in Nashville, TN, October 16-19.

## ABOUT Morrell Nursing Center

Morrell Nursing Center is a division of Wilson Senior Care. Morrell Nursing Center is a 154 bed skilled nursing facility located at 900 N. Marquis Highway in Hartsville. The Rehab Center at Morrell is also housed at this location, a 56 bed unit, which provides short-term rehabilitation for stroke, orthopedic and generalized weakness patients. Wilson Senior Care’s other facilities include: Oakhaven Nursing Center (Darlington), Medford Nursing Center (Darlington), and Loris Rehab & Nursing Center (Loris). For more information about Wilson Senior Care, visit [www.wilsonseniorcare.com](http://www.wilsonseniorcare.com).

## ABOUT AHCA/NCAL

The American Health Care Association and National Center for Assisted Living (AHCA/NCAL) represent more than 13,000 non-profit and proprietary skilled nursing centers, assisted living communities, sub-acute centers and homes for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. By delivering solutions for quality care, AHCA/NCAL aims to improve the lives of the millions of frail, elderly and individuals with disabilities who receive long term or post-acute care in our member facilities each day. For more information, please [www.ahca.org](http://www.ahca.org) or [www.ncal.org](http://www.ncal.org).

\*\*\*\*\*

If interested in more information about this topic, contact Dianne Dennis at 843-393-9925 or email at [ddennis@wilsonseniorcare.com](mailto:ddennis@wilsonseniorcare.com).



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# PEE DEE GARDENS STRUCTURES OUR SENIORS' FUTURE

by Anna Bowman



Sherri Scott

Experience is the best teacher, so says, a famous quote, and no one knows this better than Sherri Scott, Administrator with Pee Dee Gardens, a DePaul Senior Living Community in Florence. Scott has been in her current position for nearly three years, but she has 21 years of experience in the medical field.

"I began working as a Certified Nursing Assistant and was given the opportunity to pursue my career in Senior Living, said the Limestone College graduate. "I'm a licensed Assisted Living Administrator, serving the Senior Living Industry with a background in Alzheimer's and Dementia Care."

Scott attributes her extensive knowledge in the Senior Living Industry along with her Bachelor of Science degree in Business Management, as two very important factors assisting her with the overall operation of the Pee Dee Gardens' customer service, staffing, resident care, and marketing and sales.

The concept of Assisted Living first surfaced in the late 1970s, when it became apparent that the institutionalized setting of nursing homes was no longer acceptable for most aging seniors and their families. As well, as advances in medicine which allowed seniors to be more independent while aging, caused aging grandparents or parents, to balk at the idea of nursing home placement. Assisted living is categorized as a program that promotes resident self-direction and participation in decisions that emphasize choice, dignity, privacy, individuality, independence and homelike surroundings. Often seen as the best of both worlds, assisted livings provide their residents with the privacy and comforts of home, but also provides the necessary means to assist in activities of daily living (ADL).

Scott is proud that the Pee Dee Gardens offers more than assisted living services.

"We offer a lifestyle for our residents' future," she said. "We strive to enhance each resident's quality of life by providing interactive social activities, a supportive and caring staff and personal care services that promote independence and dignity. Pee Dee Gardens offers a personalized approach to delivering support and services while encouraging family members to be actively involved in the care of their loved ones."

Licensed by the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control, Pee Dee Gardens offers fully furnished private and semi-private bedrooms, most with full bathrooms. The community provides 24-hour access to staff, and also serves those with Alzheimer's disease and other forms of dementia, said Scott.

"When people are entrusting the well-being of their loved ones to others outside the family, you want a caring staff who strives to promote respect and dignity for all of its resident," said Scott. "At Pee Dee Gardens, we believe that our family is the next best thing to your family."

She is extremely proud that Pee Dee Gardens, which was acquired by DePaul in August 2013, is staffed above the recommended state requirements and is able to give special attention and care to its residents.

"We have a great Resident Care Director with years of nursing and

long term care experience leading our direct care staff," she said.

Pee Dee Gardens, recently completed a 14-bedroom expansion and underwent a major renovation. The improvements were welcomed by



Pee Dee Gardens, a DePaul Senior Living Community in Florence.

the residents and staff. Fully-furnished units include studios, deluxe studios, one-bedroom and two-bedroom models. Memory care rooms are also offered for residents who are in need of more day-to-

day personalized assistance because of their health.

Scott, who is the mother of two sons, Harry and Tyler, is currently the Region 3 Director for the South Carolina Association of Residential Care Homes. She encourages people to come in for a tour of the updated community, meet the staff, enjoy a meal and learn more about Pee Dee Gardens. For additional information, call the facility at (843) 667-6699.

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# DAVIS ON FAST TRACK, ENJOYING THE RIDE

by Mallory Brayboy



Lamon Davis

Lamon Davis is not your ordinary car salesman. In fact, he refers to himself as a “sales professional”, with every right to do so being that Davis has been named Salesman of the Month 17 out of his 19 months of being employed at Nissan Five Star. “A lot of people refer to themselves as Car Salesmen. I’m a Sales Professional, because I professionally try to present myself and give you the information that you need to make an informed decision on your vehicle of interest”, says Davis.

A native of Florence and a grad Wilson High School, Davis is approaching his second year with the car company and is enjoying his ride. “I work really really hard. I’m trying to put my best foot forward here and make my mark in Florence as far as the car business goes”, he says.



Lamon Davis and Natalie Dougherty

Prior to his position with Nissan Five Star, Davis began his sales career at Pee Dee Sportsman and later worked as assistant manager at High Point Sofa Furniture Factory. Despite his background in sales, Davis found entering the car sales business somewhat intimidating because it was a new area. “The car business is a lot different from any other business I had taken part of, so you have to gather a lot of information quickly and you have

to learn quickly”, says Davis.



A part of Nissan’s training process involves shadowing current sales professionals. After two weeks of shadowing Davis felt he was ready to tackle things on his own, but was advised by his manager that he needed more time. “He expressed to me how important it is to listen, watch, and learn. I was just determined to make my place. I didn’t foresee 17 months...I just knew I was ready to go”, says Davis.

Davis loves the sales business but does face some challenges. “You control only so much. You can like me more than the sunshine but that doesn’t mean you’re going to buy from me. Someone elsewhere could have beaten my price”, says Davis. His focus, however, is not on just selling, but instead on treating people with kindness and respect. “I’m not in the business of cars, I’m in the business of people”, he says. His personal slogan is: Let me turn your car frown into a car smile! “Many people have cars they’re not satisfied with. I always try to put them in a car that they’re happy with and that they are happy paying for”, says Davis. The driven sales professional also has a referral program offering \$100-150 per referral that draws in a lot of business.

Lamon Davis has set a name for himself in only a short period of time and hopes for continued growth. He credits his motivation to caring for his children as well as day-to-day living. “I enjoy sales. It’s just that though; You don’t work, you don’t eat”, laughs Davis. “I have a drive to compete. To excel. I’m motivated because I see more and I want to achieve those goals. I just want to put my name in the pot!”

An advertisement for Lamon Davis at Nissan Five Star. On the left is a photograph of Lamon Davis in a blue suit and cap, giving a thumbs up. To the right, the text reads "Lamon Davis" and "843.260.5637" in large, bold letters. Next to the phone number is the Nissan logo. Below the text is a photograph of a red Nissan sedan. At the bottom, the text "FIVE STAR" is written in blue with a yellow star. At the very bottom, a yellow smiley face emoji with thumbs up is shown next to the slogan "Come Turn Your Car Frown into A Car Smile".

**Lamon Davis**  
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## FMU'S PAC BRINGS IN THE SUMMER WITH THE LEGENDARY JUDY COLLINS

Submitted by Angela Crosland, FMU Director of Communications



Judy Collins

Collins, the legendary singer and folk artist of the 1960s and '70s, will be on the Mainstage of the Francis Marion University Performing Arts Center for a special "Evening with Judy Collins" on Thursday, July 21 at 7:30 p.m. This will be Collins' second appearance at the PAC. She was part of the facility's Grand Opening weekend in September of 2011. Tickets for Collins' upcoming performance are on sale now, both online and at the PAC box office (843) 661-4444, www.fmu.pac.org). Tickets are \$47 and \$37.

Collins is known for her stunning, melodic voice, her creative interpretations of traditional folk standards, as well as her original pieces of music. She earned a Grammy for her rendition of Joni Mitchell's "Both Sides Now." The melancholy ballad was featured on Collins' 1967 album, Wildflowers. Her version of "Send in the Clowns," a ballad written for the Broadway musical A Little Night Music, earned a second Grammy nomination in 1975. Other Collins' hits include "Chelsea Morning," "Someday Soon," "Cookin with Honey," and a piercing version of "Amazing Grace."

Collins released her first studio album in four years last September. Strangers Again features Collins and a group of young talent singing songs from such musical greats as Willie Nelson, Jackson Browne, Jeff Bridges and a host of others. Collins has written several books, including Sanity & Grace and Sweet Judy Blue Eyes: My Life in Music. She is a talented painter, filmmaker, record label head, musical mentor, and a sought after keynote speaker for mental health and suicide prevention.

For more information, visit the PAC website at www.fmu.pac, call the box office at (843) 661-4444, or visit the box office at 201 S. Dargan Street. Telephone and in person sales are available Monday through Friday between 12 and 5 p.m.



## LITTLE WOMEN VISIT THE HARTSVILLE MUSEUM

Submitted by Laura Crouch, Museum Development Coordinator

**HARTSVILLE**--Recently, the Hartsville Museum was the recipient of a special donation. Emily Bailey of Clinton, a sustaining friend of the museum, arrived at our door with boxes full of treasures - including Christmas ornaments, decorations, and an assortment of dolls. Among the dolls was the quartet from Louisa May Alcott's book, Little Women, featuring Meg, Jo, Beth, and Amy Marsh.

Originally published in two volumes, the book made its appearance in 1868 and tells the story of four "All-American" girls on their passage from childhood to womanhood. The book is based loosely on the life of the author and her three sisters. It was written explicitly for young girls yet varies greatly from the writing styles of the time.



Meg

Meg, the eldest March daughter, is a beauty who manages the household when Mother Marmee is away. She is the teacher and governess for four children of a neighboring family but mostly Meg's life is bland in domesticity.

Jo, a strong and willful tomboy, is the principal character in Alcott's book. Jo is hot-tempered but enjoys reading and writing - particularly plays and short stories. She tends to her grand aunt March, a frail but wealthy widow.



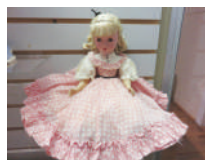
Beth

Beth, the third daughter, is kind and thoughtful, and yet a shy quiet musician. She



Jo

is the peacemaker when arguments arise. Her primary duty is helping with the housework until she contracts scarlet fever. After resolving herself to a shortened lifetime, Beth spends her days knitting and sewing for the local children.



Amy

Amy, the spoiled baby of the family, has the stature of a proper young lady with curly golden curls and sparkly blue eyes. She is an artist who travels to Europe with her aunt and uncle. Although vain and self-centered, Amy is very capable of handling herself properly

in polite society.

The doll characters based on this story are a design from the Madame Alexander collection. Perhaps there is no name better known in the world of doll collecting than that of Madame Beatrice Alexander Behrman. Her business began over 90 years ago by making dolls based on classic literature such as Heidi, Little Women, and Mary Queen of Scots.

Emily's dolls were given to her, one at a time, in the early 1950's when she was about 10 years old. They have retained their impeccable condition because the dolls were "to be admired" as opposed to being playthings. Emily says her favorite of the four was Amy because she was so feminine. Come by the museum to see the Little Women and decide which of the four is your favorite!

The museum is open Mon-Fri, 10 am - 5 pm, and Saturdays 10 am - 2 pm. Admission is free. The Hartsville Museum is handicapped accessible.



## FLORENCE'S FIRST ESCAPE GAME

Submitted by Maureen Allen

After visiting one of these exciting new live adventure games on a weekend trip, Maureen Allen and Gavin Smith fell in love with the idea and decided this would be perfect to bring to the Florence area. Maureen and Gavin are siblings, both from Florence, and are now dedicated to making this dream a reality!

LOCKED INN is hoping for an early July opening. Maureen and Gavin are working hard to build and design their 2 themed rooms at The Gould Incubator located beside SiMT at Florence Darlington Tech.

In an interview with Maureen, she says "The concept of these games is that you and a group of friends/family are 'locked in' a themed room and have 60 minutes to escape by finding clues, breaking codes and solving puzzles within the room. It takes team work and some thinking outside the box. It is a really challenging and thrilling experience! We knew that Florence was in desperate need of some new exciting entertainment options and that the people here would fall in love with these games, like we did, once they tried them!"

The initial two rooms will be called Lakewood Lodge and Submerged. Lakewood Lodge is a creepy cabin from which you must escape before the serial killer, who has locked you in, returns. Submerged takes place inside of a submarine that is facing some serious turmoil (the air is running out.) Each room contains different and unique puzzles. The rooms provide quality entertainment for all ages (particularly teens and up) and group types. What a perfect activity for a night out with friends, date night, family fun day, youth group outing, or team building event!

Maureen and Gavin are hoping to bring some grade A fun with Florence's first ever live experience escape room. Join them on their journey and support this local business. Will you make it out in time?



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# MOORE KEEPING HER PERSONAL BEST MOVING AND GROWING

by Ta' Meeka Epps



Mallory "Mel" Kershaw and Pearl Moore

Pearl Moore is a four-time All-American, all-time career-scoring leader for women's college basketball with 4,061 points and a Florence native. Pearl is ranked third on the College's Basketball Career Scoring List for all levels of men's and women's collegiate basketball. Before there was the WNBA there was the WBL and Pearl was a first round draft pick of the Pro Basketball League, New York Stars and played with the organization during the 1979-80 season. She played the 1980-81 season with the St. Louis Streak and was selected as an All-Star; her final professional season would be played in the Foreign Pro League with Venezuela.

Pearl was nominated by FMU and Michael Hawkins for Induction into the Women's Basketball Hall of Fame 2001 Class. "Pearl Moore may be the greatest basketball player (male or female) to come out of the Palmetto State, certainly the most prolific scorer. She played at a time when women's athletics did not get the national press coverage it deserved and her exploits on the court are very much unrecognized. Bottom line - she is the best hoop player ever produced by Florence!

Just ask anyone who ever saw her play," Moore said.

When Pearl stepped out of the player's huddle she did not step away from the game of basketball instead she became, Founder, Coach and Instructor of the Pearl Moore Basketball Camp. Nine years and counting every January is not just the start of a new year but it signifies the beginning stages to ensure an enjoyable and successful camp for all participants.

When asked why she took on such a daunting task she replies, "I would watch the games supporting the effort of the young ladies but I noticed the fundamentals were missing in the players game. Things as simple as dribbling needed to be taught, I wanted to introduce the game of basketball to young players while giving them the opportunity to develop as a player in a fun, structured, safe and enthusiastic atmosphere, even if they never played the game again after camp."

The Pearl Moore Basketball Camp aims to offer quality, affordable instruction in fundamental basketball skills. The philosophy of the camp is learning and refining the fundamental skills of the game will help each player reach their individual potential. Self-motivation and self-discipline are stressed during the four day camp and player's responsibility to his teammates and coach are reinforced. The camp emphasizes skills that will benefit the players in basketball and in life.

The Camp is a non profit 501(c) organization operating off of the generous gifts of donors, sponsors and volunteers. There isn't a paid staff mailing out registration packets or sorting the return packets to ensure they are accurately completed while addressing every detail to ensure a rewarding experience for each camper. When the final buzzer sounds, Mallory Kershaw, the Assistant Director of the Pearl Moore Basketball Camp, a host of generous supporters and Ms. Pearl Moore are the ones standing year after year providing a service to all who choose to take advantage of the opportunity.

The camp is open to girls, ages 7-17 with a registration cost of \$15. The registration fee includes, a t-shirt for all participants registered prior to the deadline, which is normally the last Friday of June each year, lunch every day of camp and trophies to all participants as well as winners of the competitive game(s). The Pearl Moore camp is a day camp with sessions beginning at 8:15 am and concluding 3:30 p.m. each day July 11-14 in the Wilson High School gymnasium.



Pearl Moore Basketball Camp



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# LET THESE GAMES CONTINUE, PLEASE!

by Les Echols



Kirby Anderson and Mark Spurling

Competitive cooking has become an extremely diverse and popular outlet worldwide with a number of cooking programs on television and online. In the south, one particular form of culinary competition headlines dozens of events, that being barbecue competitions, or, in better known terms, BBQ teams. Smoking-N-Carolina is one

of those teams participating in the SC BBQ Association for points; while at the same time helping to raise funds and awareness for a broad array of community organizations.

Team leader Mark Spurling is the owner of Smoking-N-Carolinas. In his day job, Mark works as CIO for HopeHealth, meaning he is usually inundated in technology either installing new items or fixing existing equipment across 16 sites and more than 3,500 devices. "Stepping back to the basics is a retreat for me. I have been an avid backyard grill guy since I don't remember when. My knowledge and experience grew cooking for church events and non-profits {cooking} for groups as high as in the thousands" says Mark, whose specialty is smoked barbecue. Most of the competitions are two day events, and begin on Friday nights with a category called 'anything butt' (Meaning anything other than pork). This is where teams can highlight some of the other items they have grown to love cooking.

The Smoking-N-Carolinas team was organized in 2014. "While the team is young, I personally have been cooking competitively for about 20 years now, and have seen the competitive part change from cooking primarily whole hog bbq to the categories now can include pork shoulders, pork ribs, chicken, chicken wings, and even beef brisket", continued Mark. Although they are known for competition, Smoking-N-Carolina has another reputation that preceded them, a reputation for community service.

During the teams' down time, they are able to help non-profits with fund raisers. According to Mark, it allows the team to stay on top of its game, while simultaneously helping others. Mark also serves on multiple boards some local, regional, and national with a variety of missions everything from medical and humanitarian flights to teaching adults how to read. He is an active member at Florence Baptist Temple, serving in the TV Ministry for over 20 years, and also helps other civic groups such as Leadership Florence with the Greater Florence Chamber of Commerce.

According to team records, Smoking-N-Carolina has cooked for thousands of people outside of the competitions (which can have hundreds of people come by). Asked about his service, Mark states "I always try to have a servant's heart and help those around me; I have been blessed to be able to give back of my time and talent. Everyone loves to eat and if I can help by preparing that food it is good thing. We cook under the KISS theory, (Keep it Simple Stupid) because that is what I can handle. Give us a stick, a fire, and a protein and we can cook something delicious out of it", concluded Mark.



Wings, Ribs & BBQ

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## KUMPEL CHANGES MUSIC SCENE

by Ta'Meeka Epps

"Unfortunately the world is not full of clones of you,  
 No not everyone wants to be  
 The same  
 As you  
 Wouldn't it be boring if we all sounded the same?  
 I'd sing like you  
 And talk  
 Like you always know what I was going to say...  
 Long live our differences, long live our differences"

Teddy Kumpel, "Differences"



Art is activism, most times without even trying. The artist who penned the song "Differences" did so celebrating his right to be himself even when others wanted him to be a cookie cutter version of them. And in that moment he defined himself, for himself, and by himself. Teddy Kumpel is a New Yorker, born and raised on Long Island. In this diverse culture, he has been surrounded by music and differences his entire life.

Kumpel first began performing music when he was just two or three years old. "When both of your parents are musically inclined, it becomes natural for you to mimic what you hear, and for me music became a part of life as important as air and water."

Teddy had his first paying gig at the age of 15, and has never looked back. The music industry would provide a lifelong career for someone willing to work hard. Kumpel studied at the University of Miami Studio Music and Jazz Program where he met young musicians from all over the country. He also immersed himself in the rich live music scene of Miami, performing six nights per week. After expanding his horizons in Miami and making lifelong relationships in music, Teddy returned to the familiar culture of New York City to continue his career. One can always go home, especially when home offers so much to a musician on the precipice of his career. Not everyone wants to be the same as you.



The diversity of the music scene of New York proved welcoming to Teddy allowing him to be himself while creating in an atmosphere familiar to him. Always striving to explore opportunities to expand his musical horizons, Kumpel added music production and singer-songwriter to his resumé. Lyrically, Teddy is inspired by discovering the joy in overcoming life's challenges, and he uses his music to create positivity. Long live our differences.

New York City is still home for Kumpel, where he lives with his wife. Most of his time is spent performing, recording or touring. Occasionally he shares his skills and experiences by giving lessons to aspiring musicians. Kumpel lives his life on three simple principles: get enough sleep, be nice to everyone, and never stop playing music. Wouldn't it be boring if we all sounded the same?

Recently, Kumpel has been touring internationally as guitarist in Joe Jackson's band. The group will be on the road in the U.S. and Canada for five weeks in June and July. In September, Teddy will bring his personal creation, LOOPestra, on the road, sharing his "fun music", as he energetically calls his style of play, with music lovers, exchanging energies while creating lifelong experiences. Teddy will visit the Pee Dee area during his East Coast LOOPestra Tour. Local Pee Dee area dates will be listed on his website at [www.teddyjam.com](http://www.teddyjam.com).

# NEW MARKET FILLING ALL THE HUNGER SPOTS

Contributed by the Florence Convention and Visitors Bureau

If one knows how good Florentines have it, they've ventured to one of the farmers markets we have throughout the city. And what's not to love? Supporting local farmers bringing us seasonal foods, grown within a small radius to its customers has its benefits. The produce is grown longer on the stem because of the shorter distance needed to travel, which in turn brings more nutrition to the consumer and better flavor. Knowing where food comes from connects farmers and consumers, and what's more, it creates a community hub. What's not to like about a place to meet up with friends, to know who grows the food, and to get a taste of farm life in our city?



City Center Farmers Market

The City of Florence recreated its farmers market this year, and it's a hit! The City Center Farmers Market is open at the City Center from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturdays from April to the end of October. Jennie Pezé, local foods coordinator for the city, helped move the market from Wednesday to Saturday, the traditional market day, in order for better customer turnout and vendors who have other full-time jobs.

Ovis Hill Farm came on as an anchor tenant, and other vendors include food, flower, soap and other vendors complement each other. Hope Health's Tracks Cafe is at the market to provide cooking

The City of Florence recreated its farmers market this year, and it's a hit! The City Center Farmers Market is open at the City Center from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturdays from April to the end of October.

Jennie Pezé, local foods coordinator for the city, helped

demonstrations as well as locally sourced options for breakfast and lunch.

As Pezé said "Farmers markets have the doubly beneficial effect of helping both the urban and the rural farming areas thrive. What a great combination."

The City Center Farmers Market is located at 369 W. Cheves St.,



Pee Dee Farmers Market

Florence. Situated on 55 acres of what was once rural farmland, the Pee Dee State Farmers Market is located a mile and a half from exit 164 on I-95. It is home to the state's freshest and finest produce.

What's more, the biannual plant and flower festivals draw visitors from across the state as well as travelers along the eastern seaboard.

The market, which has more than 700,000 visitors annually, offers delicious produce year-round. And while you're out shopping for produce and plants, stop in McLeod Farms' store to enjoy a scoop of its ice cream.

Regular market hours are 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday-Saturday. Admission and parking are free. While you're out there, enjoy lunch at Julia Belle's. The family-run restaurant has terrific home-cooked meals. From country-fried steak to Daufuskie chowder-shrimp soup to the baked-goods items, the Snells have hit the Southern sweet spot.

Pee Dee State Farmers Market is located at 2513 W. Lucas St. in Florence.

## CITY CENTER FARMERS MARKET FLOURISHES IN DOWNTOWN FLORENCE

Submitted by Jennie Williamson Pezé, Market Organizer, City of Florence



Designed by "Design Practice Studio" a graphic design practicum, Department of Fine Arts FMU

As Florence flourishes, the city has repositioned its downtown farmers market for big changes. Having started in April, the former Wednesday afternoon Downtown Farmers Market joined forces with the longstanding Saturday morning Ovis Hill Farmers Market. The new, consolidated CITY CENTER FARMERS MARKET is located at 369 W. Cheves Street from 9am-1pm every week, rain or shine.

Between McQueen and Coit streets, the new location and morning time provide a family-friendly atmosphere, convenient parking, and an opportunity to meet local farmers and artisans as well as fellow foodies. As anticipated, a Saturday morning market has attracted more vendors and is becoming a popular shopping and gathering spot within walking distance for many people. The sense of community is a vital part of what a downtown market can provide, and as the City's downtown population increases, the Market will be a delicious part of weekend life.

The market focuses on food: fruits and vegetables, meat and dairy products, and prepared foods. Some artisans as well as plant and flower growers are among the vendors and each month the market has grown. On third Saturdays of each month, market sponsor BluechoiceHealthplan Medicaid brings in health resource vendors and gives away vegetables to the first 100 visitors.

Ovis Hill Farm is the market's anchor tenant, carrying a wide variety of spring vegetables, non-gmo chicken, eggs, pork, lamb, beef, sausages, as well as milk, butter, and cheese from Happy Cow Creamery, honey, and local wild caught fish among many other goodies.

Breads & Threads is at the market every week with delicious sourdough breads, sweet rolls, and a sweet potato bread that sells out nearly every week.

Brooklyn South Deli is a longtime market vendor with homemade marinara sauces, handmade pasta, take and heat lasagna, various sweets. They also operate a food truck that you might see around the City.

Tracks Café sets up their kitchen each week to prepare delicious breakfasts and lunches using ingredients right from the market. Varners' Produce and McKenzie's Produce are each bringing in their delicious vegetables this summer.

And Hickson's Produce brings in their boiled peanuts, pork rinds, and an assortment of locally grown vegetables as well as a filling a niche with a few never-in-season items to round out a grocery shopping trip. Occasional vendors include Bungalow Blooms with cottage-style cut flowers, Piddlin' with Paper with handmade paper crafts, Paul Shumaker with hand-illustrated notecards and handmade soaps, and Mixed Bakery with an assortment of cookies, brownies, and other sweets. The Florence County Master Gardeners Association brings plants and flowers on the 4th Saturday of each month.

### The bigger picture:

This is a transition year for the farmers market. The move to Saturday morning is significant. This year, as in the past, all vendors will be under tents. Over the long term, Florence City officials plan to encourage a year-round market with permanent public space and to establish a more substantial food production corridor in the downtown. City administrator Drew Griffin said, "This is another step toward revitalizing downtown Florence. The farmers market is an essential element of our strategy."

Local farmers markets provide a great opportunity for residents in building local food economies and local farms; in other words, supporting thriving urban centers in combination with thriving rural areas. Eating locally-grown fruits and vegetables in season has community, environmental, and health benefits. The profits stay local. Reduced transportation uses less fuel. The produce has a shorter time from field to consumer, allowing more time to ripen and gain flavor and nutrients. Also, growers can find a market for more perishable but delicious old-fashioned varieties of fruits and vegetables and for baked goods without preservatives.

"All claims of virtuousness aside," market organizer Jennie Pezé said, "a farmers market is just fun to go to. It's like a treasure hunt!"

Vendor applications are available for download online at [www.florencedowntown.com/citycenterfarmersmarket](http://www.florencedowntown.com/citycenterfarmersmarket) or by contacting market organizers at the City of Florence at [jpeze@cityofflorence.com](mailto:jpeze@cityofflorence.com), 843-665-2047.



Sweetrolls from Breads & Threads (display of aluminum tins)



# SOUTH CAROLINA NATIVE LEADS NEW TOWN HALL RESTAURANT

by Stephanie Navarro



He may not remind you of a traditional South Carolina boy, but one look at the tattoos on Chef Bobby Hodge's knuckles proves he is all country. A single letter on each finger spells a simple mantra, "Hunt Food," and references his childhood where Bobby spent the school year in Columbia and the summers in Sumter. "We hunted a lot. You go hunting and you eat it the next day," says Bobby. "It's the same with vegetables. Picking and shelling. It's how we got our food."



Executive Chef Bobby Hodge builds each of his dishes based on a balance of flavors. With each bite, patrons will enjoy sweet, salty, bitter and sour flavors in comforting and interesting combinations.

Bobby may have learned early on to appreciate local food and good flavors, but he did not know he would end up a chef. Following a medical track in high school, Bobby had a certified nursing assistant license by the time he was 18. However, he was competing against others nearly a decade older than him for a limited number of jobs and did not get hired. Bobby decided to move to Charleston where he began working in a friend's hoagie shop. After moving around another half dozen of Charleston's most recognizable restaurants, Bobby realized he had found his career. "It just clicked. I got into it and started learning how to build flavors," says Bobby. "It's a science so I thought, if I'm not going to go to med school then I'll cook."



Seasonal gnudi (Photo credit Andrew Cebulka)

Over time, Bobby built his culinary skills and honed his understanding of the service industry. "I learned about leadership in the kitchen," says Bobby. "It's a brigade system. It's military. There's ranks and levels and you have to work hard to move up." Bobby also developed a deep

respect for the quality of food. "Every restaurant I've ever worked in, we've always done super local, super farm-to-table cooking," says Bobby. "Coming here, we talked about showcasing Florence's local food. Our hog farmers, I've been using these guys for almost 15 years and they're from right here in Florence. It's the best pork in the country. Getting them on board and meeting other local farmers, it's cool. I'm pumped about helping this area."



(Photo credit Andrew Cebulka)

Now, all roads lead to Town Hall where Bobby will showcase bold, balanced flavors in a rustic, comfortable environment. "I want to be edgy enough to keep people interested," says Bobby, "But we will definitely be approachable." Bobby's menu adjusts seasonally, but features items like duck ravioli, an a la carte meat menu, smash burgers and his hugely popular collards. "Eating is a fun experience and it's fun to do with



The interior of the Town Hall restaurant located in downtown Florence. The bar as well as every counter and table top is made from reclaimed wood and steel from the original structure.

people," says Bobby. "Our whole thing is that people feel welcomed."

## About Town Hall:

Florence's newest eatery, Town Hall, opened its doors to locals and visitors alike in late June. Located at northwest corner of Evans St. and Dargan St., the aptly-named Town Hall serves as a cornerstone of Florence's downtown revitalization efforts. It is Dave Barth of Red Bone Alley and Fiasco's second investment in downtown Florence and first partnership with restaurant group Indigo Road Restaurant Group, based out of Charleston. For more information, visit Town Hall's website at [www.townhallflorence.com](http://www.townhallflorence.com).



The style and feel of the Town Hall restaurant, from its private party room to its logo, harkens to Florence's heyday and hopes to likewise encourage locals and visitors to visit downtown.

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Friday Night 7:00 pm  
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Chapman Auditorium at  
Francis Marion University

Saturday Morning July 23, 2016  
9:30am - 4:00pm  
Celebration of Jamestown  
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Florence, SC 29506

Saturday Night 7:00pm  
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## FIVE WAYS AMERICANS UNITE TO HELP ONE ANOTHER



It seems as though there's a lot of disagreement in our country these days. Political parties not only argue with each other, but they also fight within their ranks. Turn on the news and bickering is everywhere. Click on any internet story and you'll read through pages of angry comments.

Despite all the noise, however, Americans truly are more united than divided. And one of the issues that unites all kinds of Americans is supporting our veterans. In fact, it's part of a long tradition that goes back to the founding fathers, and there are plenty of ways you can reach out and show your appreciation as well.

1. A tradition of honoring heroism. In 1782, George Washington issued orders to honor soldiers who showed exceptional distinction by awarding them the Badge of Military Merit. Now called the Purple Heart, it's given to men and women in uniform who have been injured or killed in combat or captivity. As the oldest medal currently in use, over 1.7 million have received the honor.

2. Ordinary people giving. Millions of Americans have shown their support for veterans by donating their time and financial support to organizations such as the Purple Heart Foundation. This organization supports veterans and their families with many nationwide programs. They rely on ordinary Americans to volunteer and provide financial assistance to continue these important services.

3. Investing in veterans. After the unemployment rate for veterans peaked at over 15 percent in 2011, Americans responded. Major companies like Walmart, Amazon and Uber have all pledged to hire thousands of veterans. Voters put pressure on their representatives to enact The Returning Hero's Tax Credit, which gives companies incentives to hire vets. As a result, the unemployment rate among veterans has been halved.

4. Helping vets tell their story. A highly effective way to help vets reconnect with people and get a hold of the confusing emotions they experience when coming home is to allow them to tell their story. Many organizations, colleges and community groups have set up programs that teach veterans the skills they need to find their voice and tell their story.

5. Professionals volunteering their time. All wondering how they can help, thousands of professionals such as lawyers, accountants and career coaches have reached out to volunteer their time. Because free legal and financial advice is invaluable to help veterans navigate the world they return to, this kind of assistance is incredibly important.

Inspired by the outpouring of support, many Americans wonder what they can do to help. Veterans organizations like the Purple Heart Foundation provide emotional, physical, educational and financial support for veterans and their families. In addition, the Purple Heart Foundation gives people the opportunity to volunteer, donate their vehicles or household items, or make cash contributions as a way of thanking veterans for the sacrifice they made. To learn more, visit [purpleheartfoundation.org](http://purpleheartfoundation.org).

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BOLD Productions is excited to host a Back 2 School Block Party for AUTISM AWARENESS! Saturday, August 6th - 12:00pm-4:00pm - FLORENCE, SC (Rooms R Us, 131 Pamlico Hwy) This is a FREE Family event! Bring the kids to have fun on all SIX Bounce Houses, Outdoor Games, Food Trucks and Food Vendors, Vendors to shop from (Clothes, Shoes, Jewelry, Beauty, Diet & MORE), Education & Health Booths.... Gospel Rappers D Russ & Gibrahn from Atlanta, Entertainment from Local singers and Dance teams, Get your pictures taken with Spongebob and Hello Kitty, Haircuts given by local barbers and MORE!!! You MUST Register via EVENTBRITE for special prizes and to added to list to receive FREE School Supplies! <https://back2school-autism.eventbrite.com> Vendor spaces still available... Food Trucks/Vendors wanted!!! Email: [Boldproductions78@gmail.com](mailto:Boldproductions78@gmail.com) or call 843-615-6232. All families welcome! See you there!!!!



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|                           |         |
|---------------------------|---------|
| ER Patient Visits .....   | 44,000  |
| Inpatient Visits .....    | 11,354  |
| Outpatient Visits .....   | 279,611 |
| Total Births .....        | 724     |
| Total Licensed Beds ..... | 420     |

### Financial Benefits:

|                              |               |
|------------------------------|---------------|
| Payroll .....                | \$106,967,664 |
| Capital Investments* .....   | \$6,128,416   |
| Property & Sales Taxes ..... | \$2,779,551   |

### Caring for Our Community:

|                                      |              |
|--------------------------------------|--------------|
| Charity & Uncompensated Care** ..... | \$81,712,702 |
| Donations to the Community .....     | \$54,638     |
| Dollars spent locally .....          | \$4,261,360  |

**Overall Community Investment\*\*\* .....** **\$180,655,000**

\*Capital committed from January 2014 through December 2015 \*\*Figures from the 2013 AHCA report compiled September 30, 2014 \*\*\*Dollar amounts are approximate.

### Notable Accomplishments

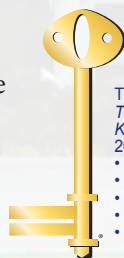
- Named *Top Performer on Key Quality Measures*® by The Joint Commission for the Third Year in a Row
- The Joint Commission Gold Seal of Approval
- Joint Care Center accreditation by The Joint Commission
- Chest Pain Center accreditation by the Society of Cardiovascular Patient Care
- Rehabilitation Services – CARF accredited
- South Carolina Hospital Association 2014 and 2015 Certified Zero Harm Award for Patient Safety Record
- Nurses Improving Care for Healthsystem Elders (NICHE) certified E.R.
- Raised more than \$24,000 for United Way
- Raised more than \$21,000 for the American Heart Association
- Raised more than \$17,000 for the American Cancer Society – Relay For Life
- American Association of Cardiovascular and Pulmonary Rehabilitation Certification

### Expanded Services

- Emergency Department Renovations
- 30-Minutes-or-Less E.R. Service Pledge
- Senior-Friendly E.R.

### Physicians Recruited

- Ernest M. Atkinson, M.D., Family Medicine
- Linda Evonne Brogdon, M.D., OB/GYN
- Ivan Chernev, M.D., Physiatrist
- Lori M. DeBlasi, DPM, Podiatrist
- Heather Draeger, M.D., OB/GYN
- Richard K. Ellis, M.D., Family Medicine
- Giuseppe Gioia, M.D., Cardiologist
- Iris D. Ignacio, M.D., Family Medicine
- Abdallah Kamouh, M.D., Cardiologist
- Benjamin W. Lamb, M.D., Family Medicine
- Janice Miller, M.D., Family Medicine
- Albert D. Mims, M.D., Family Medicine
- William E. Refvem, M.D., Orthopaedic Surgeon
- Nailah Roland, M.D., Internal Medicine
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