

# The Valley Weekly

*"Anyone who has ever struggled with poverty knows how extremely expensive it is to be poor."*

- James Baldwin

FREE

Volume 1, No. 34

Friday, May 1, 2015

## Huntsville to Feature Gladys Knight

The Rocket City will bring one of the best known vocal artists in America to the Von Braun Center Concert Hall on Sunday, May 17, at 7:30 p.m.

The soulful repertoire of Gladys Knight is so extensive that hardly a day goes by that one of her songs is not broadcast on the radio.

Born in Atlanta, Ga.,

Knight has been performing for more than 60 years. At age 70, Knight has been known to encompass a range of musical genres, including the Motown sound, R&B, smooth soul, pop soul, soft rock, gospel, funk and doo-wop.

Knight is also widely known as The Empress of Soul.



## MAIA Celebrates Mentoring Program

The Media Arts Institute of Alabama (MAIA) is celebrating their Flagship Program, the Media Arts Mentoring Academy's (MAMA) 3rd Anniversary on Thursday, May 7, from 6:00 until 8:00 p.m. at the Valley Hill Country Club with a showcase of their Huntsville 2 Hollywood Film project and with music by Huntsville's own

Grammy Nominated Producer Kelvin Wooten and recording artist, DeQn Sue.

MAIA is using the "by invitation-only" celebration to thank supporters for contributing to their ground breaking Huntsville 2 Hollywood student filmmakers travel program. This 11-day trip in December and January allowed students to film and write

A Behind The Scenes mini documentary and book on the pageantry, technology and people responsible for the production and management of the entire Tournament of Rose Parade and Rose Bowl Game. Students who participated and travelled to Hollywood and Pasadena will share their life changing experience at this event.

## AMC Commander Speaks to Colloquium at UAH

Week 3 of The Tennessee Valley Diversity Leadership Colloquium (DLC) turned into an awesome experience for about 30 local young professionals and community leaders.

The University of Alabama in Huntsville hosted Cohort II of the DLC on April 21, 2015. General Dennis L. Via, Commander of the United States Army Materiel Command spoke to the class on the topic of "Leadership Keys to Success." Mrs. Delois Smith, Vice President for Diversity spoke on the topic of "Diversity in Education." Between the two speakers, most participants had an 'edge of seat' learning event.

General Via is a four-star General in the United States Army. He assumed responsibilities as the 18th Commander of the Army Materiel Command in 2012. AMC is the Army's premier provider of materiel readiness (i.e., technology, acquisition support, materiel development, logistics power projection, and sustainment) to the total force, across the spectrum of joint military operations.

AMC is headquartered at Redstone Arsenal in Alabama, and it impacts or has a presence in all 50 states and 144 countries. Manning these organizations is a workforce of more than 65,000 dedicated military

and civilian employees, many with highly developed specialties in weapons development, manufacturing and logistics.

Via shared his background as a high school student growing up in a Martinsville, Va., with parents who owned a house-painting business. He learned from his dad early that one's work is the best advertisement. Therefore, his dad never advertised his painting business but



relied on satisfied customers to sustain and grow the business.

His wife,

Mrs. Linda Via, and family, including his 86-year-old mother, serve as on-going sources of his strength and faith. He expressed gratitude to one of his high school teachers, Mr. Edward L. Fontaine, who encouraged him to pursue college, which led to his enrollment at Virginia State University.

Some of the keys to success shared by Via included

setting the environment and conditions for success; trusting and investing in the people; having constant, multi-functional, multi-faceted engagement; finding balance and knowing yourself; seeking out mentors who will provide unbiased advice and truthful counsel; being an attentive, consummate learner; and understanding that truth and honesty matter.

Mrs. Delois Smith spoke to the class about diversity in education. Just recently, she provided the leadership for the local "Conversation about Race" in the Huntsville community, working with the Huntsville Area Inclusive Committee that was established by the city

council. The local Inclusive Communities Movement is a joint initiative of the National League of Cities, Huntsville's Human Relations Commission and Office of Multicultural Affairs. Launched in 2009, this initiative was approved by the Huntsville City Council. Five cities in Alabama and 196 cities nationwide have accepted the initiative's challenge.

In her presentation, Smith presented trends in diversity relative to what the student population and workforce will look like in the future, including demographic data relative to age, sex, race, culture, learning styles, and the like.

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- Submitted by Delois Strawbridge

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## The Valley Weekly

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# From the Editor



*“Educational institutions ... must be in touch with students through deep dialogue.”*

*When you can't find a printed copy of The Valley Weekly around town, follow us on-line at [www.valleyweeklyllc.com](http://www.valleyweeklyllc.com).*

Ah, Founder's Day!

Founders are important. Many initiatives that are started never make it through the first few months or at best a year. According to Eric T. Wagner a contributor to Forbes, Bloomberg reported in 2013 that 8 out of 10 entrepreneurs who start businesses fail within the first 18 months. A whopping 80% crash and burn. The number one reason that startups fail at such an alarming rate is that they are not really in touch with customers through deep dialogue. According to the Alabama A&M University (AAMU) website, the school was founded in 1875 as a result of an 1873 state bill that established a "State Normal School and University for the Education of the Colored Teachers and Students" by an ex-slave, William Hooper Council. A little known fact is that Dr. Council founded The Lincoln Normal School in 1869. His vision led the school on to become a junior college and an accredited university in 1963. The name was changed to AAMU in 1969.

Six years later, I enrolled as a member of the freshman class in 1975. Thanks to Dr. Council's vision, students from around the world were able to pursue their goal of obtaining a college degree. In my opinion, educational institutions are business enterprises, with students who are paying customers. Therefore, as with other enterprises, in order to be successful they must be in touch with students through deep dialogue. As in 1975, we need educational institutions today that are relevant and affordable. Thank God for Dr. William Hooper Council.

I was blessed with four wonderful years as an undergraduate student on "The Hill," having had the opportunity to study and work under professors who understood the pedagogy of teaching and who inspired us as students to pursue our goals with strategy and planning. Some of my inspiring teachers included, but were not limited to, Miss Mozell Davis, Dr. Heyward Handy, Mr. Edward Johnson, Dr. Bernice Richardson, Mrs. Ann Preyer Warren, Dr. Margie Wadell, Mrs. Minnie Kyles, Dr. George Grayson, Dr. Ferris Henson, Mr. Richard Tucker, Dr. Homer McCall and my sister, Mrs. Mary Rodgers Hurt. Thanks to all who engaged us deeply.

Today is the 140th Founder's Day on the "The Hill!" Two time graduate, Mrs. Adrienne Pope-Kelly Washington is the Founder's Day Convocation speaker. The Convocation will begin at 10 a.m. in the T. M. Elmore Gymnasium on the campus of Alabama A&M University. The event is free and the public is invited to attend.

Ah, Founder's Day! Until next week,

*Dorothy*

## IMS to Hold Cultural FUNdraiser May 5

The Interfaith Mission Service (IMS) will hold the "IMS FUNdraiser: A Celebration of Cultures" on May 5 from 6-10 p.m. at the University of Alabama in Huntsville University Center, Exhibit Hall.

The activity is being sponsored by the UAH Office of Diversity, UAH Hispanic Student Organization and the Interfaith Mission Service.

The event aims to celebrate the cultures of Central America, South America and Latin America. In addition to food and drinks, and good music, free salsa lessons will be provided.

Tickets are \$10 each and can be purchased at the door or through outlets listed on the IMS website: [www.interfaithmission-service.org](http://www.interfaithmission-service.org). Proceeds will benefit

the Interfaith Mission Service.

The Interfaith Mission Service is a cooperative of congregations and individuals working to co-create a beloved community.



AWM: WHNT-TV 19's Shevaun Bryan addressed an April 21 gathering of collegiate members of the Alliance for Women in Media during a luncheon sponsored by AAMU's Career Development Services.

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But it's been a while since I've seen your  
radiant form. I miss you ... I love you ...

You are beautiful to me ..

What you mistook for lust was merely  
my complete and utter admiration of your presence.  
Do you blame me? Your beauty touches me  
so deeply at my core it makes my  
temperature rise ...

And I know I'm not the only one ... But I don't really care.

We can share ... It's only fair, and I'm not so selfish  
to hold you captive and deny everyone else.

They need you as much as I do...

I do have a favor to ask of you though ...

If I should close my eyes and you go away ...  
Would you please promise me you will do one thing?

Really?

Ok ... here it is ...

Just be there when I open my eyes again ...

So I can see you again, so I can love you again ....

You make my whole world brighter ...

Sun.

by Trent Griffin

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## SFRC Holding Small Business Workshop

The Small Farms Research Center (AAMU) in collaboration with Alabama Cooperative Extension will host its Small Business Workshop on May 7-8, 2015 from 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

The target audience extends to agribusinesses, farmers, producers, landowners, inspiring agricultural entrepreneurs, and anyone interested in starting a small business.

Please pre-register at <http://www.aamu.edu/sfrc> under "Quick Glance" for Registration-Small Business Workshop.

**Schedule of Workshop:**



*Session 1:* "Starting a Business from Scratch"

*Session 2:* "Business Economics and Marketing"

*Session 3:* "Short and Long Term Business Planning/Affordable Care Act Business Requirements"

*Session 4:* "Bookkeeping and

Business Taxes"

This Small Business workshop will be held at the James I. Dawson Building on the campus of Alabama A&M University, 4900 Meridian Street, Normal, AL 35762.

To reserve a spot, there is \$10 fee to attend the workshop. This cost does include handouts/training material, lite refreshment and lunch. Also, there are limited scholarships available, please inquire.

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**SMOOTH!** *R&B crooner Ruben Studdard, former American Idol, returned to a familiar crowd in the Von Braun Center April 24 as the featured entertainment for Alabama A&M University's Black Tie Gala.*

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## Congressman Clyburn to Address AAMU Commencement

The U.S. Representative for South Carolina's 6th congressional district will be the speaker for the 2015 Spring Commencement Exercises of Alabama A&M University on Friday, May 1, at 6 p.m. in the Von Braun Center Arena.

Rep. James E. Clyburn has served in his congressional capacity since 1993, and he served as House Majority Whip from 2007 to 2011. He currently serves as House Assistant Democratic Leader.

Clyburn graduated from Mather Academy in Camden, S.C., then he attended South Carolina State University in Orangeburg, S.C., graduating with a bachelor's degree in history.

More than 400 students are expected to receive baccalaureate, master's, educational specialist (Ed.S.) and doctoral degrees at the graduation ceremony from the school's four major academic components.



## Deltas' Public Forum Delves into Common Signs of Mental Health Issues

"My Cry in the Dark," an April 25 mental health forum sponsored by Huntsville area members of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., examined key factors in everyday life that could lead to mental health issues.

The two-hour forum was held at Union Hill Primitive Baptist Church to assist the public in gaining an understanding of stress, trauma and mental illness. Facilitated by Martha Bosworth, clinical director of Crisis Services of North Alabama, the program offered methods of maintain sound emotion health. Chief among these



methods are maintaining a balance of work, relaxation, exercise, healthy eating, and time with positive individuals; letting go of the past; exercising respect and responsibility; taking credit for personal successes; developing reliable confidantes; temporarily removing oneself from damaging

situations; and knowing that change is inevitable.

Attendees were able to self-gauge themselves by using a three-prong stress level indicator, as well as to identify symptoms of job stress.

Several factors can individually or in combination lead to seemingly insur-

mountable stress levels. At the top of the list are work-related issues or job loss, but others include spouse, children, menopause, age, illness, death, accidents and other traumatic events.

by Jerome Saintjones

## Oakwood Student Among UNCF Scholarship Recipients

"UNCF: An Evening of Stars" was aired Sunday, April 26, on Black Entertainment Television (BET). The show was a celebrity-packed event that raised money and awareness for minority education.

Additionally, the show was full of performances and scholarship presentations to inspire and support the next generation of "Rising Stars." This year's show highlighted 20 students and presented more than \$500,000 to students attending historically black colleges and universities (HBCUs).

One of this year's rising stars and scholarship recipients was Oakwood University sophomore theology and psychology major Jajuan Sanders, from Baltimore, Maryland. "I always prayed that I would be financially cleared 100% for school and then this happened," Jajuan said during the taping of the event.

For the third consecutive year, Actor Anthony Anderson served as the show's host. Other guests included R&B singer Ronnie DeVoe, Rapper Big Sean, Country Singer Mickey Guyton, and special scholarship presentations by Kevin Hart, Chris Paul, Usher, and Pharrell Williams.



"UNCF and its celebrity partners and sponsors understand now is a crucial moment in which we all must recognize and demonstrate by our actions and deeds that 'Black Lives Matter.' Perhaps more than ever, we must continue to fill the need UNCF has been bringing to light since its inception," said UNCF president and CEO Dr. Michael L. Lomax. "I am immeasurably grateful to these young artists, philanthropists and our sponsors, who are stepping up and answering our call."

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# Mayor Counts Pluses of City

It's always exciting to talk about the good things happening here in Huntsville and North Alabama.

Recently, you may have seen the City of Huntsville was awarded its seventh consecutive Aaa and AAA ratings by Standard & Poor's and Moody's Investor Services.

When both Wall Street credit agencies continue to reward us with the highest rating achievable, our team is doing something right. As a City, we have worked hard to maintain conservative fiscal policies, diversify our economic base with advanced manufacturing (companies like Remington and Polaris) and strengthen our infrastructure.

These ratings are prestigious--and they aren't just given, they are earned. Just six percent of municipalities across our nation receive Aaa or AAA ratings and our fiscal strength has been consistently recognized since 2008.

They are also becoming more difficult to keep. Every year has presented new financial challenges to our economy. The team-



work we have in place between our city departments and our economic leadership partners has kept our momentum going but the challenges are very real.

Regardless of the circumstances, we will continue our work to diversify Huntsville's economy, bring in more jobs and industry, and maintain a responsible, conservative government that keeps our star shining bright.

Teamwork has gotten us to this point and that same teamwork will help us moving forward.

Tommy Battle  
Mayor  
City of Huntsville



**Celebrating the Land-Grant Tradition:** The nation's 1890 land-grant institutions, founded through the Second Morrill Act to bolster educational access to African-Americans, are celebrating the 125th anniversary of the historic law throughout 2015. As part of its observance, Alabama A&M University attracted students, faculty, staff, administrators, friends and the community for the 1890 Walk-Run. The event began at Louis Crews Stadium, proceeded past the Ernest L. Knight Complex and across Meridian Street. The procession then continued in front of the Normal Post Office and the J.F. Drake Memorial Learning Resources Center, turning right and lapping The Quad twice. The throng gathered in the center of the Normalite Walkway, where President Andrew Hugine, Jr., discussed the significance of the Justin Morrill.

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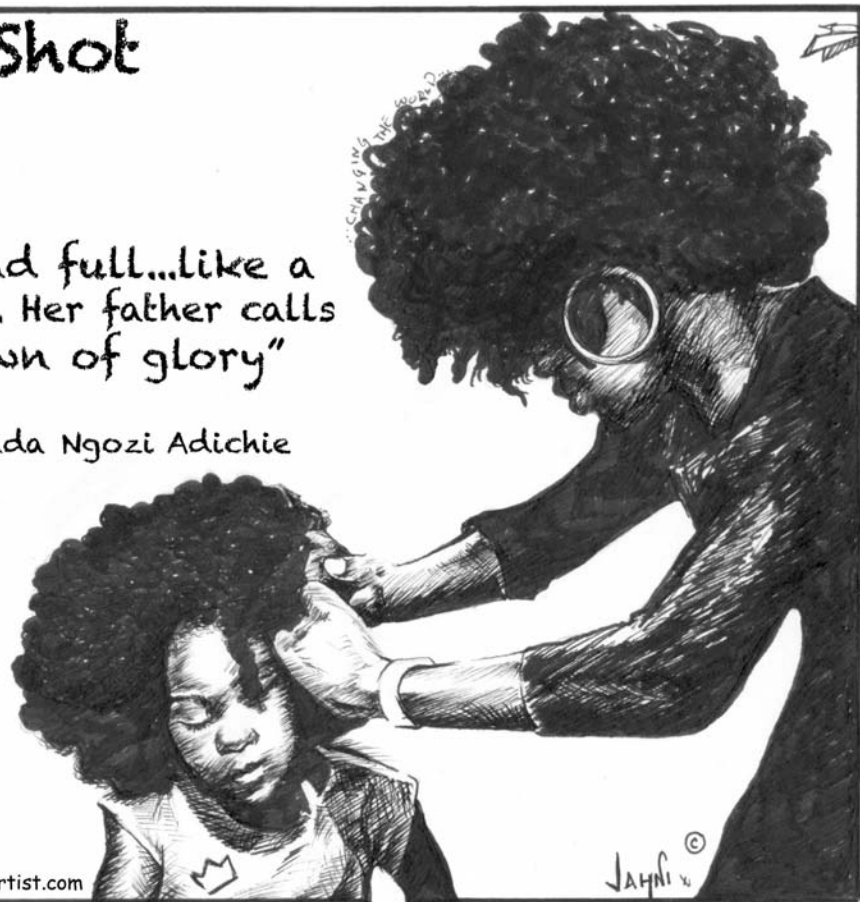
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## PowerShot

"...free and full...like a celebration. Her father calls it a crown of glory"

-Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie



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# DLC

## Tennessee Valley

# Diversity Leadership Colloquium



*Accepting Applications  
for Cohort 3!*

### 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.

Location: 415-A Church Street - Downtown Huntsville  
Enrollment limited to: 16 - **Tuition:** \$795

### 2015 Schedule

**Summer** July 7 – August 25 - Deadline to register (June 7, 2015)  
**Fall** Oct 6 – Nov 24 - Deadline to register (September 6, 2015)

### To Apply

- Application Form
- 3 References
- Resume
- Photo

**Tuition Payable Upon Acceptance**

# DLC

## Tennessee Valley Diversity Leadership Colloquium APPLICATION FORM

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

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

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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](http://www.diversityleadershipcolloquium.com); or e-mail [info@diversityleadershipcolloquium.com](mailto:info@diversityleadershipcolloquium.com). Tuition and photo will be required only if accepted to participate.