October Volume 2 Issue 5 2012

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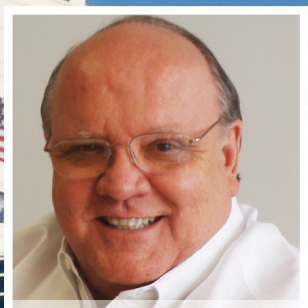


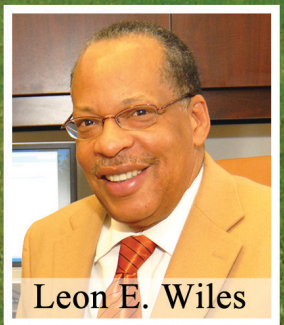
Hon. Steve Powers

Dr. Gloria Bromell Tinubu

Keeping The Faith

Doris B. Lockhart

Ahead Of The Class



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Publisher's Message

Diana M. Murphy

We are celebrating a New Year, "Progress with Partnership". One year ago this month Diversity Works© Magazine was born. In honor of our one year anniversary I would like to give praises to God, the One who knows all things; the One who puts no more on us than we can bear; and the One who said if you make one step I will make two. And in putting all my faith and trust in Him I made that one step in making my dreams into a reality, and as you can see God made his two in helping make this quarterly magazine Diversity Works© for all of us. I would like to thank everyone for making this year a huge success. To my staff for their efforts and hard work, to our clients who I greatly appreciate for partnering with us, giving us the support and believing in us to be the marketing tool needed to promote diversity being a reality and Inclusion be a choice, serving our present age with a focus on the Pee Dee region of South Carolina which includes the counties of Chesterfield, Darlington, Dillon, Florence, Georgetown, Horry, Lee, Marion, Marlboro, Sumter, & Williamsburg . I know this year has been a challenging one for us all economically, and we must continue to be very careful about what we spend and where we spend it. On the bright side, it's been a good exercise in fiscal management and prioritization. Although we all are a part of different businesses, it's helpful to be and stay connected. As stated on the last four editions of Diversity Works©; we must diversify our communities, appreciate each other, recognize our differences, and understand our similarities. And lastly, thanks to our thousands of readers who wait passionately to receive their copies of Diversity Works© each quarter, in 2013 we are stepping up our game offering you a more educational tool, more beneficial information, and a little more inspiration than before. I am looking forward to another exciting year, and I hope you are too. As I said before thank you for all the support you've shown us. And remember to be sure to let our advertisers know how much they are appreciated for making Diversity Works© Magazine possible. I hope you enjoy this edition, along with others to follow…
Diana M. Murphy, CEO/Publisher

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Rennie Lunn- McAllister
Editor-In-Chief

About This Issue

As the confetti falls on our shoulders and the balloons pop all around, we welcome the smiles and cheers from wellwishers and critics alike on our magazine's first birthday, even though it was born in the election cycle that tries men's souls. The fact that we not only survived, but we soared before we should have been able to walk gives us the impetus to run on and see what the next year will bring to us and how we will return the blessing.

This issue reflects the joys of our staff, advertisers and readers' growth and it is with sheer delight that we were able to bring some semblance of order to the roller coaster effects of the unclear, inconsistent and borderline unfair electoral process in a **full page of commentaries on page 28** with a foreword by **yours truly**. One position we hold firm is that we the people, in order to form a more perfect union, cannot allow courts to determine elections and whatever this publication has to do to enforce our constitutional rights, protect our privileges and perform our civic duties to vote, we will do.

Thankfully, topics this quarter are not all politics, taxes and government. We enjoy taking the human interest view in our coverage of health, business, education and entertainment interviews, articles and photos. We are pleased to introduce **Contributing Writer Chinel Boateng** into our literary circle and she shows off her style while whetting our appetites for more in the **Kendra Smith feature on page 16, in the Doris Lockhart/AccuStaff profile on page 6**, in the **McLeod Health's Women's Health Coordinator Dr. Jeniqua Duncan advice on page 25** and in the **Pee Dee Foodie Kevin Barron story on page 15**.

Staff Writer Tamika Fulmore returns with exciting articles on **Florence Career Center (page 11)** and **State Farm Insurance Agent Starlee Alexander (page 9)**.

Contributed articles are at an all time high in this anniversary edition and we are grateful to **GE Healthcare** which is hosting this year's **Emerging Business Conference (page 4)**; to **Dr. Shelley Fortin, Florence-Darlington TEC's VP for Enrollment Management and Student Services (page 10)**; to **Marion County Schools Superintendent Dr. Dan Strickland** on the recipe and urgency for segue into **21st Century Education (page 13); to HopeHealth** which asks **(page 27)** the piercing question about **healthcare homelessness; Leon Wiles of Clemson University** who writes **(page 14)** of its being the first higher ed institution in this state to **launch the desegregation movement 50 years ago;** to **Kathy Stokes** for her **Breast Cancer Awareness** call to action on **page 26; to the Rivers Agency**-submitted piece on **First Bank (page 17)**; to **Arbor One's** invitation to its **Sporting Clay Tournament (page 18); to CareSouth Carolina's** award winning **Dr. Roosevelt Daniel (page 20)**; to **Carolinas Hospital System's** new **CEO Darcy Craven** and of course, to the **Xooma** testimonials from **Kyle Smith, Woodrow** and **Lakeshia Blair** and **Dr. Allen Smith (pages 22 & 23)**.

I broke new ground by meeting simultaneously with four mega powerful **City of Florence** department leaders and crystallizing on **page 3** their diverse yet interdependent strategies for creating the futuristic metropolis they want to see. **City Manager Drew Griffin, General Services Director Scotty Davis, Police Chief Anson Shells and Downtown Development Manager Ray Reich** meet and plan regularly with others to navigate the city's progress and make sure that proper attention is paid to the elements that foster said growth. From every conversation with real estate mogul **Ann King**, it is so easy to pick up some useful knowledge and my recent visit was no exception as she shared the story of her elevation from the cotton fields of Lake City to head her own **Century 21** team. **GE Healthcare's HR Specialist Kili Gilmore's** personality and business acumen are a perfect fit for her job – they both operate on high level energy and knowledge and her interview about the company's mission to **create a well planet** occupies **page 24.**

Talking with veteran public servants, I tell their stories of fresh ideas and new grassroots efforts necessary for the people to take their power back. The Hon. Gloria Bromell Tinubu **(page 29)** explains what it will take for a an upwardly mobile seventh congressional district, and City Council incumbent Steve Powers posits that city taxpayers should be able to determine its destiny **(page 31)** while State Rep. Robert Williams **(page 32)** give his take on diversity.

Enjoy while you sing 'Happy Birthday'?

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You can view copies of **Diversity Works©** by visiting the following websites: ***www.dmmadvertisingandmarketing.com*** and ***www.diversityworkssc.com.*** There is also the opportunity for you to subscribe to receive your very own printed copy, digital copy or both of **Diversity Works©** just by completing the subscription form that is located at ***www.diversityworkssc.com*** and submit.

If any questions feel free to contact us at (843) 669-5929

City Binding The Ties That Grow Communities

By Rennie Lunn-McAllister
Editor-In-Chief

From the City of Florence's leadership viewpoint, respect for diversity is what bridges the gaps in disparities, whether it be in neighborhood growth and safety, hiring practices, government decisions or revitalizing the downtown business district.

"We make a conscientious effort to be mindful of how we include everyone's opinion – personnel and/or citizens -- because it's the ownership that our people have in their success that makes all the difference," said City Manager Drew Griffin, adding that there always has to be one connecting factor for communities to come together and in this case it is the city that binds the ties.

Griffin oversees the day to day operations of a rapidly growing 18 square mile city with a population of just above 37,000 and how he manages the number of departments which report to him – including police, fire, human resources, utilities and more – is admirably mind-blowing. But then the Asheville, NC-born director has people working directly with him to create the public perception that everyone counts. Winnsboro native Scotty Davis is General Services Manager, Newberry native Anson Shells is chief of police and Dayton, OH son Ray Reich is Downtown Redevelopment Manager and they each bring a different set of eyes and experiences to the table.

Looking over his 15 years with the City, Davis says "Florence has started to realize her potential" and it is important that we make ourselves and our habitat attractive to young people to stay here after they get their degrees and not just automatically move to other cities… which are great, but so is Florence."

He noted that a number of young professionals who work here but often take weekend getaways to other cities have to be enticed back to enjoy Florence on weekends too. "Our demographic is now more urban in their thinking and want a similar lifestyle and community that is accepting of who they are… but the 26 to 34-year-olds work here during the week yet go elsewhere to play because there may not be enough variety here right now."

And that is just the plan that Reich is constantly working on. "One uptick is that because we have a diverse community, we want to create a diverse downtown that includes affordability and entertainment. We do care about rebuilding an attractive, prosperous downtown and our first priority is to existing business operators, then to those who want ownership," emphasizing that $10,000 façade (incentive) grants are helping to make a huge step in that direction.

Another component of the plan would be to create a safety net in the form of a mini mall housing maybe up to ten small businesses whose rent would be guaranteed for up to 24 months, also underwritten by the city.

(Left to Right) Davis,Griffin,Reich and Shells

Perception of public safety is also key. "Our goal is to get people back downtown; that's why we have a presence in the substation on Dargan Street," Shells explained. "People have to feel good about where they live and where they come to spend their money; not just safe where they are," he said, adding that the CAT (Community Action Team) is doing a stellar job in restoring public confidence as will strategically placed surveillance cameras.

He added that the City is engaged in a renewed effort to bring neighborhoods up to par through neighborhood associations, leadership locators and the four focus groups, every one of which has its own mission and strategy. The City has set aside hundreds of thousands of dollars to make that happen.

Shells continued, "The big picture is to offer employment opportunities for our citizens to feel that they belong and we are in a concerted effort for minority recruitment through billboards, job fairs, HBCUs (historically Black colleges and universities), the military and of course, word of mouth. Our employees' spreading the word is the most vital," he said.

Davis said that a recruitment team comprised of individuals who run departments is another change agent and catalyst toward the diversity goals of the City. "We all have the expectation to hire and work the best of the best and in the past year we have been really moving toward that. We are developing the message that we want to close the gap. For instance, Florence is 46% Black and the City's total workforce of 570 reflects 27% of that population."

Yet another aspect of creating a unique downtown is its appeal through arts and culture, Reich said. "It's the gentrification in that over the last 40 years, there has been a decline due to national chains causing most retail to leave downtowns. Not only is the displacement of existing businesses a big worry, but the new ones who come in depend on patronage and healthy traffic for their survival."

Griffin and Reich agree that the business and industries Florence wants to attract first inspect the downtown, but those entities are not the only pivotal. "You can be very sure that we are immensely grateful for large investments from foundations such as the Drs. Bruce and Lee and others, but individuals like Dr. John Keith and Peggy Brown who assume the responsibility of planting a seed where they want to flourish are paramount to a thriving community," Griffin said, adding that all corporate malls look alike, but no two downtowns do; therein is the standout.

He concluded: "Since we realize that diversity creates excellence – and the enabling of Sunday (alcohol) sales plus the upgraded status of being smoke free have proven to be a very positive draw –we see ourselves as the world class city we desire in the not too distant future."

2012 Emerging Business Opportunity Conference Set

Ralph Strosin

The Greater Florence Chamber of Commerce will present its second annual "Emerging Business Opportunities Conference" October . Organized in cooperation with local area businesses, the event will be hosted by GE Healthcare at 3001 West Radio Drive in Florence, South Carolina. The event will connect local businesses with global corporations including GE Healthcare, Duke Energy, QVC, Premier, Florence School District 1, City of Florence and more. In addition, it will provide a forum where local business executives can learn ways to develop and build small and diverse businesses.

The chamber takes pride in facilitating relationships that contribute to a strong local economy and a productive flow of information between area companies and major corporations.

The day will begin with supplier success stories resulting from last year's event, followed by interactive panel discussions. Throughout the day, participants will hear from keynotespeaker Ralph Strosin, Chief Procurement Officer at GE Healthcare. Other sessions will included "How to do business with global corporations" lead by Andrew Grier, Supplier Diversity Specialist at Duke Energy and Ken Wolkens, Sourcing Cost Engineer at GE Healthcare. The agenda will conclude with smaller group breakout sessions where strong local businesses can discuss their specific value propositions with the participating corporations and a plant tour. The event is designed to assist local business owners and procurement professionals.

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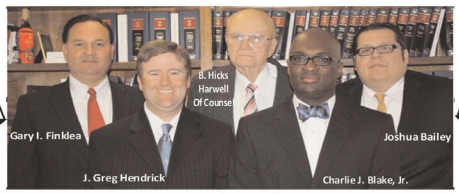

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Life Lessons From Ann King

By Rennie Lunn-McAllister
Editor-In-Chief

Ann King

If you just ask her, real estate queen Ann King will tell you to be careful with whom you seesaw because the heavier your partner, the higher up you will go… and stay there. There was a time when she answered to an associate who is now one of her top producers and relating the story about her rise to Broker/Owner of the Century 21 King Agency, Inc., she said that today one of her agents was once her boss.

"I started working for John Jebaily in the 1980's and he taught me the ropes, how to dress so as not to overpower or intimidate my clients or prospects, how to set meetings, to know and show the right properties the right way, how to ask for a seat at the table even if I had to volunteer to get a foot in the door," she recalled. His teachings paid off so much so that she has propelled forward to teach, launch and supervise 24 other agents today from her lavish Florence office.

King says she always knew that she would be a CEO someday. "Even when I was working in the cotton fields in (hometown) Lake City I determined that there was something better for me" and gazing out of the front seat bus window right behind her boyfriend driver (now her husband Willie of 45 years), she hatched a plan to be at the helm.

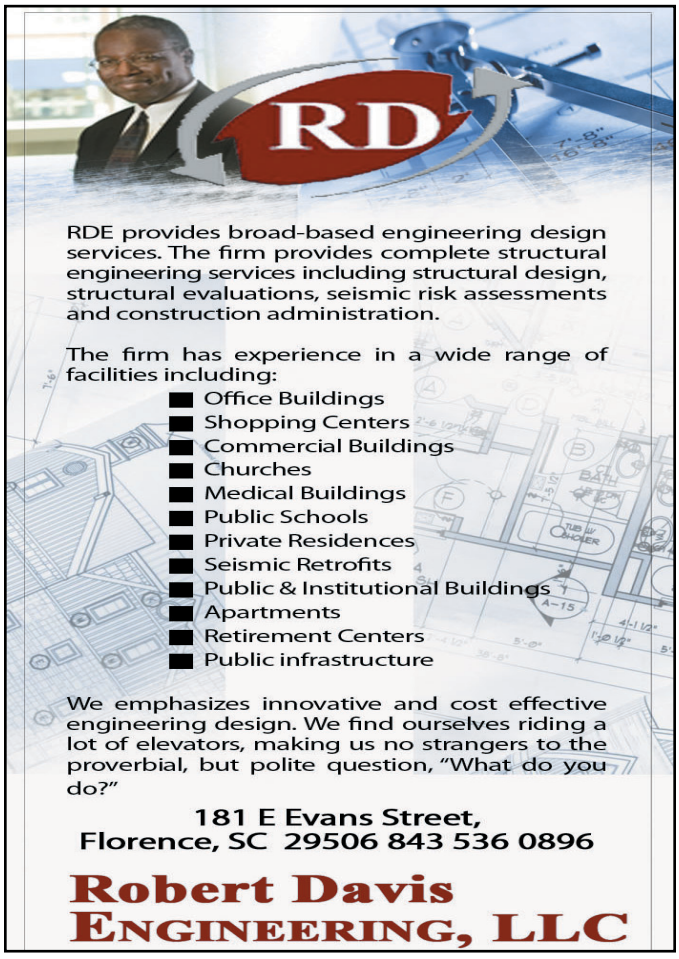
Although she has arrived, she still reaches for a bigger and better hold of life's brass ring while giving back. Currently her agency is aggressively promoting ***Palmetto Heroes***, a home ownership campaign that provides incentives and direct financial assistance to first time homebuyers who are law enforcement/correctional officers, teachers, firefighters, veterans, nurses and EMS personnel. With a down payment of up to $5,000 and a fixed mortgage interest rate of 3.75%, aspiring homeowners need look no further for the jump start. Minimum credit scores apply.

Then there is her NACA (Neighborhood Assistance Corporation of America) connection which specializes in helping families with less than perfect credit and no down payment obtain homes. She often hosts free clinics for homeseekers who need that extra help in realizing the American Dream of homeownership by providing information, training and guidance.

Well connected and well rounded, the mother of three and grandmother of seven has served many organizations, including the McLeod Foundation, Florence Civic Center and the Fair Housing Board A recognized leader of the Greater Florence Chamber of Commerce, Pee Dee Development Board, Boys and Girls Club, and YMCA, she was appointed by governors Mark Sanford and Nikki Haley to the SC Appraisal Board.

While sometimes difficult to measure the distance, the world – in its quest to be a kinder, gentler place-- has changed for the betterment of this young girl from the cottonfields who now rules with prominence in the real estate community.

She attributes that overcoming to her acceptance and inclusion of the diverse population that comprises her customer base and workforce. "I try to ensure my commitment to the diversity initiative by carefully demonstrating leadership in recruiting, hiring, contracting and developing agents from a broad-based, multicultural talent field. We engender the trust of our growing diverse marketplace by communicating with the needs of potential buyers.



Temp Service Holds Economy Together

Doris B. Lockhart
Owner
AccuStaff

By Chinel Boateng
Contributing Writer

Doris Brown Lockhart, along with husband Nathaniel, is co-owner of AccuStaff of Florence, a temporary staffing service. They also have a home based wellness business, Melaleuca. A graduate of Wilson High School, Lockhart attended Benedict College and Francis Marion University. She has a B.A. degree in Business Administration from Limestone University and has done further studies at Webster University. She has one daughter, Natalie, and a grandson, Brandon Nathaniel, residing in Raleigh, NC.

Lockhart is an active resident of the Savannah Grove Community. She serves on the Advisory Board of BB&T Bank, and most recently served on the Board of Trustees of Florence School District 1. Lockhart served as secretary, vice-chair, and two terms as chair of the board. During three of the nine years served, Lockhart was the only African-American on the board. She describes those years as challenging yet rewarding, and says "making a difference in the educational system will always be memorable." In addition, Lockhart served on the Greater Florence Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors from 1997 to 2000 as Vice-chair of the Small & Minority Business Division. Lockhart has a long list of accolades and membership affiliations. She is an active member of the Florence Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., and a recent graduate of the McLeod's Fellows Program.

Her inspiration to establish an employment service 27 years ago occurred while she and others were conducting workshops and seminars on job-seeking skills. As a result, she found that there was also a need to help them find employment, and began marketing their skills to potential companies.

One of the first companies to begin working with her was General Electric . Lockhart's business flourished when GE gave them that opportunity to recruit minority engineers.

For Lockhart, diversity is not always black and white. "It means that you don't look at an individual based on a visual concept. Diversity can mean working with persons with disabilities and/or special skills that meet the needs of a client. Also diversity has the potential to make an organization better when utilized to the fullest. The opportunity to prove that you are qualified and capable of providing quality service to a company is hampered when individuals don't see the need to have diversity when utilizing a Minority Women owned company. AccuStaff has a very diverse staff and seeks qualified diverse talents for their clients.

Lockhart desires to be a Christ-like example to individuals by her actions, a blessing to others as God has blessed her, and serve others so that they too can achieve their purpose in life. Her motto "if I can help somebody, as I travel along, if I can help somebody, in a word or song, if I can help somebody from going wrong, then my living shall not be in vain", is also part of her favorite song.

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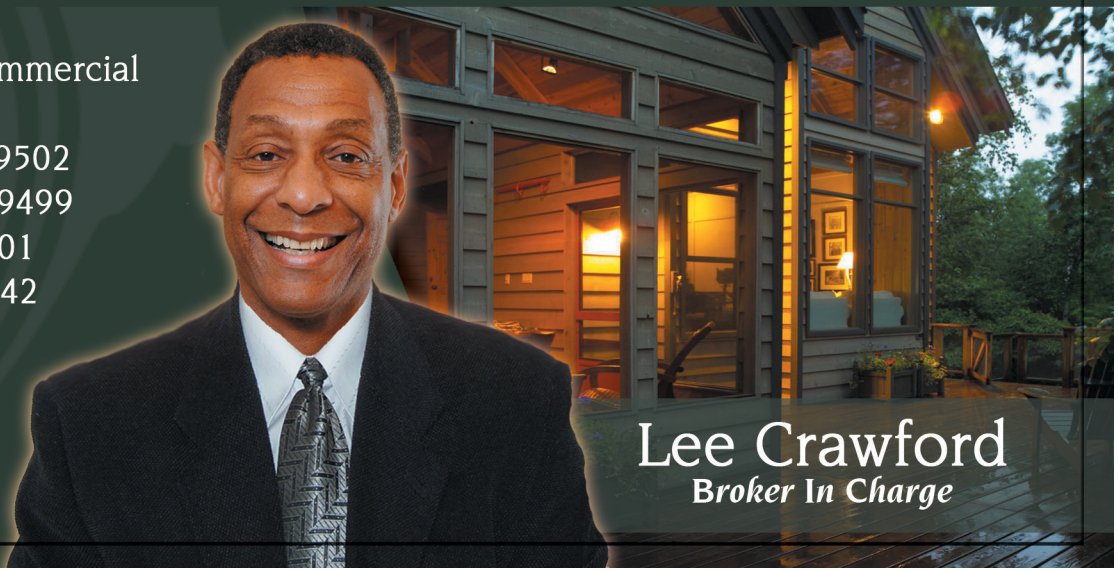

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"I have never been a quitter. My philosophy on life is don't give up and don't be a quitter. Keep working and continue to persevere"

By Tamika Fulmore
Staff Writer

Servicing the insurance needs of clients for 27 years, Starlee Alexander has truly made an impact in the Pee Dee region. Becoming the first African American woman in this part of the state of South Carolina to do so, Starlee has been the Owner/Agent of State Farm Insurance in Florence since 1985.

A native of Trilby, FL, Starlee continues to make a positive mark in Florence and the Pee Dee region of South Carolina. She is a graduate of Florida A&M University (FAMU), where she received her Bachelor of Science Degree in Business Management and of Nova University, where she received her Master's Degree in Human Services. Her parents are Mr. and Mrs. James E. Davis.

She has grown her agency to become one of great respect in the community. Her agency employs two full-time and one part-time staff for the day to day operations of assisting clients with their auto, home, life and financial services and insurance needs. "A lot of people don't know this, but we also help clients with financing and refinancing car loans," Alexander said. She acknowledges that her staff (team members) has been a great help to her and they can take ownership in their joint success.

Alexander said that diversity is extremely important in the workplace no matter where you are. She and her staff service everyone who is eligible for the products of State Farm.

Her presence in her agency has become one of not just selling insurance, but giving information about insurance needs, including State Farm Million Dollar Travel Club, Select Agent and Legion of Honor Awards.

"Even though I'm the owner, I like to be a visible agent. I still play a huge role by interacting and servicing the needs of our clients. I like working with the people and giving them the best professional service that I can," Alexander said.

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"It always makes a difference when you have good team members in maintaining the success that helps the agency get the job done. I could not do it all by myself" Alexander said.

She is a member of Wayside Chapel Baptist Church, where her husband Rev. Terry Alexander is pastor. Her husband is a member of the House of Representatives (Seat 59) and is a very active community leader as well. They have two children, Matthew, and Terrell (Corey) McClain and a loving granddaughter, Tori.

Outside of her business endeavors, Alexander is very active in the church as well as her community. She was instrumental in the formation of the Small and Minority Division of the Greater Florence Chamber of Commerce, the first African American female to chair its board (2002) and served in many capacities there. Her most recent community involvement ranges from the McLeod Health Foundation Board, McLeod Fellows Program, Florence School District 1 Board of Trustees, United Negro College Fund Chairperson (UNCF), Florence Branch of the NAACP, President of the local chapter of National council of Negro Women (NCNW), to working with children at the Boys and Girls Club of the Pee Dee, and Wilson High School Band Booster Club and many other community organizations, which include Magdalene Chapter #63, OES, DSS board of directors, and the Florence County National Bank Board (SCBT).

Starlee continues to be a driving force in the community with her involvement as well as her professionalism as a business person and her willingness to give of her time and talent to the betterment and growth of where she now calls home. She has been honored for some of her outstanding achievements and the awards include: Illuminated Scroll Award 2005, National Council of Negro Women (NCNW), 2007 Small Business Person of Year Award, Greater Florence Chamber, 2007 McLeod Fellows Award, McLeod Health Foundation and 2007 Excellence in Leadership Award, Cresent Temple #148 & Cresent Court #14. We have definitely not seen the last of Starlee Alexander, who is full of ambition and perseverance.

"I have never been a quitter. My philosophy on life is don't give up and don't be a quitter. Keep working and continue to persevere," Alexander said.

Choosing The Right College For You

Dr. ShellyFortin
VP FDTC

Choosing a college will prove to be one of the most important decisions of life, so the key is to get it right. There are so many important things to consider in selecting the college or university that represents the best path to reaching educational and career goals.

Like many of the citizens in our community, I am a first generation college student. That means that neither of my parents attended college, so I know firsthand that sorting out all the options isn't easy. When I started out, there were so many things I didn't know. I had to learn as I went along.

Today, I tell prospective students that making the right decision is all about answering a few key questions.

First, consider cost and value. A quality education can be affordable, and high-cost degrees don't necessarily translate to higher quality education. A good question to ask is, ***'Am I able to take all of the classes I need without taking on an undesirable level of debt?'*** Everyone should avoid over-mortgaging their future. Education is a great way to invest in yourself, but only if you engage in a thorough consideration of debt before taking it on.

Loan and debt can be minimized with lower tuition costs. At Florence-Darlington Technical College, a majority of students find that financial aid grants provide enough to cover tuition. Often, a loan is not needed to cover the charges for courses. FDTC strives to keep tuition as low as possible. It's supported by public and private funding, and that helps to keep costs lower. FDTC offers Lottery Tuition Assistance (LTA), which is a state grant available to SC residents to cover tuition costs at two-year colleges. Worth more than $1,000 per semester, LTA covers more than half the tuition for full-time students. Pell grants, also available to many of our students, often cover the entire cost of tuition.

Another important question to ask: ***'Is my college accredited, and by whom?'*** This one is important, but it's not something a lot of students think about. A good accreditation ensures that the education provided by an institution meets acceptable levels of quality. It can help determine where or whether your courses might transfer, and whether your degree will be recognized by another college, graduate school or place of employment.

In choosing a college or university, good accreditation is absolutely essential. In the South, the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS) is the regional accrediting agency for higher education institutions. Founded in 1895, it has a long and rich history of evaluating college standards in eleven southern states. Colleges like the University of South Carolina, Clemson, Wofford, Furman, Francis Marion, Coastal Carolina, South Carolina State, Duke, UNC, Morehouse, Spelman, the Citadel and more are accredited by SACS. All of the colleges in the South Carolina Technical College System, including Florence-Darlington Technical College, are also accredited by SACS. You can learn more online at sacs.org.

One more thing to investigate is whether your courses are transferable. Many students discover new areas of interest once they enter college, and they may be encouraged to pursue even higher levels of education, including bachelors and masters degrees. Earning credits with a good likelihood of transferability keeps a student's options open and flexible. The state of South Carolina has a transfer guide at sctrac.org, and there are currently more than 70 FDTC courses on the statewide articulation list that are transferable to all public South Carolina institutions.

Then there's the most important question for students to ask: ***'Does my college have the resources needed to support my progress and to help me move toward my career goals?'*** Try to find out how successful the college's graduates typically are, and whether they find jobs in their chosen fields. There are many places to find these answers if you just ask; every college should be able to provide you with information about graduate placement rates.

According to the SC Department of Employment and Workforce, FDTC offers many programs that boast more than an 80% placement rate—even in this difficult employment period. Within the year following graduation, over 80% of 2011 graduates in Nursing, Medical Assisting, Medical Lab Technology, Respiratory Care, Administrative Office Technology, Accounting and Criminal Justice were employed in a field related to their major. Many other programs boast high placement rates, including 100% employment for 2011 graduates in Diesel Technology and Machine Tool Technology. Looking at all degree programs of the Florence-Darlington Technical College graduates from 2011, 69% are currently working in a field related to their major, and many more have transferred to the university of their choice.

Choosing a college can be complicated, so it takes research—reading and asking questions—to make sure you're making the best decision. Do your homework. Check your sources and make comparisons, because different institutions offer different options and different products. Make sure that the college you choose has the experience, reputation and certifications to provide real value and help you live up to your education and career goals.

At Florence-Darlington Technical College, we are committed to providing the information you need to make a good choice, the support services and financial assistance you need to progress toward your goals, and the resources you need to assist you in landing the professional opportunity of your dreams.Have any questions? Give us a call.

FCC Preparing For Annual CyberPatriot V

By Tamika Fulmore
Staff Writer

Many students at the Florence Career center are preparing for the annual CyberPatriot-The National High School Cyber Defense Competition, which begins in November. The center has a team (Cyber Swamp Foxes) competing in CyberPatriot V. The driving inspirations behind the students on the Cyber Swamp Foxes team at the Florence Career Center are their coaches -- Dale Cook and Wayne Hill. Cook is a Computer Networking instructor and Hill is a Computer Programming instructor and both play integral roles in making sure the students are fully prepared to compete each year.

"There is an overlap in what the students learn in our courses and the cyber security techniques that are performed during the competition. However, we do not teach a cyber security class. Anything that we can do to help the students prepare, that's what we're here for," Cook said.

The CyberPatriot is the premiere national high school cyber defense competition created to inspire high school students toward careers in cyber security or other science, technology, engineering, and mathematics. The competition was established by the Air Force Association. CyberPatriot is presented by the Northrop Grumman Foundation with founding partners SAIC and CIAS at the University of Texas-San Antonio.

CyberPatriot Team

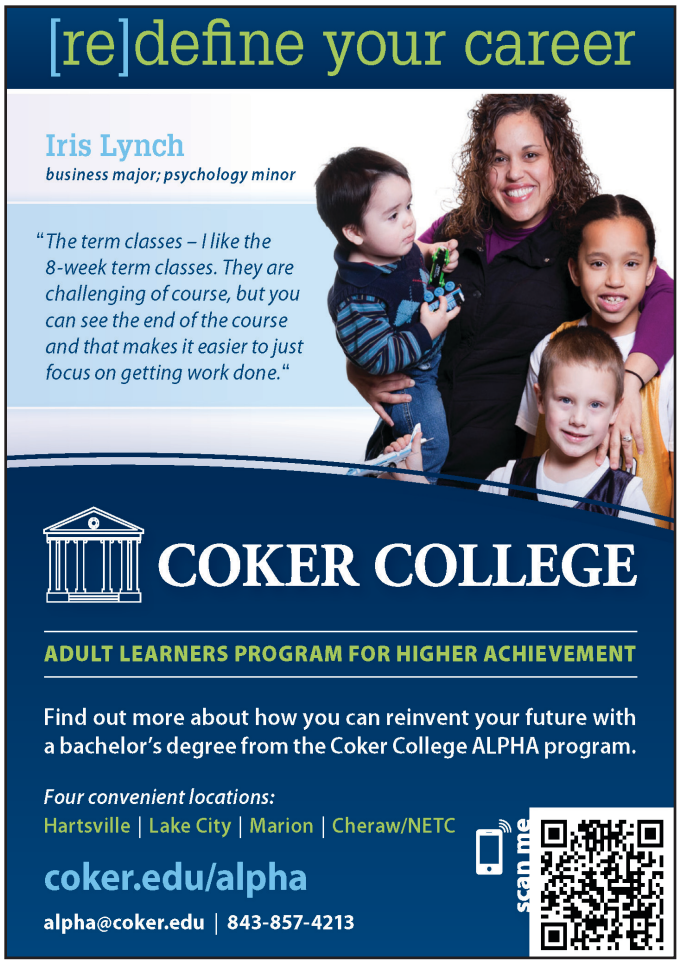
"This is our third year competing and we are very excited about the opportunity. We did it last year and the year before, this year we are defenitely looking to advance to the nationals ," Cook said.

The competition includes three rounds. The early rounds of the competition are held on-site, on-line. Prior to the round, the teams download virtual image representations of operating systems with known flaws, or cyber security vulnerabilities. Competitors are scored according to their ability to maintain critical services and harden the system. Critical services can include mail servers, file servers, mail relays, web servers, etc. Hardening the system can include: identifying and disabling unnecessary services, disabling/neutralizing malware, closing ports and modifying user permissions to restrict unnecessary access. Team progress is recorded by a central CyberPatriot scoring system.

In the reality simulations, teams will compete face to face, defending virtual networks from a professional aggressor team. Cook stated that the teams are given a business scenario where they will be newly hired IT professionals who will be managing the network of a small company. There will be 8 to 12 virtual machines on the network that need to be managed and teams will get their score by reducing the known vulnerabilities of the network, maintaining the critical services and by defending the network from attack.

"Our team is usually pretty diverse and we do not usually have a lot of females participating but we will have a female on our team this year," Cook said.

The student registration closes October 26 and the first round of the open division will begin November 16.



Florence School District One Announces 2012-13 Teachers of the Year And Honor Roll Teachers

Florence Public School District 1 ONE

Florence Public School District 1 ONE

Briggs Elementary

ROBERTA OLMSTEAD

Carver Elementary

DALE C. WATFORD*

Davis Elementary

DEBRA HEIMBROOK

Delmae Elementary

PAULA WERNER

Dewey L. Carter Elementary

BETH MOORE

Florence Career Center

CHERYL WHITTINGTON

Greenwood Elementary

BEN DANIEL

Lester Elementary

TAMMY BEVILL

McLaurin Elementary

AMY WILLIAMS*

Moore Intermediate

AMY WELCH

North Vista Elementary

TAMASHIA DAISE

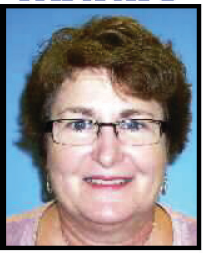
Royall Elementary

JAMES LEVINE

Savannah Grove Elementary

MARY COOK

Sneed Middle



DENISE LONG

South Florence High

SHERRI HELTON

Southside Middle

HARRY MCFADDEN

Timrod Elementary

DAWN WALKER*

Wallace-Gregg Elementary

MARCIA GLOVER

West Florence High

ALISA HOBGOOD*

Williams Middle

MARIA S. DAVIS

Wilson High

WENDY BARR

*Denotes Honor Roll Teacher

The Importance Of Education In America

As another school year unfolds before us, I'd like to stop and reflect upon the value of a public education for American citizens. Like so many of the blessings provided by our birthright, our education is something that we sometimes take for granted. However, unlike freedom of speech and public assembly and the other rights guaranteed by our Constitution, a free education is not a right granted by our federal government. As a matter of fact, education is not guaranteed anywhere in our Constitution, and our history reveals that a free public education was not always available to all citizens. Despite this, America has developed one of the best educational systems in the world, accessible to all children, and paid for by the American public. It is an investment in our future, one that our citizens have pledged to support and fulfill.

Education is the primary responsibility of the schools, but it is a community partnership. As America evolved from an agricultural economy to a manufacturing economy, education evolved with it. The public school year begins at the end of harvest season, and originally education was indulged in during the quieter winter months. Spring break was not created as a time to go to Florida; rather it was a cessation of school to plant the fields. The school calendar was created to work in cooperation with the farmers who made up the bulk of the American public school population. At this time, schools were funded solely by the areas that they served, and worked closely with the leaders of that area. During the 20th century, the American economy began to change from mostly small farms to larger, incorporated farms, and to a manufacturing base that caused many rural families to migrate to the cities. Also during this time, many children received little or no schooling, as it wasn't necessary to work the machinery in the factories. It was during the reaction to child labor that the importance of school for children became an area of community focus.

Dr. Dan Strickland
Superintendent
Marion County School District

The first mandatory school attendance law was enacted in Massachusetts in 1852, and decreed that all children aged eight to fourteen had to attend school for at least three months every year. Quite a difference from what we have now, isn't it? Over time, attendance laws sprang up in every state, eventually resolving into the current laws that mandate compulsory education attendance and the age requirements. These laws also began to mandate what would be taught, gradually growing from the "Three R's" to a plethora of diverse subjects that include such subjects as financial literacy, the Arts, science, and health and nutrition.

In the twenty-first century, education must continue to be flexible, creating courses and methods not even dreamt of in the nineteenth century. We must be able to anticipate the needs of our students, our businesses, and our communities. Educators constantly strive to develop curricula that are engaging and relevant, but never before have we had to do this so quickly. In the next article, I will be speaking to the subject of twenty-first century learning; what we need to do and what the community needs to know.

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Dr. Dan Strickland
Superintendent
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Deputy Superintendent

Celebrating Being First: Clemson Saw Direction 50 Years Ago

Leon E. Wiles
Chief Diversity Officer
Clemson University

Clemson University will commemorate and celebrate a very important and historical milestone during the 2012-2013 academic year, turning attention to its desegregation movement as the first public higher education institution to integrate in South Carolina 50 years ago (1963). The integration of the institution began an important transformation process for the entire university and it marked the beginning of a legacy of inclusion which has led to a greater diversity of students, faculty, staff and programs.

In 2008 the university established a chief diversity office to develop and implement a comprehensive diversity plan. This initiative was undertaken to enable the institution to fully embrace the increasing demographic diversity of the state and nation. Leon E. Wiles, a former vice-chancellor for student and diversity affairs at USC-Upstate, was appointed as the institution's first chief diversity officer. Immediately following his appointment, Mr. Wiles developed a five year plan to help the institution advance its diversity interests. This plan emphasized four important dimensions of diversity as a primary focus of the institution's overall strategy. These dimensions were institutional climate and intergroup relations; representation of an increased presence of underrepresented students, faculty, staff and administrators from minority ethnic, racial and cultural groups; inclusion of scholarship and curricula focused on racially and ethnically diverse cultures and people; and institutional leadership in regard to the promotion of an inclusive campus culture as a priority goal for the university.

Since the implementation of the institution's diversity plan, steady progress has been made toward creating a more inclusive and diverse environment at the university. Additional minority students and faculty have been enrolled at the university and a number of new programs have been established to promote and support a multicultural campus environment. This includes a focus on diversity in the orientation program for new students, professional development opportunities for faculty and staff designed to enhance their cultural competence, a lecture series to stimulate dialogue and an appreciation for diverse cultures by the campus community and the establishment of a minority student success initiative to positively maximize the experience and success of minority students enrolled at the institution. The University has been ranked among the top universities for its graduation of minority engineers. The institution has also become a leader among higher education institutions in the number of African American faculty represented among its computer science faculty. The number of African American students enrolled in the PH.D program in computer science at the university represents 10% of all the African American students pursuing doctoral degrees in computer science in the entire nation.

The University has adopted a clear diversity statement which is used to guide its efforts to maintain an inclusive institutional environment. It is as follows:

"Clemson University seeks to maintain a strong and vibrant community that embraces diversity. The University aspires to be an inclusive community which welcomes differences. We strive to ensure that our policies, procedures and allocation of resources help us to sustain an inclusive environment that promotes success among all members of the evolving Clemson family and the communities they serve."

The University administration has recognized that exposure to diversity enriches the educational experience of students and promotes personal growth of students by challenging stereotypes and preconceptions. The university leadership firmly believes that education within a diverse setting prepares students to become good citizens in an increasingly complex, pluralistic and interdependent society.

A Foodie With Diverse Tastes And Adventurous Palate

By Chinel Boateng
Contributing Writer

When Kevin Barron relocated to Florence in 2009, he wanted a creative outlet to meet people in the community he now calls "home". So this self-proclaimed food geek with a talent for writing and a leisurely pursuit of designing websites did what he does best: used his passion for food and ate his way into the hearts of the Pee Dee Region of South Carolina.

Barron is creator and publisher of PeeDeeFoodie.com, a self-designed website where his first (anonymous) blogged review of Joe's Grill, a local restaurant in Darlington, SC, received positive feedback from the online community, and soon "foodies" from across the Pee Dee were suggesting other restaurants for review.

Born in Charleston, Barron made a career move to Florence from New Orleans - by way of Memphis - with wife Melissa and their daughter. Barron is the first to admit that he is not a food critic, a trained chef, nor a cook, nevertheless; growing up in the Bayou gave him an appreciation and passion for food.

Ironically, because of the anonymity, Barron wasn't actually meeting people. However, when Barron accepted a "secret judge" invitation from the "Taste of Florence" in October, 2011, PeeDeeFoodie knew it was time to "come out the pantry". With more than 3,500 people in attendance, Barron and Melissa met "contributing bloggers" and made many new friends. Dave Miller of Miller Communications was a new friendship that led to STAR 93.7 FM sponsoring "The Pee Dee Food Show" the first online radio show "dedicated to the food, foodie, and food culture of the Pee Dee Region".Listen to the podcast at www.peedeefoodshow.com.

Barron AKA PeeDeeFoodie At The 2011 "Taste Of Florence"
Photo Courtesy Of Phillip Guyton Jr.

PeeDeeFoodie highlights a diverse selection of foods and restaurants; from organic and "slow foods", Sunday brunch, "date night restaurant ideas", and "the best burgers in town". You can reach Barron at publisher@pdfoodie.com, or the PeeDeeFoodie Facebook page, or www.peedeefoodshow.com. You will also find Barron at the "Taste of Florence", October 16, and other local events. Barron is also actively involved with the Harvest Hope Food Bank.

Barron accomplished his mission and formed the "Eats! Club"; a Facebook-based group who share an interest in attending periodic dining events. He hopes the future will attract more writers and sponsors, and see the brand grow into a venue to help draw people to our community by promoting local events. "I can't name all the blessings this has brought us. It's widened our world, opened doors to meet new people, and enriched our lives in many ways. Hopefully we can continue, and bring positive influence to the community. Our goal is to support the community and the people in the area trying to make a living. And, if people are looking for something good and fun to do, they just may find it on our website. To Melissa and I, this is a hobby and we have fun with it. If it ever gets to the point that it's no longer fun, that's the day we'll stop. There's enough negativity in the world and all of us deal with it everyday. So, try to highlight what's good and share it as much as you can".

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Teen Keeping It Real Through Song

By Chinel Boateng
Contributing Writer

Kendra Smith

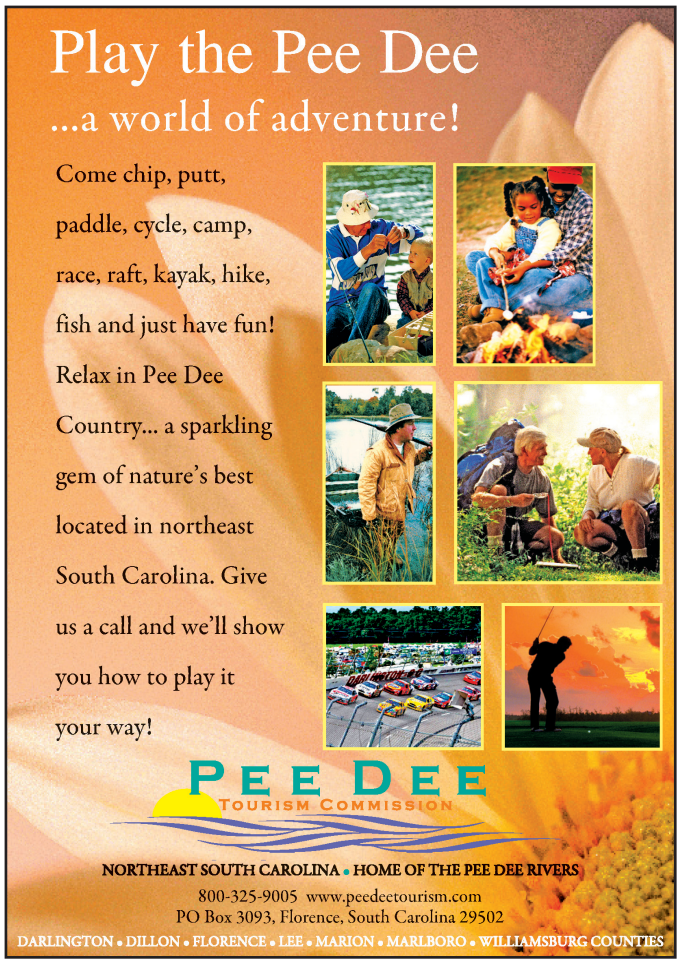
Kendra Smith, a 15 year old native of Dillon, SC, is the South Carolina Music Awards' 2012 Gospel Recording Artist of the Year. "The annual event was held in Greenville, SC, and when I heard the name announced I sat there clapping, looking around, and waiting for the winner to go on stage. Smith soon realized she was clapping for herself! "It felt surreal", said Smith. The South Carolina Music Awards was created as a way to focus on "the best and brightest" of South Carolina's talent. I had the pleasure of watching Smith's live performance recently at Savannah Grove Baptist Church's First Friday Freedom Fest, a free gospel concert held the first Friday of each month as an outing for Christians old and young alike. Smith and her entourage took command of the stage and I could feel the anointing in the atmosphere. I was captivated by her charismatic stage presence and the soulful ministry of her voice. The audience was on their feet singing, clapping, dancing, and praising, and Smith was on fire for the Lord!

Smith, a student at South Florence High School, is the third of four children born to Kenneth and Tasha Smith. She started singing at age of three and by six she knew she wanted to be a singer. Smith recorded her first CD "Giving My Life to Jesus" at eleven, her first full album, "This Side of Heaven", was inspired by one of her pastor's sermons. Her latest single, "Wonderful Words of Life", is produced by Garland Mechee Walker, (Minister of Music for John P. Kee) and can be heard on local radio stations. Besides her younger sister Ebony and older brothers Kenneth Jr. and Isaiah, her biggest cheerleaders are grandmothers Mary Smith and Betty McClain. She blesses many with her angelic voice and has been featured on WBTW News 13's Cecil's World, in She Magazine, and on numerous local and national radio and television programs.

"I always remember my granddad told me, if I don't do anything else, God gave me the gift to use my voice and to use it for Him. That was one of the last things he told me before he passed" said Smith. Smith says gospel music is her passion and, other than inspirational, she doesn't see herself doing any other type of music.

Smith, along with her promotion company "Kendra Smith Promotions" aka "KS Promotions", feels she is blessed and gives back through sponsorships of events such as 1st Friday Praise Fest-Charlotte NC (which raises money to assist under-privileged people in the community), her annual Christmas Fruit Basket Drive for seniors in nursing homes, and various other events and organizations.

Smith is available for bookings and can be contacted through KS Productions at smithglory@yahoo.com or www.kendrasmith.org. Purchase her latest single "Wonderful Words of Life" at www.cdbaby.com/kendrasmith2.



Genuine Community Bank Provides Services & Helpful Solutions

FIRST BANK

By: The Rivers Agency

First Bank cares for customers like no other bank, providing genuine community bank service and helpful solutions from local bankers who care about doing what's right. That's been our approach to business in North Carolina for more than 75 years and continues to be its signature service today.

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Individuals and families enjoy genuine community bank service from people who know them and care about improving their quality of life. We realize that everyone has different banking needs. That's why at First Bank you can choose from a variety of accounts and services designed to fit your lifestyle and everyday banking needs, including free checking with eStatement enrollment, free online banking with bill pay, free mobile banking, free nationwide ATM access and more, making banking with First Bank convenient and affordable.

As a business owner, you need financial tools to help profitably manage and grow your business. First Bank has the expertise to help. Our business bankers provide a custom-tailored combination of banking, cash management, payroll and loan solutions to help navigate business challenges. First Bank also offers Free Business Checking with eStatement enrollment.

Our local bankers care about doing what's right for you and the community we serve. At First Bank, our customers are more than customers; they are our friends and neighbors. That's why we financially support local schools and non-profit organizations while encouraging employee participation in volunteer efforts that impact the quality of life in our community.

Today, First Bank stands committed to preserving our trusted philosophy in continued efforts to care for the communities we serve. Because our genuine approach to banking has been so successful, we now serve communities in North Carolina, South Carolina and Virginia at 98 branches – including two in Florence County.

Generations of customers have trusted First Bank for safe, convenient banking. We look forward to earning your trust as well.

2nd Annual Aim-At-Ag Sporting Clays Tournament

ArborOne Farm Credit will host its annual fundraising event, AIM-At-Ag, on NOVEMBER 3, 2012, at BLACK RIVER SPORTING CLAYS located at 1049 Millwood Road, Kingstree, SC. Proceeds from the sporting clays tournament will benefit the South Carolina FFA and the South Carolina 4-H Programs.

Whether you're a beginner or a champion shooter, you will be sure to enjoy our 2nd Annual Aim-At-Ag Sporting Clays Tournament! Participants have the opportunity to test their shooting skills on the challenging 12 station course, win door prizes, and purchase raffle tickets throughout the day. The event will conclude with lunch and an awards ceremony.

If last year's event is any indication of this year's performance, the event is sure to be lots of fun and a great success. Last Year, over 100 people came out to compete in either the Youth or Adult Division Tournaments, and sponsors from all around the state contributed largely to the generous financial outcome. In an impressive display of support for agriculture, Aim-At-Ag participants raised $19,000 for its cause!

"You can rest assured that the financial support provided through this event will assist the South Carolina FFA Association in developing programs which will lead to successful graduates in Agricultural Education and as a result, produce the leaders of tomorrow's Agricultural Industry," states Billy Keels, State Director of Agricultural Education.

AIM-AT-AG
SPORTING CLAYS TOURNAMENT

Checks in the amount of $9,500 were presented to both the South Carolina FFA and South Carolina 4-H programs.

The success of last year's event is a true testament to the number of people who share ArborOne's passion to invest in agriculture and promote youth leadership in South Carolina. If you share in this passion, we encourage you to help us support this very worthy cause. You can do so by making plans to come out and shoot on Nov. 3rd, or by contacting your local ArborOne Farm Credit representative for information regarding sponsorship opportunities.

Submitted by ArborOne

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Anderson Brothers Bank is a family-owned bank since 1933 that has built a reputation of helping individuals, families and businesses as they journey along life's path.

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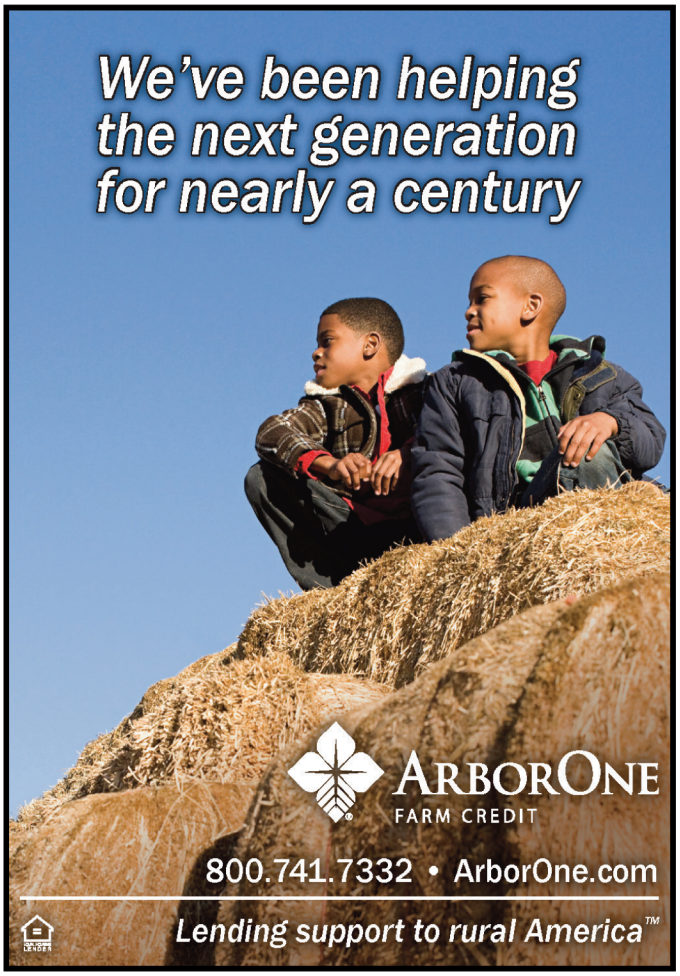

Darcy Craven Named CEO At Carolinas Hospital System

Darcy Craven / CEO
Carolinas Hospital System

Darcy Craven has been named permanent chief executive officer of Carolinas Hospital System after having served as interim CEO and dually as chief operating officer at the hospital.

"I am proud to serve the patients of Carolinas Hospital System and be a part of its history of providing high quality care," said Craven. "Working together with hospital employees, medical staff and volunteers, I look forward to continuing our reputation of excellent service to this community."

Sice joining Carolinas Hospital System in 2010 as COO, Craven's several accomplishments have helped streamline and modernize the facility, including updating medical equipment and the recruitment of new physicians. Most recently, he successfully implemented the new electrophysiology lab in May.

"Darcy brings with him to the role of CEO not only experience, but the full support and confidence of the board," said C. Edward Floyd, M.D., chairman of the Board of Trustees of Carolinas Hospital System. "He will be an effective leader in our work to keep Carolinas Hospital System the premier source of care in our community."

Previously, Craven held hospital leadership roles at two CHS-affiliated hospitals - as interim CEO of Cherokee Medical Center in Centre, Ala., and assistant CEO of DeKalb Regional Medical Center in Fort Payne, Ala.

He received his master's degree in Business Administration from Gardner-Webb University and bachelor's degree from the University of Manitoba.

Craven has been close to this position during much of his career, functioning as assistant CEO of DeKalb Regional Medical Center in Fort Payne, AL and interim CEO of Cherokee Medical Center in Centre, AL – the same title he has held at Carolinas since February after the departure of former CEO Jim O'Loughlin to Memorial Hospital in Jacksonville, FL.

Thinking the company and board of directors were going to bring a tenured executive to the hospital, Craven was expecting to return to the COO position before heading to a CEO position at another Community Health System hospital in 18 months.

"I think it's exciting! I really enjoy having those interactions with my boss, board members, the chief of staff and interacting with physicians more about their concerns about the hospital now, whereas before it was how the hospital was operating on a day-to-day basis for them and anything I could do to make it more efficient for them," he said. "Now they come and talk about problems and issues they're having. I'm viewed a little differently, I think, as chief executive officer. I think people look at you differently, but I try and stay humble and maintain the same personality."

One project that never stops is his role in recruiting and interviewing potential doctors however, for now he continues to focus on the hospital's strategic plan and craft a new one with goals he'd like to see in the coming years.

Pictured L-R: Dean Lomago, M.D.; Steven Chapman, M.D.; Charles Stonerock, M.D.; and Yarrow Babb, PA-C

Cardiothoracic and Cardiovascular Surgeon, Steven Chapman, M.D., joins SC Cardiovascular Surgery

Carolinas Hospital System welcomes Dr. Steven Chapman, as he joins cardiovascular surgeon Dean Lomago, M.D., vascular surgeon Charles Stonerock, M.D., and Yarrow Babb, PA-C, at SC Cardiovascular Surgery.

Dr. Chapman is board certified in general surgery and cardiothoracic surgery. A graduate of NC State University, he earned his medical degree from Wake Forest University School of Medicine. He then completed his internship at North Carolina Baptist Hospital and residencies at Pitt County Memorial Hospital and the University of Kentucky Albert Chandler Medical Center. Prior to coming to our community, he was associated with Delta Regional Cardiovascular & Thoracic Surgery in Greenville, Mississippi.

Dr. Chapman is looking forward to providing skilled care for the people of the Pee Dee Region and is now accepting new patients. For an appointment, please call 843-676-2760.

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Health Care Provider Of The Year

Dr. Roosevelt Daniel
Chief Medical Officer
CareSouth Carolina

Dr. Roosevelt Daniel has been awarded the 2011 Health Care Provider of the Year by the South Carolina Primary Health Care Association at their annual Clinical Retreat in Hilton Head. The award recognizes the exemplary efforts by the provider in a community-based health care settings.

Nominees must have been practicing in a community health center for at least two years and must have demonstrated a level of excellence and performance in the community health center and the community.

Daniel has been practicing at CareSouth Carolina for seven years in Bishopville and the Chief Medical Officer for four years.

He is known for his gentle and caring manner to his patients and the families in Lee County. Dr. Daniel has been instrumental in getting CareSouth Carolina ready clinically for EMR.

"We so appreciate all he does and are very proud of him, and his receipt of this award," said Ann Lewis, CEO at CareSouth Carolina. "This award is an acknowledgement and recognition of his caring, compassion, devotion and commitment not only to CareSouth Carolina, the communities we serve and our patients but also to each of us on the staff. Dr. Daniel is a special person. We are very fortunate to have him at CareSouth Carolina."

Dr. Daniel receiving a award

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XOOMA Nutrition Changing The Lives Of Many

"I Made a Commitment to Change My Health and Change My Life"

Kyle Smith
Xooma Client

About six months ago, my father was introduced to a product called X2O. After being a type II diabetes sufferer for as long as I can remember, he was struggling to regulate his blood sugar levels. Within 6 days of being introduced to X2O, he was able to bring his blood sugar levels down to an acceptable level and then regulate them with this all natural product since that day. Dad introduced me to the product about five months ago. Now let me tell you, I was a diet coke drinker. On a daily basis I would consume five to seven diet cokes every day and couple that with coffee in the morning, my caffeine and acidic intake was off the charts. I was suffering from being overweight, coupled with borderline high blood pressure, and no energy. I was having to have a soda every day around 2 p.m. just to allow me to get through the afternoon, and then when I would get home, would head for the couch or bed for an afternoon nap. Understand that I am a very energetic person, have been involved in sports all of my life and was a collegiate athlete. At my age, I didn't understand why I should not have enough energy to make it through the day. Little did I know at the time, I was poisoning my body with acidic drinks like diet soda. I made a commitment on March 28th, 2012 to change my health and change my life. It was this day that I was fortunate enough to attend a presentation on Xooma Worldwide and Xooma products provided by Diane Chapman. When I saw what the products from Xooma could do, I knew this was a gift for my health. I began taking my Xooma products at the beginning of April of this year, using the X2O and focus up and doing away with the detrimental intake of diet sodas. I began to realize an immediate change in the way I felt both from an energy persepective as well as a mental perspective. All of a sudden I had a sustained energy throughout the day and was feeling like a normal person again. A little over five months later, I am down 32 lbs, over 4 inches in my waist and feel better than I have felt in years. I owe all of this to X2O and FocusUp and am blessed to have been introduced to the amazing people involved with an organization that is changing people's lives.

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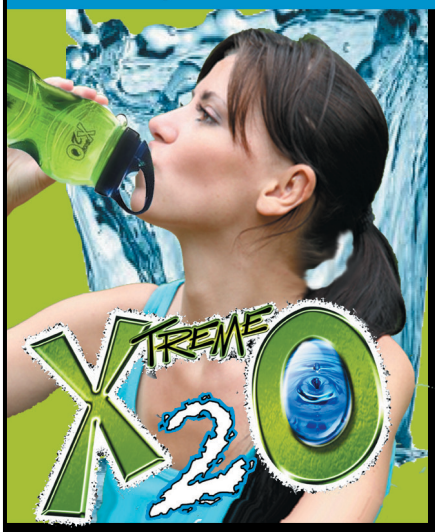

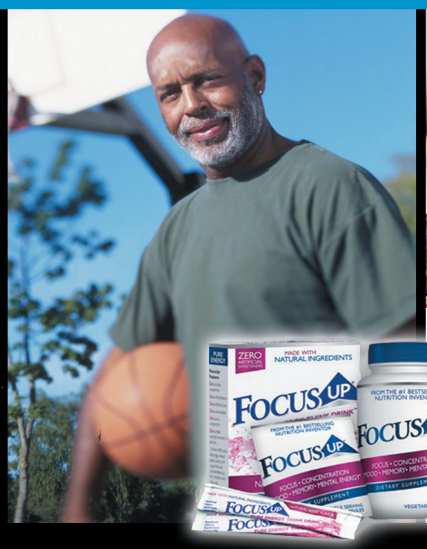

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Woodrow B. Blair & Gerrionda Lakeshia Blair

My Blood Pressure was regularly 160/115 for years; I was on 4 different Blood Pressure medicines and my Sugar was way up, when Diane Chapman introduced me to the Xooma Products, X2O and Focus Up in May of 2011, I could only hope for results...I Had no Idea how right she was, Today my blood pressure stays around 130/70 and my sugar levels are very good .I feel better than I have in years About 3 months ago I was in a car Accident and had to go to the doctors and he asked me" What are you doing" because your blood pressure and sugar numbers look so good and I responded "drinking Alkaline water with over 70 organic trace minerals and countless electrolytes "and he said" Keep drinking it". My daughter Gerrionda Lakeshia Blair has been inactive for the last 25 years and is in a wheel chair suffering with Cerebral Palsy. She also suffered With IBS (Irritable Bowel Syndrome). Gerrionda was taking a form of birth control that caused her to gain weight .We even had to place her in a larger wheel chair. After I introduced her to the product she has lost more than 35 lbs and no longer suffers with IBS. Now that makes me a" Mighty Happy Father"

Allen E. Smith, PhD

In the middle of March, 2012, my best friend called and suggested I try X2O for my sugar problems. I was receptive but skeptical. The short story is I tried it with the six day supply he gave me while on Spring Break. The result was a fasting sugar drop from 200 to 124 on the sixth day. As a Ph.D. I am a trained skeptic so for the next five days I drank the water, avoided any carbonated drinks, and geneally did exactly what I had done for the previous six days. My fasting blood sugar went steadily back up to above 200 in those five days. I got immediately back on the X2O. By the third day my fasting blood sugar was down to 104 and has remained "normal" since.

I eat more and better, now that I use the focusUp. I feel 15 years younger and have more energy than I have had since the diabetes caught up with me 20 years ago. While I was not trying to lose any weight, as a bonus I have lost 21 pounds. The products are awesome and I will never be without them.

Creating A Well Planet Is Job One For GE Healthcare

Kili Gilmore
HR Specialist
GE Healthcare

By Rennie Lunn-McAllister
Editor-In-Chief

When a curious or sick person is inside one of the imaging machines produced by GE Healthcare, typically the test results would be uppermost on the patient's mind -- not who made or shipped it. Contrastly, the 38-year-old Florence-based magnet builder has solely the patient as priority one for its mission is to give end users – be they scientist or subject -- a chance to dream and see some of them come true.

"We help save lives all over the world and we want people to think of family first when they think of GE Healthcare because we take care of our own… from internal associates to medical center consumers to our diverse group of minority suppliers to other countries" said HR Specialist Kili Gilmore.

Located just off Radio Drive near the apex of interstates 95 and 20, GE Healthcare produces the mass amount of MRI machines, which medical professionals use globally for seeing inside the human body. "It takes from 12 to 15 days from start to finish of our product and our location makes for efficient shipping all over the world," she said.

In her role as supervisor of recruiting, hiring and training of associates, Gilmore relies heavily on customer service feeds, partnership development and relationship management so that the GE brand stands out. Of the present 350 associates, 40% to 50% are African American, many of them degreed in a science specialty and all of them trained. They enjoy benefits like an onsite nurse to reduce absenteeism, 100% tuition reimbursement for professional development and a sense of belonging to a company that cares.

Showing concern for the environment, women and minorities, students and education, families, health, the underprivileged and veterans (to name a few corporate favorites), GE Healthcare wants to go over the top in growing the community where it exists to serve. "We put a lot of emphasis on diversity in order to make sure everyone has a voice and a chance and we are aggressively going after young people to show them what the future can look like and be through science," she said.

A tour of the plant reveals the new security leader, African-born Sabrina Oquendo, a young and petite Caucasian female test engineer Melissa Henderson, career employee Emmanuel Pygatt who is still very happy to be there after all these years and several job-focused Asian Pacifics. Not so visible were its award winning Dr. Robert Belinski who was one of 24 chosen from a worldwide field of thousands to present at the International Applied Reliability Symposium and names like Duke University Business School graduate Sam Telikicherla, exhibit creator Gokul Kalur and clearly various other ethnics, all of whom perform exceptionally and represent the firm's best images, according to the company newsletter.

"This one picture is a composite of the diversity that GE embraces," Gilmore stated, pointing out that her first encounter with the company was good and bad at the same time. "I was in an accident, hospitalized for six months –comatose six days— and when I awoke in ICU I kept seeing GE on all the equipment surrounding me and obviously, thanks to that I am here today."

As if the company's competitive edge of superior workmanship and niche marketing were not enough, she says GE is gearing up to expand its plant and workforce and will continue to make diversity a priority. And while looking in places like the National Society of Black Engineers for new hires to deliver its future, GE is actively calling back some of its retirees to help ensure that posterity.

An unspoken motto at GE Healthcare could say: Being outstanding in technology means a lot but using that technology to create a well planet is job one.

Doctor Gives *Free* Advice To Persons, Public

Jeniqua J. Duncan,D.O, MBA.
Coord. Of Womens Health
McLeod Family Medicine

By Chinel Boateng
Contributing Writer

Jeniqua J. Duncan, D.O., MBA is a faculty member and Coordinator of Women's Health for the McLeod Family Medicine Residency Program, she is also a Staff Physician and Assistant Professor of Family Medicine. Duncan is a graduate of Kansas City University of Medicine and Biosciences in Kansas City, MO, where she received a Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine degree. Originally from Charleston, Duncan and husband Kinte' have an eight-year-old son, Julian.

I had an opportunity to briefly speak with Dr. Duncan to ask a few questions:

What medical conditions need to be addressed in the community? "The three chronic conditions: hypertension, diabetes, and hyperlipidemia. People say we're not just the heart attack belt; we're the buckle of it here in the Pee Dee Region". What she sees as frustrating is, because it's so prevalent in the community it's not really seen as a very serious condition and, not only does she have to gauge patient's understanding of their disease, she must also gauge whether or not they think it's serious.

What goals would you like to see the community achieve? "To want to be knowledgeable, to feel empowered to do something for themselves, and to become actively involved in their own healthcare". Additionally, she would like to see a community that ask questions "why are you doing this", and question what's being done "do I have to have that test", "can I do something else?" Duncan says clarify anything that's new (medication, instructions), ask what's expected of you between now and the next visit, and ask when the doctor wants to see you again. These questions open dialogue between doctors and patients.

What would be your four main focuses for a community health fair?

"Stress management would be at the top; people create behaviors that are detrimental to their health because they're trying to manage stress. Also, how to incorporate exercise into busy lives and how to eat well on a very small budget. Lastly, focus on kids and those same behaviors; because we're growing little people that are having adult diseases.

What are your views on diversity in healthcare?

"The beauty of medicine, in general, is that there is such diversity in specialties that different personalities fit. I think the same way doctors choose their specialties, patients choose their doctors. If I like someone that's straight-up, I'll look for a doctor who's straight-up. Or, if I like someone who rubs my back and gives me a hug, I'll find a doctor like that. If you find someone that you're comfortable with, you're more likely to engage in conversation, ask questions, and do what they suggest you do. So diversity as far as age, race and gender are the same way; we're all different. Just because I am one way, doesn't mean that someone who looks the same way as me would want me as their doctor. But to have a choice and to have an option, for any community would be wonderful. I think you'll have a healthier community, because they feel comfortable with their doctors."

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Every dollar you raise and every step you take will help save lives. How far will you go to end breast cancer forever?

Cancer touches more than just the people diagnosed. It has an impact on everyone around them. That's why the American Cancer Society Making Strides Against Breast Cancer event has brought together millions of people to celebrate those who have battled breast cancer, educate people about ways to reduce their risk, and empower communities to join the fight.

Countless Americans who have never had breast cancer and the 2.5 million others who have will celebrate a birthday this year, thanks in part to the dollars you raise for the American Cancer Society.

Since 1993, nearly seven million walkers across the United States have raised more than $400 million to help fight breast cancer through Making Strides events. The money raised helps the American Cancer Society to save lives and create a world with less breast cancer and more birthdays by:

Helping people stay well by showing women steps they can take to reduce their breast cancer risk and make informed decisions about their health. We help women learn about healthy lifestyle choices and which screening tests, like mammograms, are right for them.

Helping people get well by providing information, day-to-day help, and emotional support. Whether it's helping people make informed decisions about their care or connecting them with breast cancer survivors, we're here for them – so they can focus on getting better.

Finding cures through research to help find the causes of breast cancer and better ways to treat it so that more people can survive the disease. We have been an important part of nearly every major breast cancer research breakthrough in recent history, including funding the development of Tamoxifen and Herceptin and using mammograms to screen for breast cancer.

Fighting back against breast cancer by working with lawmakers to increase funding for breast cancer screening and treatment, and by bringing communities together through our Making Strides Against Breast Cancer events to raise funds and awareness to fight the disease.

Florence has been chosen to host the statewide Making Strides Against Breast Cancer event, so to build momentum and excitement about what Strides is all about, we are having a Making Strides Against Breast Cancer SC Rally on Saturday, October 13th. It will be held at the McLeod Health & Fitness Center in Florence beginning at 10 am. Although it will not be the 5K, for those who would like to take a lap, the track will be open. The actual Strides Big event will be held on October 5, 2013 at the same location.

100% of all funds raised at a Making Strides Against Breast Cancer event go to breast cancer research, breast cancer programs & services.

MAKING STRIDES Against Breast Cancer®

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Are You HealthCare Homeless?

Why Primary Care? Do you ever wonder how all of the talk in the media about the health care reform and primary care affects you? Research shows that states with more primary care physicians per capita have better health outcomes, including fewer deaths from cancer, heart disease, or stroke. This is exactly why establishing a relationship with a primary care physician who oversees the "big picture" of your health is an important step in maintaining a healthy lifestyle for you and your family.

Having a health care home that feels safe and secure to you can benefit you in a number of ways. Setting a wellness appointment before you become ill or injured will allow you to learn about your health risks and record your family medical history. The main goals of primary care physicians are to prevent chronic disease and to prevent hospitalizations and emergency room visits. They do this by providing regular screenings such as cholesterol checks, blood pressure checks and cancer preventative services. Another important responsibility of a primary care doctor involves keeping you safe by managing medication regimens that involve multiple doctors, such as subspecialists.

Subspecialists and Referrals Subspecialist doctors are very important when treating injuries, disease and other illness. If you do end up with a condition that needs to be treated by a subspecialist, it is the responsibility of your primary care doctor to monitor your overall health by communicating with the specialist(s) involved in your treatment plan. While most subspecialists are very good about communicating with your primary care doctor regarding your visits and treatments, please be sure that you are also informing your primary care physician of new medications and other important information that you received during your subspecialist visit.

Hospital or Doctor's Office? The emergency room is just for that: emergencies. Going to the hospital for medical care when your doctor's office could have helped you can be very expensive. On the other hand, hospitals are essential for handling life-threatening situations. When your health or the health of a loved one is at stake, do you know where to go? Take some time to look over the following examples of when to call your primary care doctor verses going to the emergency room. Spending a few minutes reviewing these scenarios could save you a lot of time and money.

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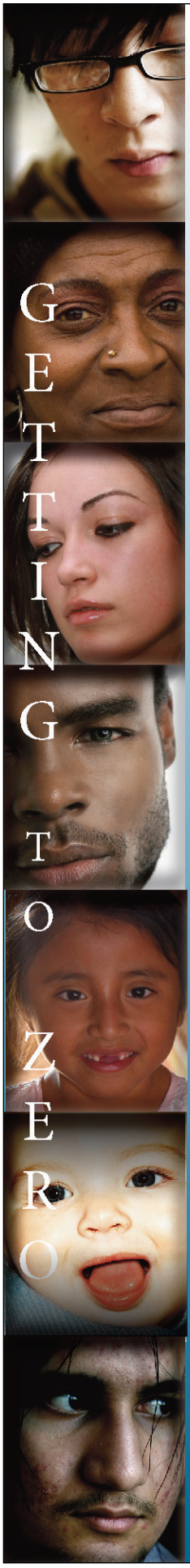
Doctor's Office:	*Emergency Room:*
•Any pain or condition that has been persistent over several days/weeks •Arthritis-like ailments •Cold or flu-like symptoms •Earaches •Management of chronic illness such as high blood pressure or diabetes •Minor aches and pains •Minor burns or minor cuts and animal bites where bleeding is controlled •Persistent fever •Skin rashes •Sprains •Symptoms of sexually transmitted infections (STIs)	•Any sudden or severe pain •Coughing or vomiting blood •Difficulty speaking •Fainting, sudden dizziness, or weakness •Severe or persistent vomiting or diarrhea •Shortness of breath •Sudden change in or loss of vision •Sudden chest or abdominal pain or pressure •Sudden confusion or changes in mental state •Suicidal feelings •Uncontrolled bleeding



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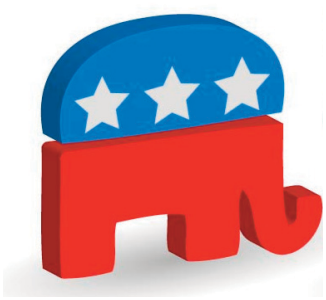
WORLD AIDS DAY



In an effort to repair the whiplash damages from the fast ups, downs and hard bumps that candidates and voters alike suffered during this election year from hell, we have to take stock of the highs and lows that come along with the ride and run for public office. On again, off again, some 250 candidates were bumped from the ballots for the June primary -- thus the runoff -- simply because, as it is later revealed, incumbents wanted to protect their seats against challengers.

First, the S.C. Elections Commission threw the appellants a bone by offering them a second chance to get reinstated if they could prove their Statements of Economic Interests were submitted electronically by the April 15 deadline, only to snatch the bone back by requiring paperwork bearing the same in time. Of course, it was too late so candidates were required to launch petition drives, submitted with 5% of their electorate who were registered voters by mid July. Then there was the requirement that the petition signers had to have voted in 2008 and the stipulations went on ad nauseum. To allegedly clear that confusion up, enter the S.C. Supreme Court (appointed by state senators) that enforced a more stringent version of the law -- which the commission is subject to -- so we have a state full of floundering candidates and the voters are just as frustrated, confounded and left with little choice.

Unable to undo this travesty wrought upon us, we the people have to take a stand and seize our power back. Every county, township and locale should have an occupy movement so we can flex our collective muscle and demonstrate our aim to make things right again. So convince and remind yourselves to vote November 6, 2012; even better, go vote early so you can take someone else to the polls all day.

Finally, know that this magazine – which focuses on diversity and wants to hear from every perspective – invited statements from all certified political parties in South Carolina, but as of presstime only two responded (see below) and we thank them for their views. Those who chose to remain voiceless are as follows: Constitution Party, Green Party, Independence Party, Labor Party, Libertarian Party, United Citizens Party, and Working Families Party. It's not a bad idea for our readers to reach out to them to see if they even have a position and a raison d'etre.

Let's raise our voices, vote and show our children how powerful we are and in doing so, we are setting the expectation for them to follow our example. We cannot allow this process to die… too many others died for this right already.

*By **Rennie Lunn-McAllister***
Editor-In-Chief

Responses.....

Amanda Loveday
Communications Director
SC Democratic Party

I have always heard people say, "You can't complain, if you don't vote." Even when I was younger that statement resonated with me and I still believe it to this day. Whether you believe in the Affordable Care Act or agree with the reform of the Pell Grant system, either way, you can't complain about either program if you didn't vote.

Voting is our constitutional right as an American over the age of 18. It's our duty to go out and make our vote in the ballot box for whatever candidate, federal or state, we feel would represent us to the best of their ability. Not only do we need to vote but we also need to understand the issues. It's important to know what the issues are and how each candidate will affect your daily life with their policies and beliefs.

We can't complain if we don't vote and make our voices was heard. Make sure to go out on Tuesday, November 6 and exercise your constitutional right but before you walk into that voting booth, make sure you know whom you're voting for and why they are your candidate of choice.

Elections matter. They matter for our prosperity, they matter for our freedom, and they matter for our future. On November 6, our nation will make a critical choice. Through their visions and voices, American presidents set the course for our great republic.

In 2008, our nation chose a candidate for president who offered hope and change and bold promises that his policies would lead us out of the economic doldrums and build a stronger economy. Now, almost four years later, the American dream is changing fast for too many. We can do better. We can change. And we have the opportunity and obligation to do so November 6.

Chad Connelly, Chair
SC Republican Party

Fighting The *Good Fight* For Congress:

Tinubu All In For District Seven Race

By Rennie Lunn-McAllister
Editor-In-Chief

Bringing a unique set of experiences blending farm girl with honor graduate, college president, lettered economist, state representative and award-winning public servant, The Hon. Dr. Gloria Bromell Tinubu has the makings of a people-pleasing, designer cake and being elected as the first representative in the new U.S. Congressional District 7 could be the first layer of the icing.

"I think I am ideally suited for the job because of my diverse experiences and service roles across the years," said the daughter of tobacco farmers who grew on to greatness in a myriad of disciplines.

"It all begins with quality education and that's what is sorely missing in a large part of the (7th) district," she said of the corridor of shame, noting that not much has changed over the last four decades in the eight counties* that comprise it. "Horry County is the exception due to its large number of retirees and tourists, but livable wage jobs, affordable health care and business ownership statistics have not improved much anywhere else since I left and once in congress, I can help move the needle" on those issues.

"Additionally, South Carolina is consistently in the top ten of the poorest (United) states, ranking number 7 presently, so if the brand and practice of being a 'right to work' state (enacted 1954) was so good for the people, we wouldn't be in the shape we're in today. That status keeps wages down and it is in the powers of congress to elevate workers to earn a livable wage. We need to have that conversation here and certainly in Washington," she said, emphasizing that she will proudly and aggressively take the lead to make the Palmetto state a free bargaining one.

Acknowledging that she will further diversify the leadership picture in South Carolina if elected, the Coastal Carolina University teaching associate said nature leads us with its gifts of diverse plant life and animal life and we should take our cue from that Divine example. "We have a diverse population of people who migrated from the north, from Asia, from Latin America and together reflect the global economy all around us. The world is getting smaller with all of this interconnectedness and when it comes to being balanced in business development, more women, Blacks and other ethnics would experience more of the job creation and more of the wealth. Right now, human representation of the high unemployment and poverty victims is not diverse enough. Only certain groups of women and children and people of color cyclically suffer the most and break the cycle the least. If, for example, we are 30% of the population of the state or district, then we should have 30% reflected in our wealth in those territories," she said, pointing out to voters to observe the diversity (or lack thereof) to move toward achieving parity and equity in fairly dividing the pie of resources and opportunities.

Dr. Gloria Bromell Tinubu
Congressional Candidate

There will never be liberty and justice for all any other way.

Even her staff and focus groups in 'the 7th' are diverse. "Most businesses do well with core groups but do even better by extending their tentacles to other groups. We have everyday citizens – ministers, cab drivers, teachers, retirees, students and more – who advise us and for sure we are all better off when we have the broadest spectrum of viewpoints at the table," she said.

Thanking the voters for their commitment to change exhibited in the June primary and runoff, Dr. Tinubu said that in order for the collective voice to prevail in November, "we need to double down our efforts, register as many voters as possible and on time, help us to continue to run a clean, clear and adequately financed campaign."

From any leadership level in this country, Tinubu believes that it should be top priority to keep the American Dream alive for all people, not just a select, preferred few. "Even moreso at this point in our recovering economy, it is our job to restore the desire to dream," she said, silently implying that voters can bring their spoons for dessert because the best is yet to come.

Her extensive curriculum vitae can be found at www.gloria4congress.com

*Eight counties comprising the newly minted 7th Congressional District are Florence (excluding Lake City), Darlington, Dillon, Marion, Chesterfield, Marlboro, Georgetown and Horry

Tinubu on the campaign trail

Gloria Bromell Tinubu
Will Fight for Our Families

A Good Education for Our Children: As a professor at Coastal Carolina, Gloria knows that for our children to compete for the jobs of the future, we need to invest in their education by repairing outdated schools and putting more teachers in the classroom.

Bringing Good-Paying Jobs to Our Community: As an economist with a Ph.D. in Applied Economics from Clemson University, Gloria knows to attract good-paying jobs to our community we need to encourage public/private partnerships to jump-start innovation and create jobs for our community.

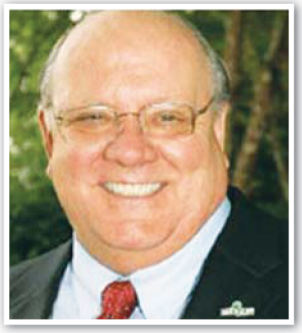
GLORIA BROMELL TINUBU
• CONGRESS •

About Gloria:

- Grew up in a working-class family in Plantersville, located in Georgetown County.
- Ph.D. in Applied Economics from Clemson University.
- Teaches at Coastal Carolina University in Conway.

Paid for by Gloria Bromell Tinubu for Congress

Leading With Diverse Strategies Makes For A Better Florence



Councilman Steve Powers
S/W Printing Owner

By Rennie Lunn-McAllister
Editor-In-Chief

If all candidates run on the same platform on the same ticket for the same seat, then it would not matter who the voters choose for they would all get the same leader. Therefore, diversity in outlook and temperance is more greatly appreciated by the people and expression of both is essential for an electorate to make informed decisions.

The Hon. Steve Powers is one such candidate who wants to stand out by speaking out. "With me, it's either shut up or speak up - win or lose. I'll never shut up -- that's what I love about our (US) constitution and why I carry it around in my briefcase."

Elected four years ago to an at-large seat on Florence City Council, Powers said he is running on a party ticket now to face the opposition head on. "There are so many differences represented on council, but the similarities we share in growing a better city are much greater. We just have diverse visions and strategies to get there. For instance, I'd like to see a Florence that is in control of its destiny by paving our own roads. Right now we have 89 miles of road and must ask the county for our streets to be paved, a request that sits on a waiting list for sometimes years. Well, I have a way to make that change if we can get half of the road maintenance fee which comes in part from vehicle registrations. In all fairness, city vehicles use county roads so we need to be more fair in our distribution of resources," he said, noting that this new practice would create numerous contractor jobs and opportunities also.

Other cities have effectuated such a change by imposing their own $15 fee but Powers does not want to do that to his Florence constituents. He also cites that his co-chairing the City-County Conference Committee (with The Hon. Al Bradley of county seat 3) would enhance that effort.

Another issue of which he is mindful is the lack of sidewalks where I-20 intersects the Magnolia Mall entrance. "I'd like to see walkways that enable hotel guests to walk from lodges to nearby restaurants and see our city rather than have to drive around and pollute it. I can also fix that through the road maintenance fee."

In his quest to occupy the seat that "belongs to the people," Powers is holding a series of town hall meetings about town and voters can check www.powersformayor.com for schedules.

When making decisions on the city's behalf, Powers said he considers everybody's needs and what will benefit the elderly on fixed incomes or small businesses run by two women trying to make it in a man's world or the single mom or the children with two full time parents as opposed to the special interest groups making back room deals for their own gain.

Knowing that in order to speak for the people he has to listen to them, Powers cautions that before casting a ballot, voters should know the issues, know the candidates and where they stand on those issues. "One of my fellow NAACP members told me that Blacks don't vote Republican, (or worse, not at all), to which I replied voting straight party is like taking a book from a shelf with no name on it," or paraphrased, carefully study and know your choices in order to lift your voices.

STEVE POWERS

MAYOR • CITY OF FLORENCE

WWW.POWERSFORMAYOR.COM

I'm running for mayor because I love Florence. This is my home. My business is in the heart of the city. I have been fortunate to serve as a city council member and have been a proud part of many community based efforts to improve our city. Under the right leadership, great things lie ahead for Florence. As the economic hub of the Pee Dee region in health care, retail, arts and education. our city has an excellent foundation for building a better future.

Proven Leadership for a Better Florence

I have the necessary executive and civic experience to be an effective mayor for Florence. To get our city moving again we need proven leadership that is commited to

- A Pro-Jobs and Economic Growth Agenda
- A Sensible Tax Policy -- Good Stewardship of Your Tax Dollars
- A More Inclusive Style of Leadership
- An Open Door Policy that Represents and Serves the People

Working together to build a better community will require hard work. Cooperation, common sense, a focus on delivering essential services and sound fiscal management are the essential ingredients to securing our city's future.

Over the years, Steve has been involved in many public service organizations -

- Inaugural Chairman of the Florence Pecan Festival
- Chairman of the Florence Downtown Merchants Association
- Board of Directors of the Florence County United Way
- Board of Directors of the Pee Dee Red Cross
- Board of Directors of the Downtown Development Association

For his service, Steve has been recognized by civic groups, business leaders and state organizations -

- 2005 Hometown Hero, presented by the Main Street South Carolina Association, which he won because of his work on downtown Florence revitalization and for his work to start the Pecan Festival.
- 2009 Business Person of the Year, presented by the Florence Chamber of Commerce
- 2007 4 Way Test Recipient, Florence Rotary Club

* PAID FOR BY STEVE POWERS FOR MAYOR

Public Servant Views *Diversity* As Soldier, Consultant

By Robert Williams

Mr. Robert Q. Williams is the son of Mrs. Robbie Mae Williams and the late Mr. James Jim Williams of Darlington. He attended the public schools of Darlington County continuing his education at Voorhees College obtaining a B.S. Degree and Troy State University obtaining a M.P.A.

Mr. Williams is a consultant with the Fatherhood and Families Engagement Programs, an organization of mentoring for fathers, restoring family relationships, providing job skills and counseling. He is Executive Administrator for the Veterans Transitional Center serving the Pee Dee region and abroad.

Mr. Williams is in his third term as the Representative from District 62, in the state general assembly and from that tenure, he is the 3rd Vice Chair of the Medical, Military, Public and Municipal Affairs. He is also the Chairperson of the Sub-Committee for Military Affairs

He is married to Janice Ham-Williams and has three children: Jacobie, Rodrick and Jarell.

How do you define diversity and inclusion in businesses?

Behind every business there are many faces, innovators and collaborators across the globe challenging the status quo. They bring a unique perspective and experience to creating change that will transform the world. I define diversity in business as having a business made up of a variety of ethnicity, people and background employed, contracted and consultancy. This wide spectrum brings a wealth of difference in the the workplace and create new marketplaces. They come from various background and experience with a vast amount of talent and skills that will fuel business opportunity for everyone and not only for a selected few. I feel that inclusion in business allows everyone to work together in order to reach the company expectation.

Why should companies concern themselves with diversity?

Certainly, diversity drives business and it requires companies to reach across the lines that separate us. American citizens are not from one race, nor one color, nor from one creed. They are diverse in every dimension. The color of America is not only red, white and blue, but it is also, black, white and everything between.

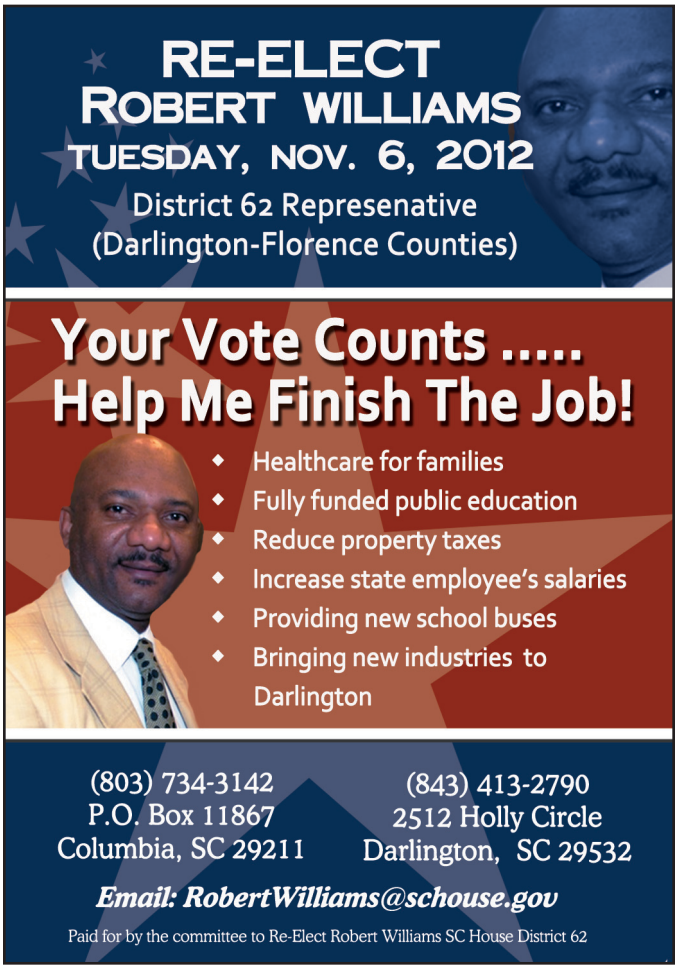
What is the difference between affirmative action and managing diversity?

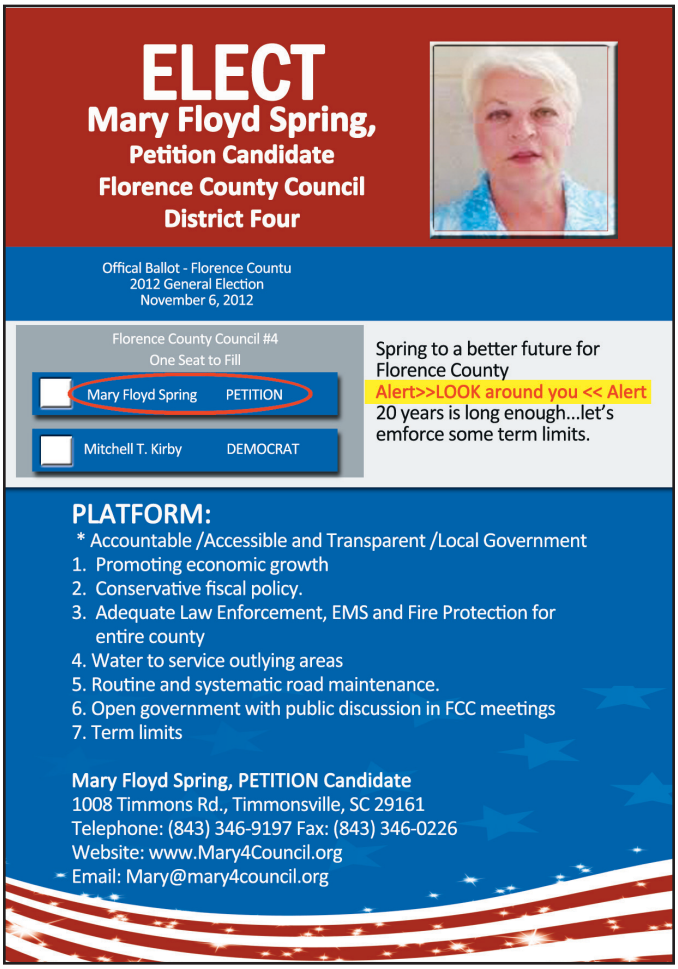
The difference between affirmative action and managing diversity is pretty simple.

Rep. Robert Q. Williams
District 62

Affirmative action is instituted by the law of land, so that discrimination doesn't become the order of the day. However, managing diversity deals with ensuring that certain practices are achieved in order to prevent bias and discrimination from companies across the land.

In conclusion, I want to convey to the reader the importance of voting in this upcoming election. Please exercise your {God-given} (sic) right to vote. This is the most important election in our lifetime, therefore, get involve and vote. Share this with your friends and family. Voting this year is a must !!!





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