Mayor Says City Delivering on Economic Diversity

In a recent open letter to citizens of Huntsville, Mayor Tommy Battle proudly acknowledged that his team had kept an important promise made in 2008. “Six years ago,” noted Battle, “we made a commitment to our community that we would diversify our economic base, and we have delivered on that promise.”

He added that the fulfillment of the promise was possible due to “working together to invest in our infrastructure, education and quality of life amenities.”

Battle went on to attribute the city’s claim to Alabama’s two largest economic development entities to Huntsville’s “competitiveness and promising future as a leading economic driver” and key successful business destination.

In early January 2015, Polaris Industries, Inc., announced that Huntsville would be the site for its $142 million advanced manufacturing campus, an action that could mean some 2,000 new jobs for the Rocket City, along with an array of suppliers.

On February 17, 2014, city, state and legislative officials announced that the guns and ammunition operation Remington Outdoor Company, had chosen to move to Huntsville, bringing with it the potential for more than 2,000 jobs within a decade.

Those jobs, Battle said last year, would be “well-paying” and the livelihood for numerous skilled tradesmen, engineers and support personnel. Opening for the Remington facility was calculated around summer 2015.

“2014 was an incredible year for our city,” said Battle. “Huntsville’s successes in economic development over the past year were unmatched, and we’ve continued our work to keep riding that momentum into 2015.”

Learning Expo 2015 Set at Davidson Center

The U.S. Space and Rocket Center’s Davidson Center will be site for “Learning Expo 2015,” an all-day event of speakers, workshops, panels and entertainment.

The Expo will be held January 31 from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. at One Tranquility Base in Huntsville, Ala., near the Marriott. There is no admission charge.

Organizers say the activity is the largest education event in North Alabama, as well as the only chance area families and residents have to get all the local education information they need in one place in the course of a single day.

Best-selling children’s author and illustrator Jarrett Krosoczka (“Lunch Lady” series) will be the keynote speaker.
Local Film Students Complete Hollywood Trip

A group of film students from area colleges recently returned from an 11-day trip to Hollywood, the Rose Parade and the Rose Bowl, where they captured how these events are produced for their subsequent documentary, “Huntsville2Hollywood 2015-Volume 1.”

Throughout the visit, the students amassed more than 10,000 photographs, according to Leon Burnette, trip coordinator and head of the Media Arts Institute of Alabama.

“In the coming months, we will begin working on finishing the Huntsville2Hollywood coffee table book, our documentary and our photo exhibit at Huntsville Botanicals Gardens and Lowe Mill.”

Burnette said the students will also begin to visit middle and high schools around the state and county, as part of an entertainment and digital media career presentation called Huntsville2Hollywood.

“We have been asked by the Tournament of Roses to come back next year and to bring another group of students to the Rose Parade,” said Burnette. “They were really impressed by our students and our work.”

Burnette added that the trip will become an annual activity and will be expanded to top students at HBCUs throughout Alabama.

“In addition, I will be taking eight students to work on the 2015 Emmy Awards and eight student to New York this summer to explore jobs in the public relations and live event industries.

The Huntsville Network for Urban School Renewal, Inc. (HNUSR), a Huntsville-based nonprofit whose mission is to coordinate the services of a number of community organizations to help mitigate poverty related factors that limit the academic achievement of children from low income communities, has announced four new members of its Board of Directors.

The HNUSR board welcomes Mr. John A. Robinson III, Huntsville, Ala.; Dr. Charlotte Lockhart, Atlanta, Ga.; Dr. Patricia Elzie, Atlanta, Ga.; and, Dr. Diana Bourisaw, St. Louis, Mo.

**Dr. Diana Bourisaw** has recently served as the Chief Academic Officer for Pearson. Before coming to Pearson, Dr. Bourisaw was the Deputy Chancellor for School Improvement and Student Achievement for the State of Florida. She is the former Superintendent of Schools for St. Louis Public Schools and the Fox School District (Missouri), and has been a state board member, public and private school board member, building principal and teacher. Dr. Bourisaw currently serves on the faculty at the University of Missouri, St. Louis.

**Dr. Patricia Elzie** now owns and operates a private real estate investment group in Atlanta, GA after spending more than 30 years in the field of education. She has served as a classroom teacher and in administrative positions with Norfolk City Public Schools, Metropolitain Nashville Public Schools, Prince Georges County Maryland Schools, Cobb County Georgia Public Schools, and Marietta City Schools. Dr. Elzie retired from Marietta (Georgia) City Schools, where she was system-wide testing director and supervised the district’s counseling and gifted programs.

**Dr. Charlotte W. Lockhart** currently provides Curriculum Support for the Fulton County (Georgia) School System. Her duties include assisting teachers in organizing and implementing the curriculum for all students and interpreting state educational standards. As an educator, she saw the need to provide resources specifically for girls and as a result founded the Jewels Club, which promotes the philosophy that girls are capable of becoming whatever they prepare for in life by making wise decisions. It is the club’s belief that each girl is a special member of their family and of their community and has something unique to offer.

**John A. Robinson III** is Managing Partner with Twick-ehan Concepts, a Huntsville-based consulting firm for senior leaders of local and regional government contractor organizations and commercial enterprises. He is also a Member of the Huntsville Committee of 100, serving on its Education Task Force. Mr. Robinson is an astute business leader with 50 years of experience working in leadership positions in various companies including IBM Corporation, SCI Corporation, GDC Systems Marketing, Georgia State University, Ellett Brothers, Inc., Group Development Corporation, and Alatec, Inc.

“The HNUSR has always enjoyed a strong seasoned Board comprised of established experts in education and other relevant disciplines and we are pleased to further enhance our Board with the addition of such well-respected professionals,” said Van L. Strickland, chairman of the HNUSR Board of Directors. “These individuals bring deep industry knowledge and breadth of experience that will complement the Board and add tremendous value.”

Strickland added, “The Board and management of HNUSR would also like to express our sincere appreciation to Ms. Gloria Batts and Dr. Dorothy Huston, two founding board members who recently left the Board, for their service to the Board and many contributions to the organization.”
We had the opportunity this past week to be blessed with personal and written communication with many family and friends. As we set the platform for this year, January has both Latin and Roman roots. In Latin, January is named after Janus, the god of beginnings and transitions. January also has its beginnings in Roman mythology, coming from the Latin word for ‘door’ since January is the door to the year. I hope each of you are having a good beginning to this new year. Blessings!

Typically, for me, two hours are a long time to sit for a television show or movie. On this past Saturday afternoon, we went to see the movie “Selma.” When we consider the conditions around the world, caring people of all cultures, denominations, races, ages, colors and persuasions should be concerned about the violence and lack of respect for human dignity around the world. My January prayer is for world peace!

Many of us lived “Selma” or know people who were personally involved, whether physically, spiritually, mentally or otherwise. I grew up about 60 miles southwest of Selma, too close for comfort! I believe there is a special place prepared for ‘special’ people. Go, see it, and decide for yourself.

We had the opportunity last week to dine with Dr. Daryush Ila, Associate Vice Chancellor for Research at Fayetteville State University in North Carolina; Dr. & Mrs. Larry Holland, retired/esteemed professor of physics at AAMU; and eminent Brazilian physicist and operatic singer, Dr. Adelaide de Almeida, widow of the late Dr. Robert Zimmerman--all of São Paulo, Brazil. While in Phuket’s, we ran into one of Huntsville’s loveliest couples, Mr. & Mrs. Robert & Wilson. Dr. Patricia Wilson (now retired) and I were colleagues at AAMU. It is always a delight to see Bob and Pat, keeping the courtship in their marriage. Ah, modeling the way.

As we approach the commemoration of Dr. Martin Luther King’s 76th birthday, let us, in the spirit of Pastor O. Wendell Davis’ Sunday sermon on January 11, 2015: “Remember the great commission, walk together and build each other up.”

Until next week,
Have you ever had an interest in video games and/or comic books? Did you ever have a character that you felt connected with?

If so you would like what we have in store for you. Greg Stargell is currently in the process of developing a comic book/video game series with a main hero that he has developed called Da Spokesman. The photo shows the main characters in the storyline, which is divided into four segments: Minor League, Major League, International League, and Galactic League. With each segment, Da Spokesman progresses as he grows into the understanding of his life's transitions, his powers and, most importantly, himself.

Stargell said: “I have a professional background, but in this venture I wanted to do something more than just audios, videos, and seminars. As a fan of comic books and video games, I have developed Da Spokesman and The Awesomeness League as an avenue to reach a familiar audience, to provide inspiration, to provide entertainment, and to help people unleash their inner awesomeness at the same time. I absolutely believe that through this series, we have achieved these goals and so much more. I also believe the audience would be able to relate to one or more of the characters as the storyline progresses.”

Da Spokesman and The Awesomeness League is currently in development of the third installment of the game, International League. The first two games, Minor League and Major League, are now available to the public.

When asked about future plans for Da Spokesman and The Awesomeness League, Stargell replied, "I plan on starting a crowd funding campaign to raise money for the expansion into the mobile gaming arena and, depending on how much is raised, I might go into the animation arena, as well."

Active in the Huntsville community, Stargell is an alumnus of Alabama A&M University, where he acquired his bachelor’s and Ph.D. degrees in physics. He also holds a master's degree in mechanical engineering from Iowa State University. In his spare time, he enjoys salsa dancing and doing comedic performances under the stage name, Greg "Da Spokesman" Stargell.

Be sure to check out Da Spokesman and The Awesomeness League and unleash your inner awesomeness!

For more information, go to: http://awesomenessleague.com/daspokesman.

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**February 7**

7 Kappa Alpha Psi Decatur-Athens Alumni Chapter “Chocolate Elegance”
Best Western Plus Vieira Ballroom
Madison, Ala.
Music by DJ Fresh
Complimentary champagne fountain & appetizers
Semi-formal attire
Tickets available online
Contact: (256) 289-3292
The founder of Huntsville-based LogiCore Corporation will address the College of Engineering, Technology and Physical Sciences at Alabama A&M University on January 29 at 12:30 p.m. in 233 Arthur J. Bond Hall.

Miranda Bouldin graduated from the Harvard Business School Management Program in 2014, and she serves on the Madison County Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors and the National Defense Industrial Association (NDIA). She is also a member of the Rotary Club of Greater Huntsville.

In 2012, Bouldin founded the non-profit Inspire & Achieve Corporation to provide deserving students with financial assistance, personal growth and development, and to increase the number of students entering into STEM and Logistics related fields. Inspire & Achieve has scholarship opportunities through current partnerships with universities to include Alabama A&M, Auburn, UA Huntsville, and University of Alabama Tuscaloosa.

Bouldin founded LogiCore Corporation in 2002 as a woman-owned small business. LogiCore is a premier Logistics and Technology Services and Solutions Company located in Cummings Research Park, Huntsville, Ala. LogiCore is a Prime Contractor for the Federal Government and provides life cycle logistics, operational logistics, in theatre operations, systems engineering, software engineering, information technology, and programmatic services in addition to offering mission-essential systems integration expertise.

Bouldin’s AAMU presentation is part of the Engineering Dean’s Speaker Series.
Huntsville Happenings

by Gary T. Whitley, Jr.

Huntsville welcomed 2015 with dreary, rainy and artic cold temperatures, but “the sun will come out tomorrow,” as the movie character Annie always told us. Although our community hasn’t seen much sun, one bright ray of sunshine is the announcement of Polaris building a new advanced manufacturing facility in Huntsville. Polaris will bring an additional 1,700 jobs once full production is reached. Mayor Battle and Governor Bentley made this first economic development announcement of 2015 with much fanfare at the Jackson Center in Research Park.

Speaking of Annie, if you have not seen the recent movie release of this classic film featuring Academy Award Winner, Jamie Foxx and newcomer Quvenzhané Wallis as Annie, then you owe yourself a trip to your favorite local theater. While Huntsville continues to enjoy economic development growth because of our strong community leadership; it is imperative to remember that there are other communities in our state that are not thriving as well. One such area is known as “The Black Belt Region,” a place known for some less than positive history.

Within The Black Belt is the city of Selma, which is the title of a new documentary film produced by Oprah Winfrey and Brad Pitt recounting the dark era of the Selma to Montgomery marches and the culminating event now known as “Bloody Sunday.” During my formative years in Detroit, I recall having to write a book report about “Bloody Sunday.” After spending hours in the local library and researching several texts, I found myself frustrated and with writers block. I went to my grandmother’s house, who was a native Alabamian, and told her about my assignment and she told me the story of a Caucasian woman, Viola Liuzzo. Viola was a Detroit housewife that died fighting on “Bloody Sunday.” After listening to my grandmother orate about “Bloody Sunday,” I recall having to write a book report about the event now known as “Bloody Sunday.”

Looking forward to seeing everyone at the 30th annual Dr. M.L. King, Jr., Unity Breakfast hosted by the Delta Theta Lambda Education Foundation of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Incorporated on January 19th at the Von Braun Center. As January 2015 rolls on, let me extend founders day greetings to the ladies of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated (January 15, 1908); Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated (January 13, 1913); and Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Incorporated (January 16, 1920); for the collective service work that all of the Divine 9 organizations offer to make our community One Huntsville.
No Longer a Dream Deferred

by Jacqueline Flakes Martin

The famous African American poet, Langston Hughes, poses some thought-provoking questions to readers in his epic poem, “Dream Deferred”. He boldly asks:

“What happens to a dream deferred? Does it dry up like a raisin in the sun? Or fester like a sore – and then run? Does it stink like rotten meat? Or crust and sugar over – like syrupy sweet? Maybe it just sags like a heavy load. Or does it explode?”

Can one imagine what Martin Luther King’s response to these questions would be today? If anyone knew about dreams being dashed or deferred, he certainly did. However, I would venture to say today Martin Luther King’s dream is no longer deferred. Rather it is a remarkable “work in progress”, which has transformed America!

The dream, although slow in taking its full course, has become manifest in the most significant aspects of America’s society namely, education, industry, and politics.

Unequivocally, the dream is alive and at work! To see the dream in its manifested state, one should simply visit the public school system, where approximately 72 million people annually matriculate in a great “melting pot” of higher learning. Over the last four decades, America has produced one of the most diversely educated societies in history. With over 100,000 public schools nationwide, each citizen is guaranteed admittance and equal privileges.

In corporate America, twenty-three females are leading Fortune 500 companies as Commanding Executive Officers (CEOs). All of these women have broken traditional gender barriers by earning coveted CEO roles, which have historically been held by men. They are also present day benefactors of the Civil Rights Movement, which put in place regulations making it unlawful to discriminate against gender in the workplace. Of this elite group, Indra K. Nooyi (PepsiCo) and Ursula Burns (Xerox) are women of color.

In the political forum, the dream is realized through the appointment of both men and women of color to the Supreme Court of the United States. Sonia Sotomayor, Elena Kagan, Clarence Thomas, and Ruth Bader Ginsburg represent a level of diversity amongst chief justices that is historically unsurpassed. Most certainly, election of the first African American President of the United States, Barack Obama, is a great victory in the enduring struggle for equality and civil rights.

The gains realized through Martin’s dream and the United States Commission of Civil Rights evolved a new class of American citizens both then and now. From the short term perspective, individuals first viewed Martin’s dream as progress towards ending the “color barrier”. However, the benefit was significantly more. The application of Martin’s dream through the Civil Rights Movement was the final element necessary for America to truly proclaim herself to the world as a free nation, where all citizens have equal rights regardless of race, creed, color, or sex. In fact, if civil rights had not been embraced, our forefather’s promises of “unalienable Rights” and “Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness” would have been negated.

Now, back to the questions asked by Mr. Langston Hughes. What happens to a dream deferred? In terms of Martin Luther King, my answer would be as follows. No! Martin’s dream of justice and equality for all mankind did not shrivel up and die like a raisin in the sun. No! It did not fester like a sore. No! It did not rot like meat. No! It did not crust and sugar over like syrup. But, it did explode. It exploded through acts of nonviolence and passive resistance, which laid the foundation for the Civil Rights Movement.

Today, Martin’s dream, by no means deferred, is a perpetual “work in progress”. It resonates from the Deep South to the coastal shores, to small communities, to urban cities, to public schools, to corporate America, to the judicial system, and to the White House. It is the cornerstone of our hope and the moral barometer that preserves civil rights for generations to come.
**Vision:**
The Diversity Leadership Colloquium (DLC) advances leadership excellence by advocating and progressing the affirmation and inclusion of diversity in strategic markets and communities of interest for competitive intelligence.

**Mission:**
DLC's mission is to become a premier provider of diversity training for inspiring and experienced leaders throughout the lifecycle.

**Values:**
Our values are: Collaboration for Excellence; Appreciation with Insight; Respect for Understanding; and Empathy for all ... C.A.R.E.

DLC offers inspiring and experienced leaders with opportunities to benefit from qualified and seasoned trainers, scholars, and business professionals who share and discuss research and best practices regarding obtaining excellence through diversity.

DLC is designed for individuals interested in gaining access to networks, mentors, and sponsors that have traditionally not been available to diverse members of the broader community. Enrollees will be exposed to topics such as: Understanding and Embracing Diversity, Organizational Culture and Structural Reform, Racial and Gender Intelligence, Social Justice and Equality, Networking and Mentoring, Politics, Heroes and Holidays, Critical Thinking and Self-Affirmation and Living the CARE Values.

Individuals and companies are making sincere efforts in verbalizing a commitment to diversity excellence. However, we must be trained to build the next generation of leaders who have the skill sets, tools and commitment to execute.

**Training Schedule**
DLC will run four quarterly, eight week colloquia. The sessions will be held on Tuesday evenings from 6 to 9 p.m. Participant cannot miss more than 2 sessions.

**2015 Schedule**

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<td>Winter</td>
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<td>Spring</td>
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Tuition: $795

**To Apply**
- Application Form
- 3 References
- Resume
- Photo
- Tuition Payable upon Acceptance

**Tennessee Valley**

**Diversity Leadership Colloquium**

**APPLICATION FORM**

**Requirements:** Application Form - 3 References - Resume - Photo and Tuition (Both Required upon Acceptance)

Name ________________________________ Date __________________
Address _______________________________________ Apt. Unit # _______
City __________________ State ______ Zip __________
Phone (mobile) ________ Business/Home ________ E-mail ______________________
Company/Organization ___________________________________________
Title __________________________________________________________
U.S. Citizen? __ Yes  __ No   Enrolling Quarter __________________________

**Education**
High School Attended ____________________ Graduated: Yes ____ No ___
College(s) Attended _____________________________________________
Highest Degree _______________ Career Field __________________________

**References**
Name _____________________________________ Association ______________
Phone _______________________________ E-mail __________________
Name _____________________________________ Association ______________
Phone _______________________________ E-mail __________________
Name _____________________________________ Association ______________
Phone _______________________________ E-mail __________________

Please mail this Application Form, 3 Letters of Reference, and Resume to: 415A Church Street-Ste. 100, Huntsville, AL 35801 - (256) 651-9028; visit us at www.diversityleadershipcolloquium.com; or e-mail info@diversityleadershipcolloquium.com. Tuition and photo will be required only if accepted to participate.