

# The Valley Weekly

Volume 3, No. 24

www.valleyweeklyllc.com

Friday, February 24, 2017

FREE

*"The oppressor has always indoctrinated the weak with his interpretation of the crimes of the strong."  
- Carter G. Woodson*

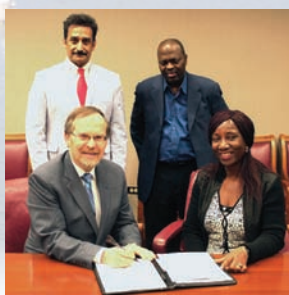
## Former Valley Scientists Expand Peanut Allergen Research at FSU

Fayetteville State University (N.C.) has entered into a partnership agreement with INGATEYGEN (IGG), LLC. The agreement targets the expanding research, education, and innovation productivity in the Department of Biological Sciences at Fayetteville State University (FSU).

IGG is an agriculture biotech company that is developing an Allergen Reduced Peanut (ARP) plant, while providing many other services to industry, including: (1) nutritional composition labeling, (2)

Non-allergens and Non-GMO labeling, (3) testing for pesticides, fertilizers and other agrochemicals, and (4) testing for plant tissues, soil and water quality.

Dr. Daryush Ila, associate Vice chancellor for Research and Technology Transfer at FSU, was the initiator of the agreement. IGG owns the patent for the process that produces allergen-free peanuts, and has plans to expand the process to address other allergy producing foods and plants as part of its partnership with the researchers at Fayetteville



State University.  
**Caption:** *Sitting (l-r): Dr. Jon Young, provost, and Dr. H. Dodo, CEO, IGG, signing the partnership agreement. Standing (Dr. Daryush Ila, associate vice chancellor for research and technology transfer, and Dr. Koffi Konan, co-owner of IGG.*

## Watoto Children's Choir Returning to Huntsville

The Watoto's Children's Choir, whose members are orphans and vulnerable children, will present their new worship program "Signs and Wonders" on Saturday, April 8, 2017.

This exciting event will begin promptly at 6 p.m. at First Missionary Baptist Church, 3509 Blue Spring Road in Huntsville, Ala., where Rev. Dr. Julius R. Scruggs is pastor.

"Signs and Wonders" features original music from Watoto Church in Uganda, Africa, as the children celebrate the joy of salvation through worship and dance, and share personal stories that are filled with hope and



the good news of salvation through Jesus Christ.

Although admission is free, "Signs and Wonders" is a benefit program. All proceeds go to Watoto Child Care Ministries as it continues to rescue vulnerable women and children in Africa, and prepare Uganda's

next generation of leaders.

For more information contact Wendi Williams at (256) 527-9271 or Minister Jonathan Ford at (256) 322-1873.

Visit <https://www.watoto.com/> to learn more about Watoto Child Care Ministries.

## Councilman Wants to Expand HPD Talks

Huntsville Police Department (HPD) recently responded to reports of a burglary in the Terry Heights Neighborhood.

District 1 Council Member Devyn Keith, who resides in the Terry Heights

neighborhood, was one of the individuals who matched the description and was approached by HPD officers seeking to learn more about the incident.

Keith is working closely with the administration and

HPD to continue robust conversations regarding community policing and how the City can continue to improve the good work being done by our law enforcement.

## Professor to Address AAUW Luncheon

The Huntsville Chapter of the American Association of University Women (AAUW) will hold its Breaking Through Barriers Luncheon Friday, March 3,

at the Jackson Center, from 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m.

Dr. Jeanette Jones, a professor, microbiologist and researcher at Alabama A&M University will facilitate

a luncheon conversation on "Measuring Success Through Perseverance."



## Retired A&M Professor to Address NASA's Civil Rights Contributions

Retired Alabama A&M University telecommunications professor Regina Colston will address the topic, "NASA's 'Long Civil Rights Movement Influenced Curricula and Research at Alabama A&M University and Facilitated Diversity in Huntsville, Alabama in a Slowly Desegregating South."

Colston, whose session runs from 10:15 a.m.-12:15 p.m., will be part of a group of day-long March 17 presenters at the U.S. Space and Rocket Center. Her session will be moderated by Veronica Henderson of AAMU's Learning Resources Center. *Caption:* NASA-credited 1968



photo of MSFC director, Dr. Wernher von Braun, and AAMU then president, Dr. Richard D. Morrison signing agreement.

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Regency Retirement Village

Rocket City Barber Shop

Sam and Greg's Pizzeria

Sav-A-Lot

Sneed's Cleaners

St. Bartley PB Church

St. Luke Christian Church

Starbucks (Governors Drive, N. Parkway at

Mastin Lake Road/University Drive)

Union Chapel Missionary Baptist Church

# Homegrown 'Madea' Gains Viral Success

Photo and Story by Reggie D. Allen

Tavares Hartsfield, a local celebrity impersonator, can officially say that he got famous at a Walmart.

Many locals might recognize him for his spot-on impersonation of Ms. Mabel Simmons, or Madea, a fictional character portrayed by actor, director and producer Tyler Perry. But the 26-year-old Huntsville native prefers you call his character Marbel.

Last year, Hartsfield went to see "Boo! A Madea Halloween," the latest installment in the Tyler Perry-helmed film series. Feeling festive, Hartsfield decided to go the extra mile and masquerade as the wisecracking titular character. Still personifying the character, he made a quick pit stop at the Wal-Mart on Sparkman Drive, where he caught the attention of a bystander that began to record him.

By the next day, the video had been shared by thousands, including a few notable entertainers like Mike Epps.



"I've often times had friends and family members who say, 'You sound and favor Tyler Perry,'" Hartsfield said.

However, it wasn't until 2007 that he actually donned the character's signature thrift store moo moo and grey lace-front wig for his high school's Battle of the Bands competition.

Since his viral debut, the Alabama A&M student has yet to hear from Mr. Perry but still remains optimistic. In the meantime, Hartsfield is focusing on obtaining his Master's in Biology Education. But that's not to say that the Rocket City native isn't still making moves.

Recently, Hartsfield got the opportunity to perform in front of comedian Rickey Smiley, who like Perry, is known for his catalogue of

wacky characters, including Ms. Jenkins, a Madea-like caricature. The 26-year-old was a finalist in an entertainment contest for the Motown-themed Sickle Cell Gala in Birmingham. While Hartsfield didn't have much time to talk with the nationally syndicated radio personality, he did get a nickname that suited his viral beginnings: The Great Value Madea.

But for the local impersonator, that isn't exactly a bad thing. Overall, Hartsfield said he can see similar qualities in his character, Marbel, and the outspoken Ms. Mabel Simmons.

"We are both genuine about helping people," Hartsfield explained. "The both of us are going to tell you how it is without sugar coating anything and we are both very wise. The only different is our height and where we both come from."

## DLC Grad Gets BEYA Award

The Black Engineer of the Year Award Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) Conference was held recently in Washington, D.C.

In addition to the Black Engineer of the Year Award, which is the highest honor given at the BEYA STEM Conference, more than 100 scientists and engineers received 31 category and new Legacy Awards at the conference. The BEYA STEM Conference is a talent-rich environment for recruitment, networking, and professional development.

Dr. Everett Roper, assistant program manager/test set principal engineer, Joint Attack Munitions Systems Director, Systems Engineering, was honored for "Professional Achieve-



ment - Government."

Dr. Everett Roper, a graduate of the Tennessee Valley Diversity Leadership Colloquium, is responsible for providing design, development, and technical integration to give launchers and support equipment to the Warfighter for decisive air-to-ground operations that destroy the enemy.

## "A Different World"



Jasmine Guy (left) and Darryl M Bell (r), who are most known for their roles as Whitley Gilbert and Ron Johnson, respectively, on "A Different World" visited Oakwood University on February 19 to speak on the importance of HBCUs and other issues that affect African Americans. Moderated by WEUP's ML6, the cast discussed their experiences on the popular televi-

sion series and how it helped tackle major subject matters that other television programs would not at the time.

Throughout the 90-minute discussion, several clips from the series were played to help initiate an open dialogue with the audience. The panel was closed with a small Q&A session.

by Reggie D. Allen

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**The Valley Weekly**

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## From the Editor

Ahhh! An *Unusual* February!

The weather has been unusual. Politics are definitely unusual. It is unusual for an AAMU graduate and a UAH graduate to be awarded commendations at Black Engineer of the Year event in Washington, D.C., on the same stage during the same year. Our congratulations to AAMU alumnus Donald Walley and UAH alumnus Dr. Everrett Roper on their BEYA awards last week. Plus, we just had an unusual weekend with author and journalist Wil Haygood. I promised our readers last week that I would make some reflections about Black History during these last days of February 2017.

The late Carter G. Woodson said: "The mere imparting of information is not education." For those readers who knew about Wil Haygood's public talk last Saturday and did not come, you missed a real opportunity to learn about Black History. As usual, he was well-researched and some might describe him as provocative. What I know is that his talk was timely academically, socially and politically.

Carter Godwin Woodson was born in 1875 and passed away in 1950. He was an African-American historian, author, journalist and the founder of the Association for the Study of African-American Life and History. Woodson was one of the first scholars to study African-American history as a discipline. As founder of *The Journal of Negro History* in 1915, Woodson has been credited as being the father of black history. In February 1926, he announced the celebration of "Negro History Week" that is considered the precursor of Black History Month or African American History Month.

I would argue that *The Mis-Education of the Negro* is one of the most important books on education ever written. Originally released in 1933, *The Mis-Education of the Negro* continues to resonate today, raising questions that readers are still trying to answer. Woodson opined that weakness of Euro-centric based curriculum in education fails to include African American history and culture. According to him, the dominant system mis-educates African-American students, failing to prepare them for success and to give them an adequate sense of who they are within the system that they must live. In the book, Woodson provides many strong solutions to the problems he identifies.

Some of Woodson's most prominent quotes include the following:

**"If you can control a man's thinking you do not have to worry about his action. When you determine what a man shall think you do not have to concern yourself about what he will do. If you make a man feel that he is inferior, you do not have to compel him to accept an inferior status, for he will seek it himself. If you make a man think that he is justly an outcast, you do not have to order him to the back door. He will go without being told; and if there is no back door, his very nature will demand one. You do not have to tell him not to stand here or go yonder. He will find his 'proper place' and will stay in it."**

**"History shows that it does not matter who is in power or what revolutionary forces take over the government, those who have not learned to do for themselves and have to depend solely on others never obtain any more rights or privileges in the end than they had in the beginning."**

**"Philosophers have long conceded, however, that every man has two educators: 'that which is given to him, and the other that which he gives himself. Of the two kinds the latter is by far the more desirable."**

**"The oppressor has always indoctrinated the weak with his interpretation of the crimes of the strong."**

**"To handicap a student by teaching him that his black face is a curse and that his struggle to change his condition is hopeless is the worst sort of lynching. It kills one's aspirations and dooms him to vagabondage and crime."**

**"In the schools of business administration, Negroes are trained exclusively in the psychology and economics of Wall Street and are, therefore, made to despise the opportunities to run ice wagons, push banana carts, and sell peanuts among their own people. Foreigners, who have not studied economics but have studied Negroes, take up this business and grow rich."**

What I can say is that some of our elders were wise men and women. *The more things change, the more they remain the same* (Unknown). Most, but not all of the time, we can count on our solid faith foundation, a good education, a strong work ethic, a strong dose of self-esteem, along with determined minds that dream and are hopeful to make the difference.

If you have not seen the movie "Hidden Figures," do yourself a favor and see it. If you have not read Woodson's book--*The Mis-Education of the Negro*--get access to a copy of it and read it. Finally, Books A Million has a few autographed copies of "Showdown" for those who had legitimate scheduling conflicts and missed the public talk last Saturday. For everyone else, there's more to come next week ...



Photos by Reggie D. Allen



*Dorothy*

# "Rally Around Youth"

Hosted by State Rep. Laura Hall

Attended by Rep. Anthony Daniels and Councilman Devyn Keith and Members of the Community with a Focus on Supporting Rolling Hills Elementary School

Dr. Richard Showers Recreation Center

February 13, 2017 - 6 pm



# "AKA Debutante Ball"

February 17, 2017

(Credit: Reggie Allen/ Courtesy of Event Magazine Huntsville)



Councilman Devyn Keith and Debutante Ball Co-Chairs E. Christine Moss and Leteria Moses-Waters.

Mrs. Evangeline Spearman, a Diamond member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, celebrating 75 years.

## Champion Game Plan for Life

by Preston Brown

It's one thing to have passion, but it's another thing to act on it the right way. You see, when we release passions that were intended for marriage that are outside of a marriage, it's like building a fire with nothing to contain it. Because if we



build the fire in the wrong place, or if we put our passion in the wrong place, it will burn our home to the ground. I wonder how many people today could have avoided so many problems in their lives, if only someone had told them: "Before you build this fire, you need somewhere to put it." Before you start this relationship, you need to realize

where it's going. Before you enter into this adulterous relationship, you have to realize that you are playing with a fire that you can't contain. God gives us all passion, and passion is a good thing when channeled in the right direction. So, I encourage each and every one of you: don't start a fire that you can't contain. Let us make God the center of our passions ... Stay encouraged, my brothers and sisters.

## UCCA to Host Golf Tournament

The Union Chapel Christian Academy will hold its Second Annual Ambassador Classic Golf Tournament on Saturday, April 8,

at the Colonial Golf Course in Meridianville, Ala., with a 7:30 a.m. shotgun start. Two-person scramble (\$150). Hole sponsorships

for businesses and individuals are \$75. For corporate sponsorship information, contact Anita Weathers at (256) 489-4297.

## A Good Read

by Jerome Saintjones



### Reynolds Price's "Watching Her Die"

The narrator takes us back in time to the time when his dad's 83-year-old aunt moved in with the family after her home had become inhabitable. Aside from

her age and dwindling independence, Aunt Lock possessed some mystic qualities.

The narrator drew close to her because of her vivid memories of his father's own childhood --especially the mischievous ones--and the morals

she would attach to each story.

But sometimes Aunt Lock would leave for a special place in the woods, a place that took her to another world, void of her physical body and the frailties of all thought human.

Her returns from that world make for interesting reading.

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Saturday, February 18, 2017

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## Valley Deaths

Funeral service for **Mr. Curtis N. Noland** (b. 1945) will be announced later.

Funeral service for Baby Girl **Joia Olivia Williams** (b. 2017) will be announced later.

Funeral service for **Mrs. Queen Esther Cowan** (b. 1929) was held Tuesday, February 21, at 1 p.m. at Nelms Memorial Funeral Home Chapel.

Funeral service for **Elder James E. Mitchell** (b. 1952) was held Sunday, February 19, at Victory World Outreach Ministries with Pastor Bobby Sledge officiating.

Funeral service for **Mr. Tommy L. Burton, Jr.** (b. 1952) was held Saturday, February 18, at the Apostolic True Temple Church of God with Bishop Jerry Townsend officiating.

Funeral service was held Saturday, February 11, at Nelms Memorial Funeral Home Chapel for **Mr. David Ulas Townsend** (b. 1951) with Rev. Haywood Eason officiating.

Funeral service for Ms. Alberta A. McWilliams was held February 5, 2017 at Mount Zion Cumberland Presbyterian Church in America

-Nelms Memorial Funeral Home

## A Job Well Done!

by Georgia S. Valrie

During my professional career at Alabama A&M University (AAMU), I had the opportunity to work in several positions. Each position held added value to my personal and professional growth. In the mid 1980s, I worked in the Career Development, Placement and Cooperative Education Office (called the "Placement Office," and now named Career Development Services) as an assistant coordinator of cooperative education under the leadership of Harold Batts, director of cooperative education, and the late Dr. Earlie Rich, director of the Career Development, Placement and Cooperative Education Office.

While serving as the assistant director of cooperative education, I had an awesome task of recruiting students to participate in the cooperative (co-op) education program. To recruit the students, I would give briefings in the freshmen orientation classes and in the Placement Office about the program. Those briefings afforded me the opportunity to engage with some of the best and brightest students at AAMU. After speaking to the students in the freshman orientation classes, many of them would come by the Placement Office seeking additional information about the program. The students were from various socioeconomic backgrounds and cultures. Several of the students were the first in their family to attend college and many were reared by single parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles, and the like. Yet, all of the students interested in the co-op program were ambitious, conscientious, and intelligent. They possessed the same career goals to maintain good grades; to obtain a co-op job; to graduate from college with a degree; to obtain a job after

graduation; and to make their parents or guardians proud of their college and professional accomplishments.

Recently, I received an email from a former co-op student who accomplished his career goals and more. Donald Walley, a cum laude 1986 electronics engineering



technology graduate of AAMU, and currently acting director of the Engineering, Global Deployment Program Office, Missile Defense Agency. Donald wrote: "Hi, Mrs. Valrie: I am glad

to have this opportunity to say thank you. You probably don't remember me, but I was a freshman at A&M (1981); you were instrumental in getting a co-op position for me at the Missile Command on Redstone Arsenal. I wanted to reach out and say thank you for helping me out. This year, I was nominated for the 2017 Black Engineer of the Year Award for government contributions. You and Dr. Borelli were instrumental in seeing me graduate and motivating me to remain in engineering. I will receive the award next week in Washington, D.C. On behalf of all the students that you helped in the co-op program and those that were inspired just by visiting your office and listening to your lectures on the program, again, thank you and may God forever bless you."

Indeed, I was deeply touched and beamed with pride to know that Donald Walley, a modest, quiet, industrious and highly intelligent young man, who survived the odds of life had been nominated to receive such a prestigious award. I thank God for enabling me to mentor him and make an impact on his life. Donald received the award on Saturday, February 11, at the Black Engineer of the Year (BEYA) Gala.

*A Job Well Done, Thy Brave and Loyal Son!*

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Saturday, March 11, 2017



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"Philosophers have long conceded, however, that every man has two educators: 'that which is given to him, and the other that which he gives himself.'"

- Carter G. Woodson



On This Day - Friday, February 24 - **FLOYD MAYWEATHER** - Born in Grand Rapids, Mich., Mayweather was boxing champion in six (6) different weight categories. Rated the number 1, pound-for-pound, boxer in the world, at one time. - [BlackinTime.info](http://BlackinTime.info)



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