

The Valley Weekly

“... Let us begin with the French.”
- Jean-Jacques Dessalines
Haitian Military Leader

FREE

Volume 1, No. 20

Friday, January 23, 2015

Tennessee Valley's First Diversity Leadership Colloquium Well Underway

The first cohort of the Diversity Leadership Colloquium (DLC) assembled on January 13, 2015, at Sirote and Permutt, P.C., hosted by Atty. Julian Butler. Butler and Rev. Earla Lockhart served as inaugural speakers on the topic of “Servant Leadership.”

DLC provides diversity training for aspiring and experienced leaders. It achieves its objectives through C.A.R.E.--Collaboration for Excellence; Appreciation with Insight; Respect for Understanding; and Empathy for all.

DLC provides leaders 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.

It 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.

All cohorts will be exposed to topics such as: Servant Leadership; Politics and Government; K-12 and Higher Education; Small Business and Entrepreneurship; Religion, Community and Civic Engagement; Law, Equality and Social Justice; Finance, Investments and Planning and Networking and Mentoring.

The members of Cohort 1 include the following:



Carol Bell
CEO
Spencer Cole, LLC
(B.S., University Texas at Arlington)

Carla R. Clift
Director of Library Sciences

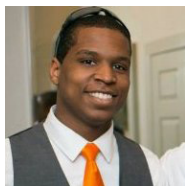
J. F. Drake State Technical and Community College
(B.S., Alabama A&M University; MLIS, University of Alabama; doctoral candidate, Morgan State University)



Coley Coleman
(B.S., University of Alabama; M.S. Candidate, Computer Science, Alabama A&M University)

James A. Huston
Logistics Management Specialist

Army and Missile Command Logistic Center 9Distribution, Transportation and Packing Division
(B.S., Alabama A&M University; M.S., Florida Institute of Technology)



Kelvin E. Jones
Executive Assistant
North Alabama Center for Educational Excellence
(B.A., University of Alabama)

John Moore
Director/CEO
EVERMOORE LLC/IAM ACAD-EMY
(B.S., M.S., Alabama A&M University)



Donna L. Robinson
Development Assistant



Union Chapel Missionary Baptist Church
(B.S., University of Alabama in Huntsville)

Rashaunda Shepard
Systems Engineer-Ground/Flight Test Analyst
U.S. Missile Defense Agency Test and Performance Analysis Directorate (EET)
(B.S., M.S., Alabama A&M University)



Andrew M. Sieja
Attorney
Martinson and Beason
(B.A. Denison University; J.D., Texas Wesleyan School

of Law)

Gregory Stargell II
General Engineer, NH-II
Redstone Arsenal
(B.S., Ph.D., Alabama A&M University; M.S. Iowa State University)



Jamel Strong
Founder/CEO
Strength Ministries
(B.S., M.S., Alabama A&M University)



Terrance D. C. Vickerstaff
Senior Contracting Specialist/Officer, U. S. Army Contracting Command, Redstone Arsenal; Staff Minister, First Missionary Baptist Church
(B.S., M.S., Alabama A&M University; Ed.D., Nova Southeastern University; student, United Theological Seminary)



Wanda L. Wallace
Collections Supervisor
Huntsville Utilities
(B.A., Chapman University)

Ja'Lissa R. Williams
Logistics Management Specialist
DOD/ALC/PEO Missiles & Space
(B.S., Alabama A&M University; M.B.A., Florida Institute of Technology)



- Colloquium Presenters -



Atty. Julian Butler
Partner
Sirote & Permutt
(B.S., J.D., University of Alabama)

Rev. Earla S. Lockhart
Staff Minister
First Missionary Baptist Church
(Athens State University, Huntsville Bible College, Kentucky School of Mortuary Science)



For additional information about the Diversity Leadership Colloquium, visit www.diversity-leadershipcolloquium.com or call (256) 536-9717.

Martin Luther King, Jr. Breakfast

January 15, 2015 - Bob Harrison Senior Center - 8 a.m.



UAH-Martin Luther King, Jr. Program

Featuring Dr. Regina Benjamin, 18th U.S. Surgeon General

January 15, 2015 - 12 Noon

National Precision: Photo One: Local members of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., join Dr. Regina Benjamin, first African-American woman and 18th U.S. Surgeon General (2nd, r), during her Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday presentation at the University of Alabama in Huntsville (UAH). Dr. Benjamin is a native of Mobile, Ala. **Photo Two:** UAH President Robert AltenKirch makes introduction. **Photo Three:** Attendees await Benjamin's speech.



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The Valley Weekly

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From the Editor



Newlyweds Anthony Lancaster of TMT Group, Inc., and Tiffany Bradley.



The Church of the Nativity was the site of a Poverty Simulation program.

“Life’s most persistent and urgent question is, ‘What are you doing for others?’”

- Martin Luther King, Jr.



Last week was an eventful time. There was the celebration of the unity of a couple through holy matrimony in the likes of a colleague--Anthony Lancaster--and his lovely bride, Tiffany Bradley. Here's wishing them a lifetime of marital bliss. There also was a phenomenal opportunity to participate in the Poverty Simulation on January 16 at the Church of the Nativity. Did you know that Alabama is the seventh poorest state in the nation, with some 900,000 Alabamians living in poverty?

Thanks to David Nast, Huntsville residents had a chance to participate in the Community Action Poverty Simulation, an interactive experience that helps bring about understanding of the hardships confronted by person living at or below the poverty level. Although I was raised in a poor situation, the simulation heightened my awareness of the constant challenges and the emotional toll impoverished members of our society experience.

The Poverty Simulation was designed to assist business and community leaders; students, faculty, and administrators; faith-based organizations, nonprofit organizations, and others understand the realities of poverty. During the simulation, participants role-played the lives of families living at or below the poverty level. Participants also experienced typical challenges faced by individuals living in the context of constrained financial circumstances including maintaining employment, caring for children or elderly family members, seeking public assistance, and dealing with transportation issues.

Also last week, we observed one of the poor's fiercest advocates. We celebrated the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., locally, around the state and nation. Congratulations to the men of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity for the first Martin Luther King Day Parade in downtown Huntsville. The weather was great; thus, a double portion of grace on an early January morning.

UAH's MLK Commemorative Luncheon featured Dr. Regina Benjamin, the first African-American woman and 18th Surgeon General of the United States. She was extraordinarily awesome. The Interdenominational Ministerial Fellowship's attendees, hosted by Progressive Union MB Church, were enthralled by the great pastor/teacher Rev. Dr. Otis Moss.

In addition, the Harrison Senior Center's MLK Breakfast had a standing-room-only crowd, with Pastor Patrick Clayborn of St. John AME Church. On Monday, the men of Alpha hosted their 30th Annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Unity Breakfast at the Von Braun Center in Downtown Huntsville with a capacity crowd in the North Hall.

Now that all of the activities are over, what is our response to one of King's many famous quotes? He once said, "Life's most persistent and urgent question is, 'What are you doing for others?'" You decide.

Until next week ...

Dorothy

About Concordia International University - Part 1

by Charles Mercieca, Ph.D.
Global President

In the early part of the 21st century, education at all levels took a gigantic step forward in the right direction. After a few decades of preparation, leading educators in South Korea put successfully into operation Concordia International University with branches in quite a few countries. Special attention is made on the young since they will inevitably become the eventual leaders of future governments.

Volunteered Services

Professional instructors began to volunteer their services at a faster rate than anticipated. In the meantime, students at all ages, who felt a sacrosanct obligation to create a better and more peaceful world began to join this international institution. Needless to say, the positive and constructive changes they wanted to make on a global scale are now bound to take place in quite a few years.

The problem with our traditional colleges and universities lies here. The education they provide is meant primarily to procure students with jobs after they graduate. Very little is being done to replace struggles and wars

with harmony and peace. They seem to forget, as Pope Pius XII said in 1939 on the eve of World War II that "in a war everyone is a loser, no one a winner."

Ironically, in periodical statistical studies made in the vast majority of countries, all people want to live permanently in peace. They do not want to experience war in their lives by all means. Those that tend to seek for the waging of wars are generally those in the government, along with mentally blind groups who believe they can control their nation and the world at large through violence.

We need here to bring to our attention the preamble of UNESCO, which stands for United Nations, Education, Scientific and Cultural Organization. It states clearly: "Since wars begin in the minds of men it is in the minds of men that the defenses of peace must be constructed." The only way to achieve this properly and effectively is through a good and sound education.

Harmonious and Peaceful Philosophy

Fortunately, there have already been several groups in many institutions of learning that tried seriously to implement UNES-

CO's harmonious and peaceful philosophy. The time has arrived when we need to make sure that colleges and universities reevaluate their purpose in relation to the universal welfare of the entire human race.

This explains why Concordia International University came into operation. Since both its faculty members and students want to bring a permanent peace, they associated themselves with a good peace agency to implement its objectives: International Association of Educators for World Peace (IAEWP).

Its goals are: (1) Promotion of international understanding and world peace through education, (2) Protection of the environment from air and water pollution, (3) Safeguard of human rights, and (4) Disarmament while using human resources for positive purposes. If these four objectives are properly implemented in countries around the world, within a matter of two to three generations, world peace will become a tangible reality for many nations to cherish.

Next Week: Part 2: Curricula and Teachers

"Human progress is neither automatic nor inevitable ... Every step toward the goal of justice requires sacrifice, suffering and struggle; the tireless exertions and passionate concern of dedicated individuals."

- Martin Luther King, Jr.

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Women in Engineering Scholarship Available for Summer 2015 Camp

Auburn University's Samuel Ginn College of Engineering 100 Women Strong program is sponsoring two full scholarships to attend the 2015 Women in Engineering Camp from June 21, 2015 to June 26, 2015.

The scholarships will finance the \$695 camp fee required for all educational and recreational programming, meals, and lodging. To apply for this scholarship, complete this form, essays, and recommendation, and send them by one of the following methods:

Mail to: Ms. Jessica Taylor, Samuel Ginn College of Engineering, 48 West Magnolia Avenue, Auburn University, AL

36849

Email to: jessica.taylor@auburn.edu

Fax to: (334) 844-2349 (Attn.: Ms. Jessica Taylor)

Scholarships are limited and will be awarded based on student's need (as described in Essay 1), strength of essays, strength of resume, and strength of recommendation. All components are required for a complete application.

Only students with complete applications postmarked by Friday, May 1, 2015, will be considered for the scholarship. Candidates will be notified if they received a scholarship by Friday, May 22, 2015.

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Welcome Back, Dr. Clarence Major Glenn, DVM!



On November 2, 2012, Dr. Clarence Major Glenn had an emergency open heart surgery that lasted for nearly 12 hours. Then he laid in an induced comma for three months. He lost

his gall bladder. Then he was put on a dialysis machine.

For months, he was at death's door. He had so many complications, setbacks, pain, disappointments and despair that you could

sum it all up by saying, "He has had a *Job* experience".

He nearly lost everything. For over two years his practice was shut down. He was doomed for failure, but his faith, determination, and God's grace has made him whole again. He is no longer on a dialysis machine. He was determined to practice again, against all odds, and God has answered his prayers.

I am proud to announce his veterinarian practice is open for business. Come and bring your pets to the "best vet" in Huntsville, Ala. He is still located at 2933 Jordan Lane.

Call for an appointment at (256) 837-3910. Come and welcome him back. Go to see a



living miracle ... the man, who has given 37 years to the community taking care of yours and my pets over the years.

God loves you...and so do I.

- Bonnie Spencer
AKA "Chirping Bird
Nanticoke Tribe

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Save the Date!

9th Annual Rosetta James Foundation

"Honoring Our Elders" Celebration

Saturday, March 14, 2015

The Jackson Center

Five O'Clock in the Afternoon

Flu and Cold Weather Trigger Blood Emergency

While the holidays typically bring a slowdown to blood donations, this winter's flu epidemic and the cold weather in the southeast cut even deeper into the blood supply. LifeSouth Community Blood Centers is now in emergency need for blood.

"This is coming at a time when supplies were already low because of reduced donations during the winter holidays," said LifeSouth Vice President of Operations J.B. Bowles. "Meanwhile, blood usage at many of our hospitals is far above normal, making the shortage even more serious."

Donations are down 40% from where the supply needs to be to provide hospitals with enough blood for patients. This has especially impacted the supply of Type O blood which is needed most.

"O-negative is the universal blood type that can be used by anyone in emergencies. O-positive can be used by anyone with a positive blood type," said Bowles. "We are in desperate need of healthy donors to come out and donate blood."

The Centers for Disease



Control reported in early January that 43 states, including Florida, Georgia and Alabama, are experiencing either high or widespread flu activity.

"We are in emergency need. We only use this term when inventory levels are at the very lowest," explained Bowles. "It means our hospitals have less than a two-day supply and LifeSouth does not have the blood available to resupply the hospitals when that blood is used."

"Please help. Please donate blood," Bowles said.

Donors must be 17 or older, or 16 with parental consent, weigh a minimum of 110 pounds and be in good health. A photo ID is also required. For information call 888-795-2707.

Eta Phi Beta Holds Informational Tea

The Alpha Omega Chapter of Eta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc., hosted an Informational Tea for seventh, eighth and ninth grade female and male students interested in the benefits of participating in its 17th Annual Junior Cotillion.

The Informational Tea was held at Fellowship Presbyterian Church.

The occasion provided details and insight to parents and interested participants as to the activities that will be provided over a six- to ten-week period of interesting activities, learning sessions and entertainment with focus on bullying, etiquette, internet savvy, starting a bank account and more.

Consider enrolling your 7th, 8th, or 9th grader in this activity. Contacts are Yolanda Harris, Committee Chairwoman, (256) 565-0039 (cell) or Brenda Bennett, president, Alpha Omega Chapter, (256) 714-2200 (cell).

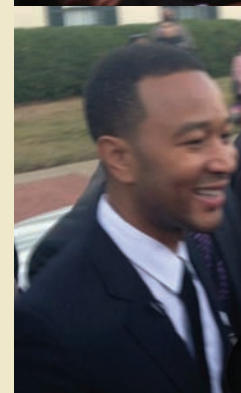
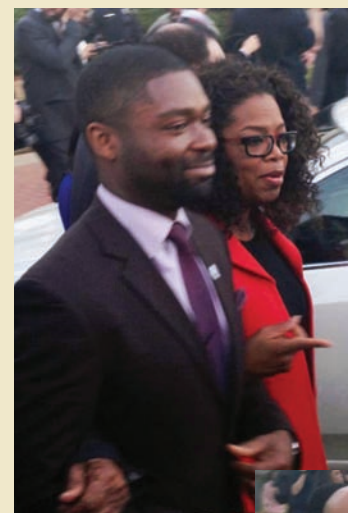
The purpose of Eta Phi Beta



Stars Fell on "Selma", Alabama

Photos by
Dr. Hadiyah-Nicole Green
Tuskegee University
Sunday, January 18, 2015

Members of "Selma" cast participate in march in Selma, Ala., to commemorate Martin Luther King, Jr. Day; Professor Green bottom right.



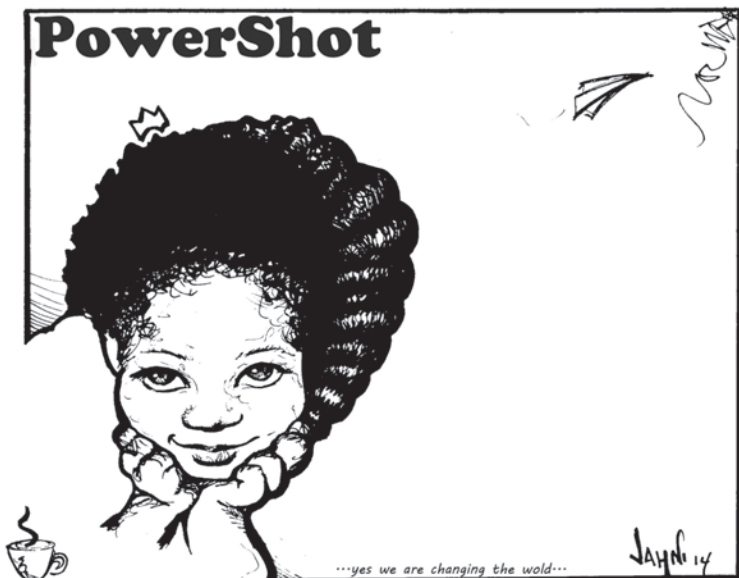
Sorority, Inc. is to promote and develop closer fellowship between business and professional women and to work for their welfare; to obtain the opportunity for the highest standards in all business fields; to aid high school graduates by awarding scholarships

to further their education in business and professional fields; and to contribute financially to local and national charities and to promote and assist in programs designated for improving the well-being of developmentally and intellectually disabled citizens.

- Submitted by Linda Burruss

ETA PHI BETA

PowerShot



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Tax Filing Season Opens for 2015

The Internal Revenue Service announced the on-time opening of the nation's 2015 filing season and highlighted a growing array of online services, including features that will help you understand how the Affordable Care Act will affect you at tax time, along with the availability of the Free File program.

The IRS Free File program, available at IRS.gov, opened Friday, January 16, 2015 and the IRS will begin accepting and processing all tax returns on Tuesday, January 20, 2015.

This year's return will include new questions to incorporate provisions of the Affordable Care Act (or ACA). The majority of us will simply need to check a box to verify we have health insurance coverage. For the minority who will have to do more, IRS.gov/aca features useful information and tips regarding the premium tax credit, the individual shared responsibility requirement and other tax features of the ACA.

We can begin preparing our returns using the Free File system on Friday, January 16, 2015. At IRS.gov, Free File offers two filing options:



- Brand-name software, offered by IRS' commercial partners to individuals and families with incomes of \$60,000 or less; or

- Online fillable forms, the electronic version of IRS paper forms available at all income levels and especially useful to those comfortable with filling out their own returns.

E-file, when combined with direct deposit, is the fastest way to get a refund. Free File.

The IRS will begin accepting and processing all returns – whether e-file, Free File or paper tax returns -- on January 20, 2015.

- Submitted by David E. Herron
DEH & Associates Consulting, LLC

Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. Delta Theta Lambda Education Foundation

Martin Luther King, Jr. Unity Breakfast

January 19, 2015 - Von Braun Center - 8 a.m.



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Local Black Organization Offering Scholarships

The 100 Black Men of America Greater Huntsville Chapter is pleased to announce its 2015 Scholarship Application. Scholarships are awarded annually to selected graduating high school seniors who have demonstrated academic excellence and community involvement as they pursue a goal of higher education.

Scholarships will be awarded to those who plan to attend an



accredited two or four-year college/university or technical school as a full-time student beginning the fall of 2015.

The scholarships are provided to individuals on an equal opportunity basis regardless of race, sex, creed, or religious preference.

For additional information and application, please visit our website at www.100bmoaghc.com. You may also contact Ronnie Davis, the scholarship committee chair, for further information at rjdavis@knology.net.



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*Jesus is Exalted and
The Word is Explained!*