

# The Valley Weekly

*"Life commences not with birth, but with the onslaught of awareness."  
- Frank Yerby*

FREE

Volume 1, No. 25

Friday, February 27, 2015

## ARMDEC Engineer Selected for Senior Executive Service

Dr. Juanita M. Harris has been appointed as a member of the Senior Executive Service.

In this promoted capacity, she will serve as the Director for the Aviation and Missile Research, Development and Engineering Center's Weapons Development and Integration (WDI) Directorate at Redstone Arsenal. Her role was effective Feb. 22.

The East St. Louis, Ill., native currently serves as the Deputy Director for AMRDEC's Aviation Development Directorate.

"I am very pleased to have Dr. Harris as part of my senior leadership team," said James Lackey, AMRDEC Director. "She has the perfect work experience depth, breadth and balanced strategic approach to lead the people of WDI and promote its technology development and application work critical in support of the Warfighter. Dr. Harris will work well to build enduring coalitions across RDECOM, the Army and the DoD Enterprise. She knows how to tackle key challenges and make things happen."

"As we move forward in a budget constrained environment, I am confident Dr. Harris will prove to be a valued asset not only in terms of leading WDI, but also as part of the AMRDEC Senior Leadership Team," he said.

"I am honored and humbled to be selected as the SES Director



Harris

for the Weapons Development and Integration Directorate. God has shown me much favor and my goal is to successfully serve the organization through my leadership and vision," said Dr. Harris.

"I am further humbled to be the first black SES member at AMRDEC. My prayer is that my selection will provide a positive influence toward further career opportunities for others of diverse backgrounds within the AMRDEC workforce," she said. "I look forward to the challenge to expand my missile and science and technology background and to learn from the WDI workforce as we work together to move the

organization forward through successful collaboration and partnering."

Dr. Harris possesses a Bachelor of Science degree in computer engineering from University of Illinois, a master's degree in computer resources and information systems management from Webster University, and a Doctorate of Management in organizational leadership from the University of Phoenix. She has worked at AMRDEC since 2012.

AMRDEC is part of the U.S. Army Research, Development and Engineering Command, which has the mission to develop technology and engineering solutions for America's Soldiers. AMRDEC employs nearly 11,000 civilian scientists, researchers, and engineers.

RDECOM is a major subordinate command of the U.S. Army Materiel Command. AMC is the Army's premier provider of materiel readiness--technology, acquisition support, materiel development, logistics power projection, and sustainment--to the total force, across the spectrum of joint military operations. If a Soldier shoots it, drives it, flies it, wears it, eats it or communicates with it, AMC provides it.

Visit [www.amrdec.army.mil](http://www.amrdec.army.mil) or [www.facebook.com/rdecom.amrdec](http://www.facebook.com/rdecom.amrdec) for more information on AMRDEC.

## March Is Women's History Month

The acknowledgement of the contributions of women to American society has been around for more than a century. However, Congress passed Pub. L. 100-9, which designated the month of March 1987 as Women's History Month. Subsequent resolutions led to permanency for the national designation. For the past 20 years, U.S. presidents have issued yearly proclamations designating

March as Women's History Month.

Now, countless schools, communities and other organizations proudly observe Women's History Month with thoughtful and well-planned activities focusing on women's roles in history and society.

Expect and support a wide assortment of events scheduled by area colleges and universities, as well as local churches.

## Artist Project Engages Community to Honor Council, Hereford

The Valley community has an opportunity to be part of Huntsville's newest public art piece, "We Gather Here To Honor..." by Ohio-based ceramic artist Angelica Pozo.

The community is invited to literally make a mark, in the form of footprints, on this new work of art to be installed in downtown Huntsville's Twickenham Square. The Twickenham Square development is new to the area, but previously that location was home to Huntsville Housing Authority's (HHA) Councill Courts development. Just a short walk away are the sites of the former 5th Avenue School and Councill High School--all noted landmarks for African American

education in Huntsville.

HHA worked to ensure this community history would be remembered by securing funding for a permanent, site-specific public art installation at Twickenham Square by Pozo. Pozo will be in town February 27-March 8 to work with the community to create this public art piece, which will be installed in the fall.

The public art piece will take the form of a sunflower with the flower petals formed by community footprints. The piece will honor African American leaders Dr. William Hooper Councill and Dr. Sonnie Hereford III and important milestones. Got a connection to the sites? Call (256) 519-2787.



# SHELVED: One of Black America's Most Successful Writers

Although he is often considered the first African-American writer to become a millionaire from his writing, compiling more than 30 novels during his lifetime, his name is practically unknown by today's generation and even the parents of this generation.

Almost 70 years ago, his first novel, *The Foxes of Harrow*, became the first novel by an African American to sell over a

million copies. Although a Southern historical romance, his black characters took on complex and meaningful roles throughout the work, strengthened further by a captivating storyline. A year later, in 1947, the book was purchased for the screen by 20th Century Fox and became an Oscar-nominated film with Maureen O'Hara and Rex Harrison.



Frank Yerby was born in Augusta, Ga., in 1916. He graduated from Paine College with a degree in English in 1937 and earned a master's degree in English from Fisk University in 1938. Although he later pursued a doctoral degree at the University of Chicago he left the school, likely tiring of it as he had with the teaching profession and his very brief stints at Florida A&M and Southern University in Baton Rouge.

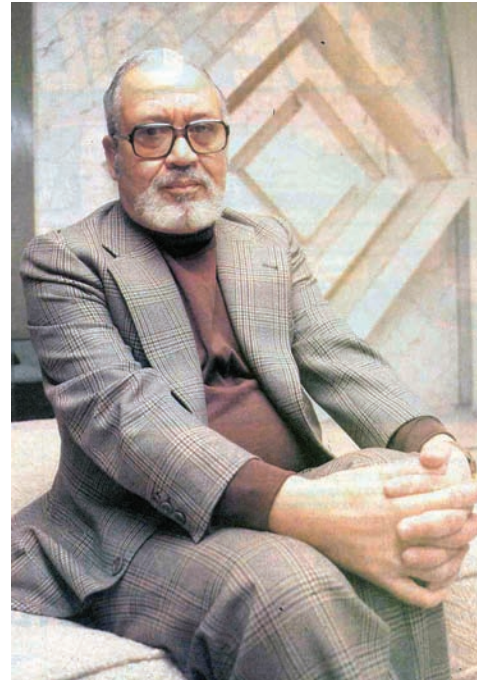
He worked for Ford Motor Company as a technician in Detroit, Mich., during World War II. The job afforded him time to concentrate on his own writing. Soon, his first published short story, "Health Card" (Harper's Magazine), won the O. Henry Memorial Award for best first short story. His subsequent short fiction was praised but not commercially successful.

Although he developed a fol-

lowing following for his novels on the Old South, Yerby's talent and ingenuity would not permit him to be limited by categories.

Indeed, Yerby boldly, and with extensive research, tackled such subjects as ancient Greece, the time of Christ, the Middle Ages, French and American Revolutions, the 17th Century and others. Ironically, most of Yerby's books were published by Dial Press, the same company that also published the work Yerby's contemporary, James Baldwin.

Having had enough of American racism, Yerby like many other gifted African-American artists of his time, left the United States for Europe. While many



black artists selected France, Paris specifically, Yerby in 1955 settled permanently on a self-imposed exile in Madrid, Spain, where he died in 1991.

*by Jerome Saintjones*

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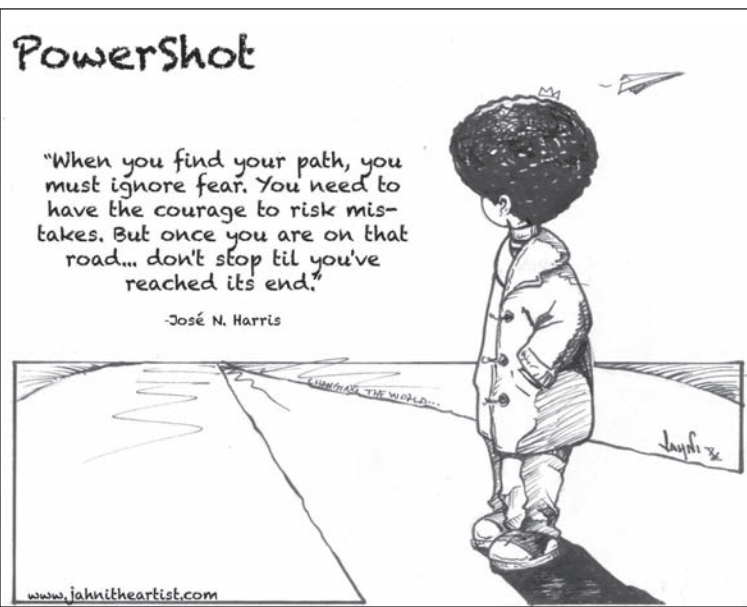
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## The Valley Weekly

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# From the Editor



*TEAM Redstone's African American History Month Celebration: Bill Huston, Linda Via and Georgia Valrie.*



*Elton Akins, SAIC Vice President, within audience at SAIC at TEAM Redstone's Event*



*GEN Dennis Via with keynote speaker and author Wil Haygood at TEAM Redstone's Celebration*

The Valley Weekly (TVW) was launched the first Friday in September 2014 with the goal of reaching 10,000 on-line readers weekly. We are not journalists, photographers or professional writers, but simply a group of colleagues who desire to provide a venue for positive, educational and inspirational expressions through writing, illustrations, poetry and local and regional information. Just last week, we have over 35,000 requests for TVW's website.

In addition, we print 3,000 copies for local distribution. Our readers are intergenerational, including youth, young professionals, mature men and women along with elder citizens who read our paper. We hear from our readers from time-to-time and we are always delighted. We are grateful to each of our readers. A sampling of recent comments are:

- This was good! I really enjoyed reading the piece on AG Gaston. Have you read the book written by his nieces "A.G. Gaston and the Making of a Black American Millionaire"? It is a great read! I love history, especially, Black History! I know you do too. Thanks for sharing! - *Peggy Etheridge*

- Loved the story by Barbara Anthony. Does she live in Huntsville or do your feelers go way past this city? - *Butch Damson*

- Congratulations on the production of a very fine publication. Once again you have launched something wonderful in this community. Your writers are to be commended for such wonderful articles. You do us proud! - *Evelyn Rich*

- Thank you so much for printing the article. You are like Midas: everything you touch is golden! I applaud your use of God's talents. - *Dr. Barbara Anthony*

- Thank you so much for this edition! I didn't know "The Valley Weekly" existed. I love it!

- *Carolyn M. Wherry*

Congratulations to Dr. Juanita Harris of the U S Army Aviation and Mission Research Development and Engineering Center (AMRDEC) at Redstone Arsenal. Dr. Paul Ruffin introduced me to Dr. Harris shortly after her initial appointment at AMRDEC. Interestingly enough, he called me last week to share with me how proud he was about her historic SES status and new appointment at AMRDEC. Thanks, Dr. Ruffin for being an unselfish champion for others. You blazed trails on which others are now getting to walk. What a way to bring an end to February 2015 with such a wonderful announcement.

We had a great week and ran into a lot of great colleagues and friends. There is much to do and not enough time to do all of it; however, we cover what we can as we can. A 'shout-out' this week to my friends William Smothers and colleagues at Speakin' Out News, my former colleagues and heroes Elizabeth Sloan-Ragland and her TEAM at WJAB and Jerome Saintjones of Marketing and Public Relations at AAMU, along with WJOU at Oakwood University, and all of the diverse and bonafide press that make information available each day. Keep caring and sharing!

Until next week,

*Dorothy*



# Japanese Art & Culture Exhibit

Monday, March 16 - Thursday, March 26, 2015  
Morrison Fine Arts Gallery

For more information, contact the Office of International Programs at (256) 372-5418 or [International@aamu.edu](mailto:International@aamu.edu).

Sponsored by the Office of International Programs, International Student Association, and the Japan Foundation.



## Well Water: Not My Real Name

The Psychological Effects of Racism on African-American Children. The Need to Understand Change

Danny E. Blanchard

Racial identity, or the significance and meaning that individuals attribute to race, is recognized as a key factor in how African Americans cope with racism experiences. Unfortunately, however, the few studies that have examined African Americans' responses to racist events have failed to account for differences across situations that African Americans experience, making it difficult to ascertain whether differences in coping are due to person variables, the situation, or both. In my book, I adopted a stress and coping approach to examine the relations among racial identity, racism-related stress appraisal, and coping with lifetime racism experiences.

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# Railroad Museum Spring Fling Set

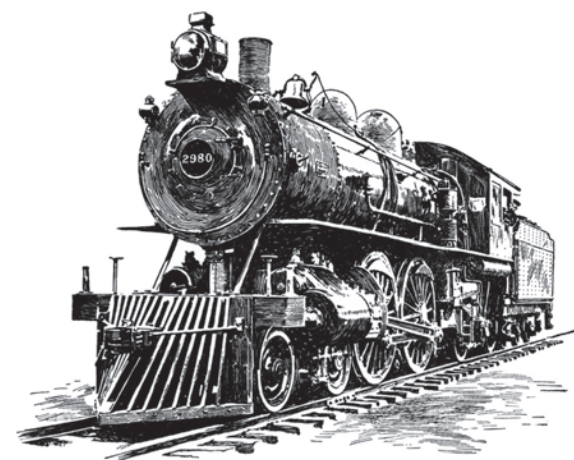
The North Alabama Railroad Museum will hold its Spring Fling Special on Saturday, April 18. Departure times are 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. Tickets range from \$10 to \$15.

The Museum is located in Chase, Ala., adjacent to the Alabama A&M University campus. The facility reflects a love of trains and a desire to preserve railroad history.

Additionally, the museum's volunteer staff is present each Wednesday and Saturday until 1:30 or 2:00 p.m. to answer the phone, to take train ride reservations and to assist visitors. The museum is also open by special appointment.

Visitors may take a free self-guided tour, and there are tour sheets and museum brochures in the waybill box located on the north side of the Chase Depot.

The museum depends on its income from train rides and donations from visitors who are interested in seeing a bit of our rail history preserved. Donations are welcomed!!



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Friday 2/27 - INTERVIEW DAY » 9a-2p  
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## Team Redstone's African-American History Month Observance, DLC Consortium



Aeolians from Oakwood University at TEAM Redstone's Black History Month's Celebration



Steve Fisher, Secretary to the General Staff at LCMC, and Logistician JaLissa Williams



Judge Sybil Cleveland and Councilman Wil Culver presenting to the Tennessee Valley Diversity Leadership Colloquium



State Trooper Curtis Summerville and Dr. Terrance Vickerstaff at DLC



Dr. Leslie Pollard, President of Oakwood University, at TEAM Redstone's Celebration

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Since 2008 she has served as an executive in the private sector leading integrated intelligence, cyber and security solutions for multiple U.S. government customers in defense, intelligence and civilian organizations. Major General (Retired) Fast currently serves as Vice President and Senior Advisor on cybersecurity at CGI.



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Tickets must be purchased by February 27, 2015  
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*“There are years that ask questions and years that answer.”*

- Zora Neale Hurston

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To Apply

- Application Form
- 3 References
- Resume
- Photo

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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.

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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.

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- Spring** April 7 - May 26 - Deadline to register (March 7, 2015)
- Summer** July 7 - August 25 - Deadline to register (June 7, 2015)
- Fall** Oct 6 - Nov 24 - Deadline to register (Sep)

## DLC Tennessee Valley Diversity Leadership Colloquium APPLICATION FORM

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

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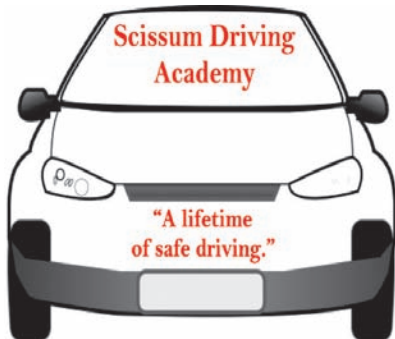
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# Nurturing Friendships

"A friend loves at all times."

- Proverbs 17:17 -

My two sisters and brother are three of my closest and dearest friends. Our mother died when we were eleven, nine, seven and two years old. While our maternal and paternal grandparents raised us, we developed an impenetrable friendship that has flourished over the years.

I recently lost a very dear friend. This tremendous loss made me realize the great impact devoted and loving friends have on our well-being. Friends will not be with us forever. Hence, we should focus on how we can nurture and strengthen our friendships. A friend:

1. Knows your flaws, yet still



loves you

2. Does not take your friendship for granted
3. Finds ways to make your life better
4. Is there for you during the good times and the bad
5. Spends time visiting and doing things with you
6. Communicates with you regularly by telephone, e-mail, etc.
7. Supports you and encourages your dreams

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8. Has the courage to disagree with you and advise you for your own good
9. Forgives you for your mistakes
10. Makes building your friendship a priority

Many people we call "friends" are really "acquaintances." That is fine. We need both. Some friends are for a season and others are for a lifetime. While our most loving and dependable friend is our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, we all need an earthly friend on whom we can depend.

I am truly blessed to have a few friends who display the above traits. I am striving each day to also be a genuine friend to my beloved friends.

by Dr. Margaret J. Kelly



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## Calendar at a Glance

### MARCH

8  
Spelman Jazz Ensemble  
Concert  
Sponsored by the Huntsville Alumnae Chapter of the National Alumnae Association of Spelman College  
Marriott Hotel  
5 p.m.

**AAMU Wind Ensemble**  
Carlton J. Wright, Director  
Fellowship of Faith  
Christian Church  
3703 North Memorial Parkway  
Huntsville, Ala., 6 p.m.  
FREE

12  
North Alabama NSBE Professionals Scholarship Program  
Apply today for scholarships on the National Society of Black Engineers (NSBE) chapter website

## HIP HOP CULTURE & Impact



Monday, March 9  
6:30 p.m.  
Ralph Lee Student Center Lobby  
\*Refreshments will be provided.

Featuring Toni Blackman

S. State Department American Cultural Specialist

more information, contact  
Office of International Programs at  
(256) 372-2419 or international@aaamu.edu.



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The Fellowship of Faith Church

3703 Memorial Parkway, NW  
Huntsville, AL 35810 - (256) 562-2222  
www.tfofc.org

#### WORSHIP TIMES:

- **Huntsville Campus** -  
Sunday mornings @ 9:15 a.m. & 11:15 a.m.
- **Madison Campus** -  
132 Maple Street  
Sunday @ 8 a.m.

**Child Development Center  
beginning at Five (5) Weeks**

## MINISTRIES

Economic Empowerment Ministry  
Faith Bookstore  
Intercessory Prayer Ministry  
Helps Ministry  
Jail Ministry  
Kitchen Ministry  
Men of Faith Ministry  
Music School Ministry  
Softball Ministry  
Women of Faith Ministry  
Youth Ministry

*The Fellowship of Faith Church is simply a church full of men and women who have been saved through the miraculous, finished work of Christ on Calvary. And who knows? Perhaps you will find that the Fellowship of Faith Church is God's place for you!*

*Jesus is Exalted and  
The Word is Explained!*