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INNOVATION

p 32

TRAILBLAZERS

2017 HALL OF FAME

Monica Pearson, Dr. Lonnie Johnson, Ivenue Love-Stanley & William Stanley III



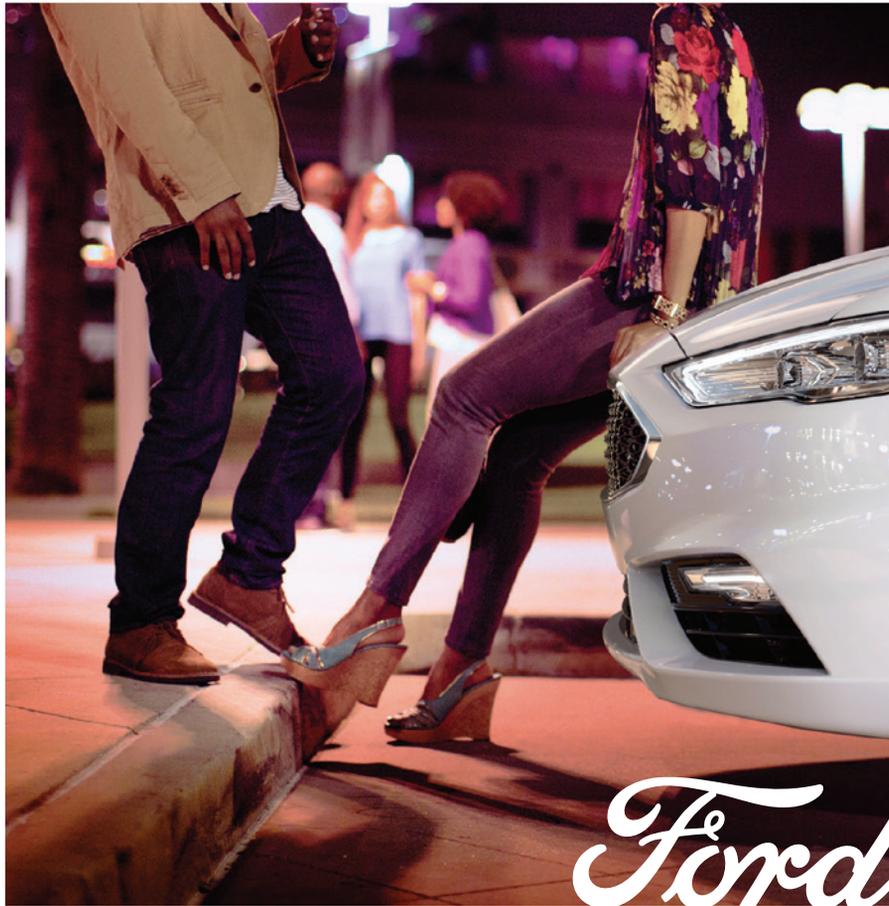
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2017 Hall of Fame

To some extent, every thought leader has at least a touch of the “innovation gene” in them, but not everyone is what can be called a true innovator. These trailblazers fit the bill.

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Remember William "Bill" Taggart

Taggart

A giant among men.

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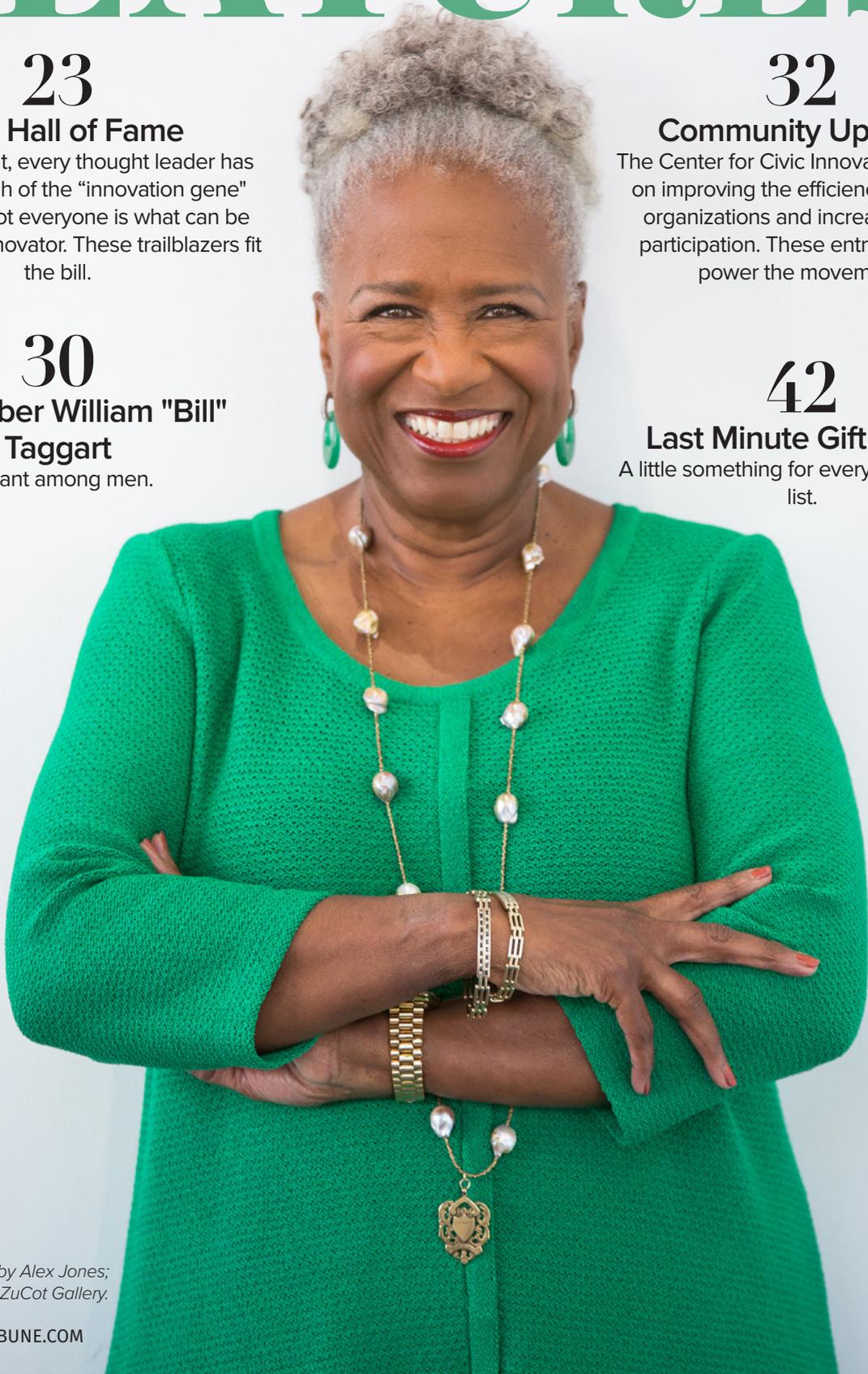
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Alex Jones is a corporate/editorial photographer and has photographed some of Atlanta's business elite for **Atlanta Tribune: The Magazine**, **BLACK ENTERPRISE**, and many corporate publications and websites. His work can be seen around town in publications, as well on the walls of the newly renovated SCLC Women's Headquarters on Auburn Avenue. See his work online at www.businessphotographyatlanta.com.



Leah S. McDaniel is a marketing professional who has worked in brand management with Procter and Gamble, and Kao Brands Company for more than 10 years. She is currently freelance writing and enjoys writing on a variety of topics, including business, social issues and entertainment.

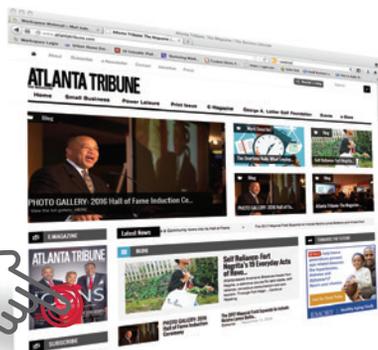


Dawn M. Richards is the founder of the food and lifestyle brand, D.M.R. Fine Foods. With her food passion leading the way, Dawn shares recipes, travel stories, fashion, entertainment and lifestyle features on dmrfinefoods.blogspot.com and other media outlets, while maintaining a career as a **FORTUNE 500** legal executive.



Born and raised in (Park Slope) Brooklyn, N.Y., **Donnell Suggs** has been a newspaper reporter and editor for over a decade. He is currently the Sports Editor at the *Houston Home Journal* in Pery, Ga. Along with his duties there, he also freelances for *The Undeafed*, the *Atlanta Voice* and **Atlanta Tribune: The Magazine**. A diehard New York Mets and Jets fan, he lives in metro Atlanta with his wife and two kids.

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For me, the end of the year is more about ramping up than it is a time of winding down.

I tend to get a burst of energy concerning what's to come no matter what challenges I've experienced up to this point – which I've heard some people refer to as the last chapter of the 365 pages. Last year was the first time I remember thinking it had been both grueling year while also *the* year I believed I had been the most impactful in my endeavors. There's something about a lesson that comes from withstanding a bit of tumult versus one that comes easy. At the end of 2016, instead of making a list of resolutions, I compiled the lessons I'd learned. Looking back at what I had accomplished gave me more of a launching pad than any list I had ever created before it. So, I shared my lessons on social media and asked others how they had gained throughout the year. I found that simple exchange far more useful than what we so often experience conversing about how much we can't wait for this year to be over and to have a fresh start in the new year. What's stopping us from having a fresh start every day?

I bookmarked the lessons I shared and some that others posted, and when I needed a little extra push this year or saw a friend who needed a nudge forward, I re-shared one here and there. Without anyone else telling me, I saw my own growth all the way around and that was my bar for 2017; more.

This year, I'm not dragging to the finish line because I am learning that what I gained last year, more than anything, was a new perspective on self-care. It isn't just what you eat and how active you are, but also catching a matinee or going to bed early – even when there's still something on your checklist for the day. It's taking a moment to celebrate even the smallest “win,” and allowing yourself the space to do something as many times as you need to get it right. It's the realization that rarely is something we're worked up over urgent or even actually important, for that matter. And so I guess I'd say the pinnacle lesson of 2017 for me is to constantly re-evaluate the standards I've set for myself. I'm always going to finish the task and pride myself in finishing well. Now, I realize it's not always about how fast you get to the finish.

My best to you as you launch into your endeavors and goals for 2018. Onward. **AT**



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ATLANTA'S EMERGING MARKETS

Atlanta Emerging Markets Inc. officially closed on the first round of its new Civic Impact Loans program that will go to three Atlanta social entrepreneurs. The flexible, zero-percent interest rate loans will support honorCode, Marddy's, and Gilliam's Community Garden as they seek to expand their businesses and make a greater impact in the communities they serve.

"We established the Civic Impact Loan fund to support local businesses in Atlanta," says Michael Syphoe, board chair of Atlanta Emerging Markets Inc. "From enhancing K-12 STEAM education to cultivating urban agriculture to supporting our city's unique culinary culture, these three companies demonstrate how small social enterprises can have a big impact within our communities."

"These first three loan recipients all demonstrate how businesses can focus on the bottom line while also making a difference in our city," Dr. Eloisa Klementich, president and CEO of Invest Atlanta and a member of the AEMI board, says "Atlanta is a place where social entrepreneurship can continue to thrive, and we look forward to supporting more social impact investing and talented enterprises in the future."

A non-profit social enterprise, honorCode provides curriculum and training to schools to bring computer science and social emotional learning into the general K12 classroom. honorCode plans to use the loan funding to hire an additional team member to facilitate more trainings for teachers within Atlanta Public Schools. Last year, honorCode won the 2016 Forbes Change the World Entrepreneurship Competition at its Under 30 Summit last year. And its founder and CEO, Jeffrey Martín, was recently honored on the 2017 Forbes 30 Under 30 List and The Wharton School's 40 Under 40 List, where he is an alumnus (W'13).

Gilliam's Community Garden is an outdoor kitchen to teach residents how to prepare healthy food for their families. Its goal

is to improve community health in the area around Oakland City Atlanta neighborhood through urban agriculture. Gilliam's provides residents with access to fresh fruits, vegetables and poultry products.

Marddy's is a shared kitchen space and marketplace for food-based entrepreneurs on the Westside. The owner, Keitra Bates, was recently featured on the NPR series, "Kitchen Table Conversations." Her mission is to preserve culinary culture of the Westside by supporting home chefs within the community. Access to Capital for Entrepreneurs, a certified Community Development Financial Institution, has already provided support to the business with a loan to purchase the building where it is located. Funding obtained through the Civic Impact Loan will be used for staffing and marketing purposes.

AEMI is a U.S. Treasury-certified Community Development Entity created by Invest Atlanta in 2006 that specializes in providing gap financing for projects that create jobs and revitalize Atlanta's distressed neighborhoods. In 2016, the AEMI board of directors approved the allocation of \$100,000 to finance a pilot revolving loan fund for social entrepreneurship in Atlanta. **AT**



VIRGINIA W. HARRIS *at the Helm of The National Coalition of 100 Black Women*

Virginia W. Harris has been elected national president of The National Coalition of 100 Black Women Incorporated, whose mission is to advocate on behalf of black women and girls to promote leadership development and gender equity in the areas of health, education, and economic empowerment.

A 26-year member of the Metropolitan Atlanta Chapter, she has consistently demonstrated her leadership abilities through successfully serving at both the national and local chapter levels. For the past 13 years, Harris has served as first vice president of Programs, vice president of Finance and Fund Development, national treasurer; and she has chaired several national committees.

As president, she looks forward to implementing a NCBW 100 Lead Academy for members 45 and under, reactivating the organization's President Circle internal fundraising campaign, and providing quarterly webinar training on topics including leadership, chapter operations and advocacy initiatives.

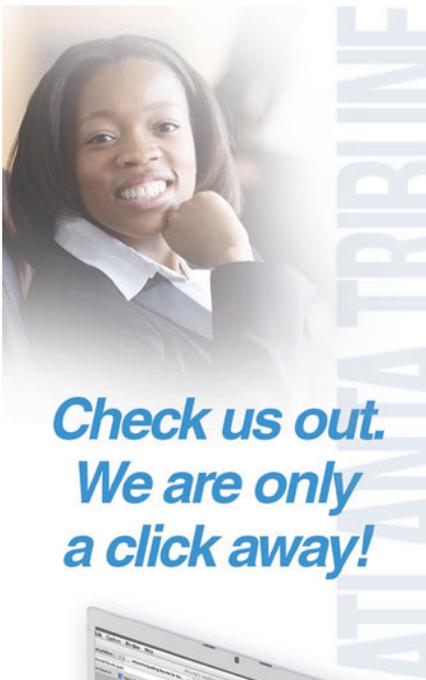
Harris, of metro Atlanta, was elected as the organization's ninth national president bringing 41 years of successful leadership and organizational experience with professional and civic organizations. Harris holds a Masters of Public Administration degree, Bachelor of Business Administration degree, is a certified internal auditor and certified government financial manager. She is also a graduate of Georgia's Regional Leadership Institute, Leadership Atlanta, Leadership Gwinnett and a Graduate of Harvard Non-Profit Leadership Program. Her memberships include Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated; Continental Societies Incorporated; Immediate Past President, Albany State University Foundation Board of Trustees; The Links, Incorporated; The Historical Ebenezer Baptist Church Women Ministry Council; and the Southern Education Foundation. Professional and civically, she has consistently demonstrated an interest and commitment to eliminating disparities and improving the quality of life for the underserved, with a primary focus on African-American children, women and communities.



With extensive fundraising experience and accomplishments, Harris has developed and successfully executed major fundraising initiatives for many non-profit organizations, to include: more than \$550,000 for the National Coalition of 100 Black Women, Inc., over \$900,000 for the Metropolitan Atlanta Chapter of 100 Black Women and a combined total of approximately \$1.7 million for other non-profit organizations.

A desire to make an impact on the lives of women and girls led her to membership in the metropolitan Atlanta chapter of the organization 26 years ago. "This desire became the passion that continues to drive me today," Harris says.

"I look forward to the opportunity to serve the coalition by building upon their current successes and propelling the NCBW to its next era of greatness. I am ready to lead NCBW to role model performance." **AT**



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The Quad Internship Program Prepares HBCU Students for TV Careers



Eight students from HBCUs have been chosen by the producers of “The Quad” to participate in a paid internship program that provides the unique opportunity to train in multiple departments while season two of the series is in production.

“The Quad” received more than 250 applications for the openings. The students selected for the internship are: Maya Eaddy (Spelman College); Brandon Gilpin (Morehouse College); Nia Jones (Clark Atlanta University); Trishunda Mooney (Clark Atlanta University); Kirsten Danielle Owens (Clark Atlanta University); Quenten McNair (Clark Atlanta University); Denard Thomas (Florida A&M University); and Mykayla Williamson (Spelman College).

Designed by executive producers Felicia D. Henderson and Rob Hardy, “The Quad” Internship Program gives back to the community the show represents by training the next generation of black leaders in the entertainment industry.

“We consider it an honor to help prepare the next generation of content creators by providing them with a window into the production process. So we’re giving students with a passion for television production a chance to train with seasoned professionals,” says Henderson, who is also a faculty member in the Radio-Television-Film Department at The University of Texas at Austin.

Interns began training in November on “The Quad” stages and locations around Atlanta. There will be two internship cycles, each one providing exposure to writing, producing, cinematography, production design, location management, costume design, hair and make-up applications, and the grip and electric departments.

“We’re starting with colleges and universities in the Atlanta University Center because ‘The Quad’ is shot on their campuses. It’s only fair that the students [in Atlanta] get first opportunity,” says Henderson. “They have been gracious and understanding as we inconvenience their lives in our efforts to add authenticity to our show. However, we plan to expand the internship program every season the show is renewed.”

“The Quad” Internship Program is sponsored by Capital Arts Media, WaterWalk Productions, Rain Forrest Entertainment, and BET Networks.

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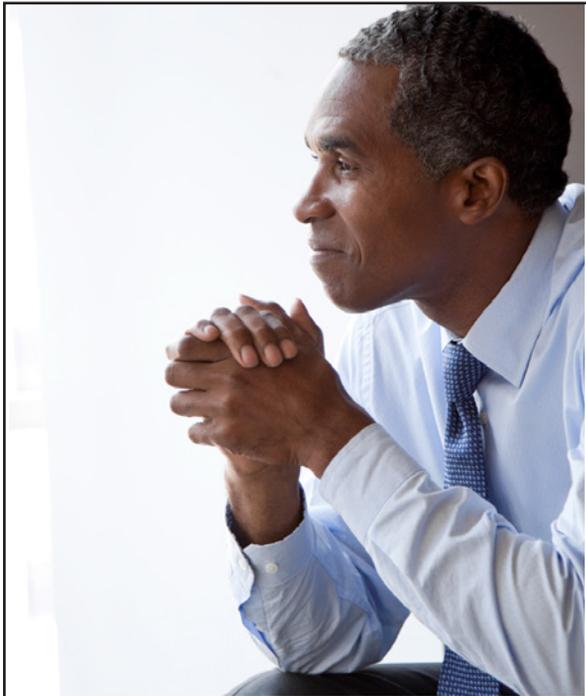


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Now is the Time to Review Withholding Allowances

With the end of the calendar year fast approaching, now is a good time to double check your federal withholding to make sure enough taxes are being taken out of your pay.

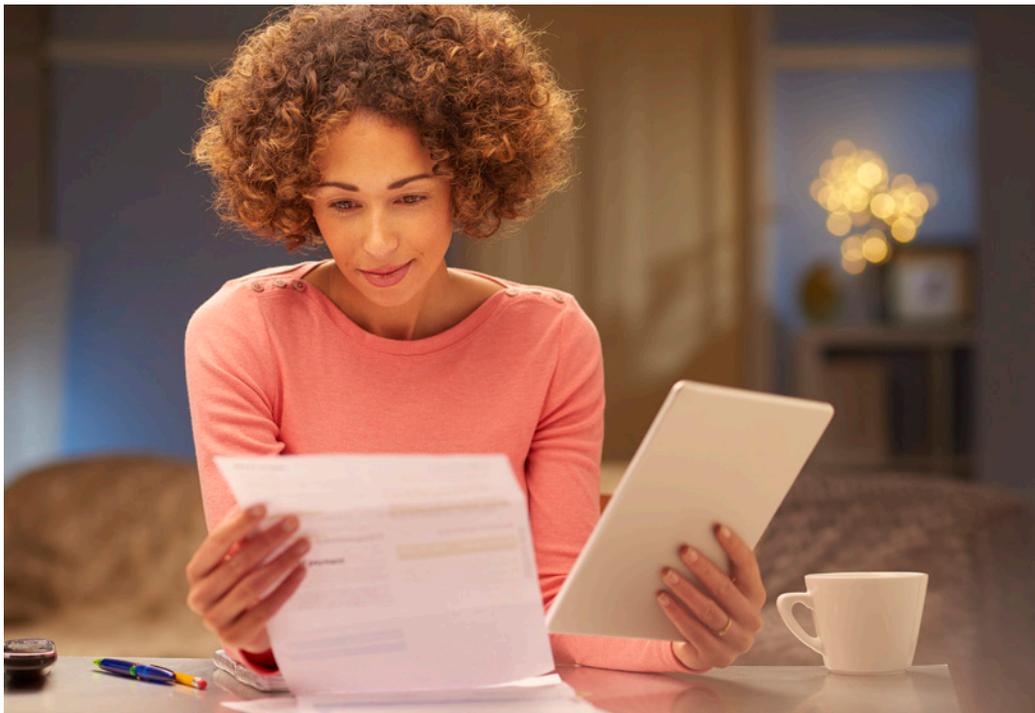
Most people have taxes withheld from each paycheck or pay taxes on a quarterly basis through estimated tax payments. But each year millions of American workers have far more taxes withheld from their pay than is required. In fact, according to the IRS, the average individual income tax refund for Fiscal Year 2016 was about \$3,050. As such, taxpayers might want to consider adjusting their tax withholding to bring the taxes they must pay closer to what they actually owe — and put more money in their pocket right now.

On the flip side, is that some workers and retirees still need to take steps to make sure enough tax is being taken out of their checks to avoid penalties they might have to pay. Certain taxpayers should pay particular attention to their withholding.

These include:

- Married couples with two incomes
- Individuals with multiple jobs
- Dependents
- Some Social Security recipients who work
- Workers who do not have valid Social Security numbers
- Retirees who receive pension payments

Whether you're starting a new job, retiring, or self-employed here is some information to help bring the taxes you pay during the year closer to what you will actually owe when you file your tax return.



EMPLOYEES

New Job. When you start a new job your employer will ask you to complete Form W-4, Employee's Withholding Allowance Certificate. Your employer will use this form to figure the amount of federal income tax to withhold from your paychecks. Be sure to complete the Form W-4 accurately.

Life Event. You may want to change your Form W-4 when certain life events happen to you during the year. Examples of events in your life that can change the amount of taxes you owe include a change in your marital status, the birth of a child, getting or losing a job, and purchasing a home. Keep your Form W-4 up-to-date.

You typically can submit a new Form W-4 at any time you wish to change the number of your withholding allowances. However, if your life event results in the need to decrease your withholding allowances or changes your marital status from married to single, you must give your employer a new Form W-4 within 10 days of that life event.

SELF-EMPLOYED

Form 1040-ES. If you are self-employed and expect to owe \$1,000 or more in taxes for the year, then you normally must make estimated tax payments to pay your income tax, Social Security and Medicare taxes. You can use the worksheet in Form 1040-ES, Estimated Tax for Individuals, to find out if you are required to pay estimated tax on a quarterly basis. Remember to make estimated payments to avoid owing taxes at tax time. **AT**



Steve Julal is a principal with VAAS Professionals. He is a certified public accountant and a member of the Georgia Society of CPAs as well as the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants. Julal can be reached at 404.223.1058, or via e-mail at steve.julal@vaasprofessionals.com.

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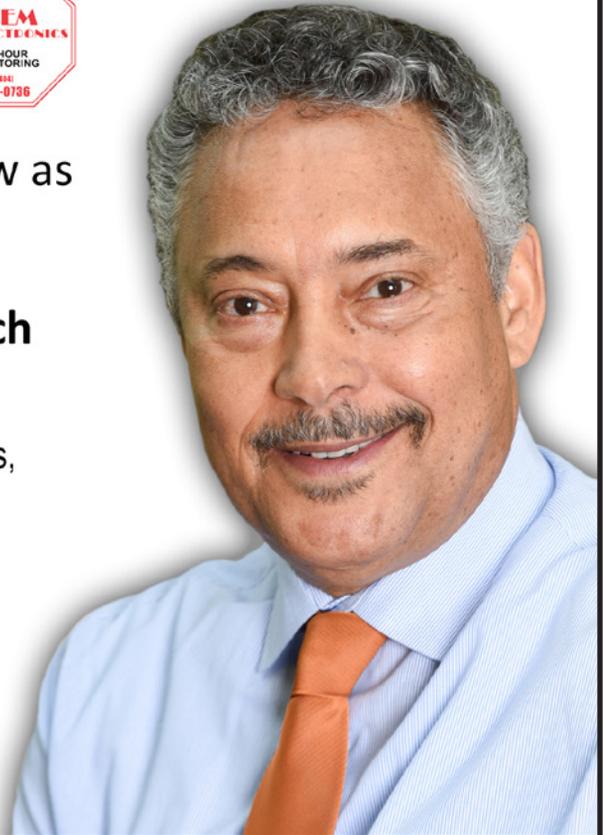
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H. ERIC HILTON, ESQ.

Supreme Success

H. Eric Hilton was born and raised in metropolitan Washington, D.C., where he grew up admiring the achievements of a man who served there on our nation's highest court for nearly 25 years – Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall. “His death in 1993 came at a time when I was considering my ultimate career path. His life as a social engineer and its impact inspired me to pursue a career in law,” says Hilton.

That same inspiration has influenced Hilton to carve his own diverse line of impressive accomplishments. After receiving a Bachelor of Science degree from Hampton University and a Juris Doctorate from the George Washington University Law School, Hilton joined a boutique Labor and Employment law firm focusing on the hospitality industry. His career trajectory was placed on a fast track, even trusted by this law firm to examine his first witness in court the Monday after receiving his bar results. That position led directly to him being hired as general counsel at age 35 for the country's oldest and largest minority-owned construction company, H.J. Russell & Company. He was elevated to senior vice president, before returning to private practice.

Hilton is currently partner at Freeman Mathis & Gary LLP in Atlanta. He also serves on the Board of Directors for Atlanta Habitat for Humanity Inc. and the Latin American Association, and is a member of 100 Black Men of Atlanta Inc., a 2012 Alumnus of Leadership Atlanta, and serves on Fernbank Museum's Corporate Leadership Council.

1. Very impressive to make General Counsel at 35. Do you leverage this experience to your benefit today?

I believe my private practice and in-house background allow me to better serve my clients from a unique perspective; whether in the board room or the courtroom. In addition to my trial work, my 10 years of experience as an in-house general counsel provides me with an invaluable perspective as to what clients truly value as legal service consumers. As a “hands on” general counsel, I continued to personally handle union negotiations and employment matters which kept my skills sharp. I also served as the administrative head of human resources. Additionally, I oversaw general liability matters arising out of the firm's property management operations. These experiences, upon returning to private practice, allowed me to grow a broad-based diversified practice which presently includes construction, L&E and general liability.

2. Tell us about FMG. What are the synergies there for you?

Freeman Mathis & Gary is a national law firm with more than 120 lawyers. The firm is a general practice firm and truly on an upward trajectory. We have outstanding lawyers who not only know how to try cases, but are decent and ethical people. I had a recent jury trial and the input from my law partners through our “round table” process (which is required for all cases going to trial) was invaluable in formulating strategy and achieving a great result. Moving my practice to FMG was a smooth transition and well-received by my clients. My goal is to continue to grow my practice and 2017 was my best year yet.

3. You have been on the short list for several prominent legal positions in Atlanta. With that said, you strike me as very happy in your present role. What does the future hold for H. Eric Hilton, Esq.

In the words of Thurgood Marshall, I believe that we as lawyers are “social engineers,” with an obligation to improve society and the lives of others. For this reason, I have sought leadership roles in civic and service organizations that share this purpose. Making a positive mark for the benefit of others drives me day-by-day. So I am just going to continue to do what I do, and hold myself to the highest ethical professional standards in my execution. I will strive to surround myself with people who share that perspective. In my career, I have found that “hard work leads to opportunity” and “discipline leads to rewards.” With that said I will probably die with an open file on my desk. **AT**



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HALL OF FAME

2017





MONICA PEARSON

By Jacqueline Holness

Monica Pearson, the 37-year Atlanta broadcast mainstay, is back on television — but things have changed. Instead of wearing a St. John suit, Pearson, who was known as Monica Kaufman for most her career before she married in 2005, is garbed in a blue blouse accented by a multicolored, African print, flared skirt. A print scarf frames her face and provides a foundation for her now grey curls, which have been almost any color of the rainbow and in various styles over the years.

Gone is the WSB-TV Atlanta anchor desk where Pearson delivered the daily evening news to generations of viewers as the first woman and first minority to do so in the city beginning in 1975. Instead, Pearson is perched at a roundtable that she shares with *New York Times* best-selling author Denene Millner and entertainment attorney Christine White as a part of Georgia Public Broadcasting's new weekly television show "A Seat at the Table," which debuted in June 2017. Most notably, Pearson, known for being a consummate journalist, is free to add opinions to facts and is unapologetic about that change. "I love the show because it allows me to just say what I think without having to sit on it," says Pearson with a laugh, "because I no longer have to be unbiased. I have earned the right, and I don't have to please anybody." The premise of the show is that black women from various backgrounds are able to dissect timely topics from civil rights to colorism and dismantle negative stereotypes. "We, as black women, literally hold up the sky, but in many instances, people don't understand us. We're either the angry black woman or the sex kitten, but there is much more to us than that."

Although Pearson retired in 2012, her post-retirement pursuits amount to a career that rivals the careers of some still working journalists. To broaden her knowledge from an academic perspective, at age 65, Pearson went back to school, earning a master's degree in journalism and mass communication from the University of Georgia in Athens in 2014. While Pearson has earned 33 local and regional Emmy Awards, being a college student the second time around wasn't easy. "The first paper I wrote in a class, I got a 'B' on it. I couldn't believe I got a 'B' so I went to the professor and asked. She said, 'Well, this isn't television news.'"

After the professor explained what she was looking for, Pearson earned an "A" in her class. "I think that's the difference between a younger student and an older student. As a younger student, I would have never questioned a professor about a grade. As an older student, I had no problems questioning her woman to woman."

Since 2014, Pearson has hosted a weekly radio show on KISS 104.1 FM. "I wanted to do something in radio, and I mentioned it to Tony Kidd [Cox Media Group Atlanta Radio vice president of programming]," says Pearson, who worked in radio as a teenager in Louisville, Ky., where she grew up. "When I first came in, they were auditioning me for AM 750, the talk radio. When I discovered that is what he was doing, I said, 'Oh, no, no, no. That's too much like news.'" During her three-hour show, Pearson is able to play "great R&B music" and "talk about anything I want."

Retirement has also enabled her to devote more time to the community. In 2015, she chaired the Go Red for Women Luncheon for the American Heart Association, amounting to a 115 percent increase in fundraising over 2014. "I had never been able to do fundraising before," says Pearson. "As a part of my job, I couldn't go around asking people for money, people you could end up covering." Although she has been a volunteer for Meals on Wheels Atlanta for over 25 years, she was elated when people made contributions to the organization in memory of her mother, Hattie Edmondson, who passed away in 2016. Community involvement, in fact, is what Pearson attributes her staying power in the transient field of journalism, according to Pearson. "I think that is what saved my job because every time they would do polls, people knew who I was and not just from television," says Pearson, who has had 55 speaking engagements and/or appearances this year, to date.

Whether it's revealing that she is a two-time cancer (breast and liver) survivor to changing her iconic brand name when she finally met a man, John E. Pearson Sr., she could be "married to forever," Pearson is open about all of her journey. "If I can go into people's lives, asking them questions, I have to be open too. I can't ask from others and not be an example myself." **AT**



DR. LONNIE G. JOHNSON

By Leah S. McDaniel

All nineties-era victors who were aided by the high-powered water gun standard, the Super Soaker, have Dr. Lonnie G. Johnson to thank.

Johnson's lifelong love of tinkering led to this invention and several others — of 100-plus patents — that continue to power NERF toys.

Johnson hails from Mobile, Ala., and has maintained an interest in science and technology. "I was always building things or taking them apart," Johnson recalls of his childhood and a 1968 win at the Southeast Regional Science Fair. For the win, Johnson created the robot "Linex" made of items he pieced together. It was a moral victory that pushed him to continue pursuing his passion.

However, it wasn't until he met Dr. Francis LeVert, the first African-American Ph.D. recipient in nuclear engineering, while attending Tuskegee University that he was inspired to pursue the field. Despite being incredibly gifted, he struggled with classroom structure and jokes that his Ph.D. is honorary. "I just didn't have the patience to sit in classrooms anymore, I wanted to learn and work on problems that had not already been solved."

Johnson received much of that real-world experience during his tenure as an Air Force Officer and later worked with NASA on the Galileo project mission to Jupiter. It's an achievement he doesn't tire of discussing. "That project was kind of cool, not everyone gets to put an invention on a spacecraft that's going to another planet."

Following those efforts, Johnson had many avenues that he wanted to pursue, but often lacked investors. Enter the Super Soaker in 1989, which led to revenue to support his current and future endeavors, with close to \$1 billion in retail sales.

He currently works on advanced battery technology as well as a groundbreaking advanced energy project through his subsidiary, Johnson Electro-Mechanical Systems, LLC, which is poised to revolutionize the way we think about engines.

"Having an engine that converts heat into electricity, the way other engines convert heat into work is a significant

accomplishment; the last engine that was invented was back in 1860."

Johnson is also dedicated to helping children gain more insight into STEM careers and encourages them not to be intimidated by math and science courses along the way. He sits on the Board of Directors of GeorgiaFIRST Robotics, an organization that engages youth in STEM using mentor-based programs. Another win: Georgia is now leading the country in minority and underserved students participating in robotics programs.

"Perseverance is key, but be aware this is not magic. Physics and science are no different than learning a game of basketball, once you learn the rules you can play."

Through his own non-profit organization, Johnson STEM Activity Center, children learn about robotics and compete in local and world competitions. Through partnerships with groups like 100 Black Men of Atlanta and the Fernbank Science Center, Johnson has seen children from various backgrounds excel on a world stage.

"Under President Obama, one of our teams [comprised] of foster kids were invited to the White House after a very successful year."

Back at the Atlanta headquarters, the focus is on creating jobs through his R&D programs.

"The site where we're located in Atlanta was purchased years ago with the intention to create jobs and we've remained here entrenched in a very serious R&D program while the goal of having a positive economic impact remains intact."

When he's not tinkering, Johnson enjoys butter pecan ice cream and time with his family which includes four children, the youngest of whom may be following in his footsteps.

"Her team recently won first place in a national math competition," Johnson laughs. "She's a chip off the old block." **AT**



WILLIAM STANLEY III & IVENUE LOVE-STANLEY

By Jacqueline Holness

It would seem by design that William J. Stanley III, the first black graduate of Georgia Institute of Technology's College of Architecture, and Ivenue Love-Stanley, who would become the first black woman to graduate from the College of Architecture at Georgia Tech, met on his last day and her first day on campus in 1972. But it was a coincidence. After her parents dropped her off, Ivenue ventured to what was called the "Black House," which was on 10th Street, to meet other black students who congregated there. "I walked up and I saw this guy who had hair to here," says Ivenue, pointing to her shoulders. "He had a cigarette in one hand and a bottle of Boone's Farm in the other hand. He was loading a mattress onto his piece of a car."

"No, it was a convertible Karmann Ghia," says William, with laughter, picking up the story. Having loaned his furniture to the "Black House," William was recovering from a party the night before. "It was called an O.B. Fly party which stands for Old Babes From Last Year. If you were an upperclassman, we gave you a party before the freshmen arrived the next day. It was the last summer party." After they exchanged names and Ivenue told him she would be studying architecture, William said, "Well, study me, I'm an architect." That afternoon, the Atlanta native showed the city's architecture to the Meridian, Miss., transplant. "I gave her the grand tour — the High Museum, out in Buckhead, in Collier Heights, everywhere."

As Stanley, Love-Stanley, the architectural firm the couple founded in 1978, William and Ivenue have added to the sights of Atlanta's skyline the two toured years earlier. Reynolds Cottage at Spelman College, John Hope Hall Science Research Facility at Morehouse College, Lyke House — The Catholic Center at Atlanta University Center, Saint Paul's Episcopal Church, Herndon Tower at the First Congregational Church UCC, the Olympic Aquatic Center at the Georgia Institute of Technology; Horizon Sanctuary and Martin Luther King Sr. Resource Center at Ebenezer Baptist Church are just a sampling of their noteworthy Atlanta projects the firm has completed as the second largest African-American architectural practice in the South.

But the first project of the couple, who married in 1978, was their first home. "The house was raggedy and really a wreck," says William. "But we started working on the house,

designing it, taking it apart, putting it back together, learning lessons about actual construction." "The house was featured in *Homes of Color* magazine in 2003," says Ivenue. "We were working together from day one," William adds.

While they work together, they bring different skills to their business. William takes the lead on design while Ivenue takes the lead on production, which matches their personalities. "She's straight-laced and prim and proper, and I'm a bon vivant," says William. "He's Paris, and I'm Berlin," Ivenue says. In fact, their different approaches led to her parents questioning her before they married. "They asked are you sure you want to marry and work together because it's a lot of time together, but it has worked." Their pairing has resulted in numerous awards and accolades. The American Institute of Architects bestowed the 2014 Whitney M. Young, Jr. Award upon Ivenue and named William the 52nd chancellor of the College of Fellows of the organization also in 2014.

Although working on the Olympic Aquatic Center, a joint venture with Smallwood, Reynolds, Stewart, Stewart and Associates at their alma mater has been a highlight, the collapse of a steel beam at the center was a low point for the firm. "It was big news," says William of the 1996 Summer Olympics venue. "The construction method used for it was the cause, but it was our joint venture. It was under our seal." Ivenue was disappointed by the responses of others. "You think about encouragement, when it happened, I'm sure there are jealousies, but no one came up and said to us, 'Are you okay?' It was traumatic."

Many of their projects have been for religious organizations. "My cousin in Chicago, who is an architect, told me, 'Don't work for those preachers. They don't pay.' He did a lot of ecclesiastical buildings," says William. "So, for a long time, I didn't seek them out. But if you get a good client, it's fine." Designed to resemble an African hut and featuring African-style crosses with other Afrocentric details, the Horizon Sanctuary at Ebenezer Baptist Church has likely become one of the firm's most famous edifices, and William enjoys visiting the church. "Seeing the dancers perform, the choir jumping up and down, the preacher, folks moving up and down the aisle, the drums beating, the symphony performing. You derive great joy seeing people enjoy what you have designed. That is what it's all about." **AT**



LEGACY | WILLIAM J. "BILL" TAGGART

By: Katrice L. Mines

Even as a teen, Bill Taggart was extremely ambitious and exhibited humility beyond his age.

"At an early age, I noticed he didn't enjoy the typical activities of most of his peers," says his mother Marian Taggart. "He enjoyed spending his time reading, drawing and writing."

That marked ability to focus and hone in on his mental strength served Bill well in his life pursuits as he would distinguish himself across many sectors as an executive up until his untimely death in June of this year.

Bill — the former CEO of Atlanta Life — was two months into the role of interim president of Morehouse College after serving as executive-in-residence and chief operating officer since 2015.

With more than 30 years of experience with *Fortune* 500 companies, higher education, boutique firms and federal government agencies, he distinguished himself as a result-driven leader in both public and private sectors. At Morehouse, he led and transformed the institutional development, technology, campus operations, and human resources functions of the college while also serving as the external relations liaison to the Atlanta business and civic community, corporate America and global philanthropic organizations.

So often referred to as a "great guy," the brightness of his countenance and inviting warm smile were impossible to resist, his partner Wonya Lucas shares. "If you were engaged in conversation with him, you experienced his keen mind — capable of sharing detailed statistics or just sharing a little known historical reference or fact. Not only did he have depth, but breadth as well. He could speak on almost any subject in a meaningful way. He never met a stranger, and was always curious to know and learn about you. He was fun with an incredible sense of humor and a quick wit. He had a tremendous presence not just because he was 6'5", but because he was always 'all in' whether in a private conversation or a large crowd."

The Atlanta native had also served as CEO of Atlanta Life Financial Group where he led the transformation of the 110-year-old firm that resulted in profits increasing over 70 percent, while doubling the firm's total equity and reinstating the corporate dividend to shareholders. He had also served as COO for the Office of Federal Student Aid, appointed by U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan. During his tenure, Taggart successfully led FSA through the most significant period of growth in its history. He grew federal aid to 15 million college students from \$96 to \$150 billion dollars annually.

His passion for community was obvious in his undertakings toward the betterment of the Westside. Spending time with his grandparents in the English Avenue community, he learned about what was important in life. In the shadow of the AU Center, Bill understood the importance of having a great education, and the impact it could have on one's economic mobility.

"Listening to his grandfather's experiences working at Trust Company Bank, he learned how to make the best of your career based on the foundation of a strong work ethic," Lucas says. "He saw a vibrant community which was close knit and able to leverage education, job opportunities, the entrepreneurial spirit and community support to better their economic and social circumstances. So, the Westside's current conditions were troubling to him, and he wanted to ensure that the residents, particularly the long-time residents, had the ability to live in a safe, vibrant and economically sustainable community. From working at Morehouse to serving on the Westside Future Fund to being Chair of the Atlanta Business League, helping the African-American community prosper was his passion."

Another great love, for the Howard University and Harvard Business School Alumnus, was family.

While the father of one daughter, Elizabeth, could be found on any given weekend with Lucas attending a community fundraiser, Old School R&B concert or Falcons game, Lucas says their best times were spent with family.

"He loved his Sunday dinner enjoying his mom's cooking, and then ending the day watching a sports event, documentary or movie at home. He loved taking Elizabeth to the movies where he would often fall asleep but pretend to know the details of the movie afterward! He loved hosting his extended family members during a holiday or watching sports in his home theatre with his cousins."

The Atlanta business and civic community lost a giant in Bill who was avidly involved in various business and civic organizations including Atlanta Business League, 100 Black Men of America, The Carter Center, Woodruff Arts Center and Children Healthcare of Atlanta and Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Incorporated.

"Bill was the most genuine and loving person," Marian says. "His grandfather played an intricate part of his early development of his goal to become a successful business executive. Bill's compassion drove him to do just that." **AT**



Alex "Cost One" Acosta | Soul Food Cypher

By Katrice L. Mines

Soul Food Cypher utilizes the power of speech to transform the lives of individuals and their communities. Founded by Alex "Cost One" Acosta, the organization showcases the positive aspects of rap through our cypher events, membership program, and community outreach to provide Atlanta's lyricist (rappers) community with a nurturing environment where their voices and artistry can grow. In addition, SFC looks to solidify the art of freestyling as a genuine aesthetic to the wider artistic community and carry this rich tradition to the next generation. Acosta, for his vision, has been selected as a fellow in the Center for Civic Innovation program.

The Center for Civic Innovation launched the Civic Innovation Fellowship, a leadership and business development program for social entrepreneurs in Atlanta, to support individuals with innovative, outcome-driven ideas to tackle social challenges in Atlanta. Acosta is one such innovator and SFC is set to challenge the city's social challenges.

The Cypher

A community, the cypher is a place where lyricists, under the guidance of meter and rhyme, share stories, exchange knowledge and speak freely. To add to the spirit of camaraderie and display of skill, cyphers consist of a series of exercises which test an emcee's ability of teamwork, mental agility, and creativity. Writing assignments also make up a big part of the program, which challenges lyricists' writing techniques and encourages exploring content outside of their comfort zone to present to their audiences. The membership-oriented SFC offers participants the forum to gain knowledge, experience, and eventually become experts in the fields of multimedia, business operation and event coordination.

Community Outreach

SFC understands the importance of the individuals' role in transforming their community. In recent years, organizers have



had a bad rap because of the schools they went to and the violence and drugs in the neighborhood. This was a false narrative, as these teens were some of the wittiest and most talented youth I had ever been around. However, because of where they lived, they didn't have access to some of the same opportunities teens in more affluent neighborhoods had. At the end of our sessions, we would spark freestyle cyphers and in these cyphers their creativity would blossom and I connect with them on the love for the culture.

At the same time, I would spark freestyle cyphers outside of Whitefoord with some of my friends. These were young professionals with unique skill sets who also wanted to meet other emcees and give back through their talents. Why not create regularly held freestyle cypher events where emcees from all over Atlanta could congregate? I had the perfect place in mind ... the basement of WonderRoot. With my friends Wahid Kosraean, Mark Montgomery, Majorca Murphy, and Eric "Zane" Lodged we formed Soul Food Cypher in 2012. Our intent was to create a safe and nurturing environment in which the craft could prosper and showcase the positive aspects of hip hop culture while passing the torch to the next generation.

AT: How did you get involved with The Center for Civic Innovation?

I had the opportunity to speak during Art Leaders of Metro of Atlanta in the Spring of 2015. Bem Joiner, who is a staff member at

noted a growing gap in education, local activities, and after-school programs for inner-city and at-risk youth in Atlanta. One of its aims is to diminish this gap and lack of attention to the youths' needs by current community programming and by offering workshops which can be designed to fit community-based programs, classroom lesson plans or corporate retreat goals.

Acosta

Atlanta Tribune: What inspired you to create Soul Food Cypher?

In the Summer of 2011, my friend and local artist Sean Fahie introduced me to the Whitefoord Intel computer clubhouse in the Edgewood neighborhood in East Atlanta. He had been working with teens there and invited me to volunteer as a photography instructor (my background is photojournalism). No pun intended but at that time, the teens in the neighborhood





CCI, was in the audience and introduced me to the center, and told me I needed to come to the center to see what they had going on. When I arrived, I meet the center's founder and executive director, Rohit Malhotra. I instantly connected with Bem, Rohit, and the rest of the staff. I began taking all the classes I could. It was amazing being able to connect with other entrepreneurs and community builders. I have learned a great deal from being a part of the Center for Civic Innovation Family and am forever thankful Atlanta has CCI.

AT: What has been your biggest “win” this far?

Our biggest win is the family and community that we've fostered over the year. That includes the members that make our cypher complete ... That includes the volunteers who make our events possible... and regulars who attend all of our events. We showcase some of the most talented individuals in Atlanta and share this amazing art form on stages and classes room near and far. It is always a win to be able to touch people at these events and inspire them to use their words to make who they want to be and their communities where they want to be.

As far as opportunities, last year, Air Serenbe named a focus fellowship after one of our fallen Emcees Shy Jones for their residency program that centered on freestyle lyricists doing work for children. One of our longtime members and singer/songwriter Bright Son had an opportunity to fulfill this residency in Shy's name. This opportunity brought things full circle and keeps Shy's memory alive. That's wins all around!

AT: In this atmosphere of escalated political activism, where do you see the SFC in this space?

The cypher is a place that welcomes all that

enter it with respect. Hip Hop culture, and particularly rap music, is now America's mainstream music. Young and old, black and white, rich and poor, have heard and been inspired by the music to take action or hit the dance floor. With this in mind, we provide a place for people to connect in an environment that cares little about all the superfluous things and more about your energy, message, and skill. The cypher by design is one of the purest forms of democracy as everyone in the circle is eye-level and the emcees are getting feedback in real time about their message.

The true potential of the cypher is to break down the walls of communication that divide individuals. The cypher helps people realize that there's something unique in each of us and we all have something to say. Also, through shared dialogue, we realize we are going through much of the same things and are all very similar.

AT: What is your gauge for being able to bite the impact you have and are making?

On a personal note, I gauge our impact on how those same young men I started mentoring at Whitefoord are doing today. Many still regularly attend the cypher and have joined our membership program. I see the young men they have grown into and the positivity and awareness they are spreading in their community. One in particular, Cliff Icon, understands that being an emcee means to be a leader in his community and has taken responsibility to use his voice to speak about the issues affecting his community and promote awareness. To me, that's the point in all of this: Empowering emcees to use their voice to empower themselves and their communities. Because when you think about it, as Rakim so eloquently put it, “Emcee to me means move the crowd.” In addition, Emcees have the power to move the classroom, move the community, and ultimately move the city.

AT



Tiffany Latrice | TILA Studios

By Kamille D. Whittaker



A little after 10 a.m. on a Saturday morning, two artists enter TILA Studios to set up shop for the day. Colbie Fray — photographer, videographer and film director — is relatively new to the space, but has her camera at the ready. She's usually working through the night, but mixes her schedule up often. Whatever moves her. Certified Yoga instructor Toure Akela Ra, busies herself in the room adjacent to the artsy co-working space. She comes in to lend some context to the talk about the last hip hop Paint and Sip event that filled the vast Historic Downtown East Point space. Her creation, still at the front of the room, was an amalgam of WuTang and Special Ed. She lingered to look at it quietly for a moment before heading back into the gallery, queuing up an upbeat mix of tunes that was neither Wu-Tang or Special Ed, in preparation for the yoga class that she guides in the gallery on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays.

The gallery's walls are bare now, but it hasn't been for long. The "Cranes, Crowns and Scales" exhibit just wrapped, featuring local artists such as Ariel Dannielle who, in addition to blessing the walls, led an Expressionist Workshop inspired by the work of trailblazing artists Alama Thomas, Joan Mitchell and Elaine de Kooning.



INNOVATOR

In that session, attendees learned to work with acrylics in an expressive yet technical way through portrait painting, while also becoming familiar with the techniques and styles that can transfer to other mediums such as oil and watercolor.

Monthly, there are art critique sessions for women. Formatted to resemble a MFA curriculum, this program allows artists to present their work and receive invaluable peer critiques. It's limited to 15 people to keep the sessions small and intimate so that the critique is effective and balanced.

It is everything that Tiffany Latrice, executive director and founder of the space and concept, could have imagined on the other side of a grueling stint at NBCUniversal in New York. She spent her first nine months in Georgia creating a body of work titled "When Fire Gives You Sunshine," punctuating a three-year spell where she realized she hadn't created an original piece of artwork. The subtext: If she painted every day for at least six hours a day, could art be what she really wanted? Could it be self-sustaining?

In Atlanta, certainly.

Years before, Latrice's master's thesis at Sarah Lawrence College discussed Meta Warrick Fuller's robust art practice in the 19th Century and how she was able to attain success by leveraging her friendships with other women.

So, Latrice created and shaped the space she needed, combining her passion for art, academic studies, and all things women empowerment.

"While practicing in Atlanta, I noticed that there are barriers to entry for women who are artists, especially women of color." Latrice, who just began the 2017 Center for Civic Innovation Fellowship, notes that women were creating, but not in very collective way. "So where do we all meet up, and where do we practice, and what do we talk about our work that is very unbiased or sexist, and things like that? I realized that by combining my extensive art practice with my astute business acumen, I could help women in Atlanta become trailblazers in the art world."

TILA Studios provides women with a safe space to create ambitious art projects, receive professional development and art management services, as well as exhibition opportunities with its on-site gallery. It's a visual arts incubator, co-working and shared gallery space for emerging female artists in the Metro Atlanta Area.

Who are the women artists in Atlanta? "Sara Santamaria, Yanique Norman, Tracy Murrell, Shanequa Gay, Diamond Bradley, Taylor Bailey, Sierra King and the countless number of other amazing female artist practicing in Atlanta ..." Latrice lists. And where are they? Likely "In search of their mother's gardens" ... setting up shop on a Saturday morning like Colbie and Toure for another ordinary day of creating art on their own terms. **AT**



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SISTERS DO BREAKFAST



Carisse and Eboni Moody's backgrounds in finance and law make their foray into franchising a fitting complement for the skills they've learned to leverage. The 30-something duo researched Famous Toastery's story which began in 2005 in Huntersville, N.C., in a small house-turned-restaurant where best friends Brian Burchill and Robert Maynard opened their first breakfast spot. News of their fresh-made breakfasts and fun atmosphere spread. The concept quickly grew to three locations, serving new and loyal clients its made-from-scratch takes on breakfast classics. Now, owners Carisse and Eboni are hoping to add Famous Toastery to Atlantans' choices for the most important meal of the day.

Atlanta Tribune: What brings you to the Metro Atlanta area? What made you choose an OTP market?

Carisse: Suwanee reminded us of our hometown of Red Oak, N.C. It's a tight-knit group of diverse people. We wanted to move to an environment that we thought we could transition into and Suwanee felt like home. We are hoping that we can leave as great of an impression on Suwanee as Suwanee has given us.

AT: What made you decide to own a business?

Carisse: We think it's a matter of having to work with something from the ground up, to work hard and see something grow. Opening a business was something that Eboni and I really wanted to do. To have the opportunity to work with a smaller franchise that's expanding, like Famous Toastery, we jumped in at the perfect time.

Eboni: We wanted to create a plan to help our parents retire early. They provided for us, so now we are returning the favor. Owning our business will give us the financial comfort to help them along the way.

AT: Tell us more about the Famous Toastery brand and why it was the perfect fit for you both.

Carisse: It's all about balance. When we were looking at franchises, Famous Toastery stood out because it allows our employees to have great work-life balance. Our operating hours are 7 a.m. to 3 p.m., allowing us all to go home and enjoy time with our family and friends, recharge our batteries, then come back to work the next day ready to give our guests a great experience.

Eboni: Not only that, the food is just amazing with all fresh ingredients. We can't get enough of the made-from-scratch banana and peanut butter stuffed French toast and avocado omelets. There truly isn't another brand like it in the market right now. We are excited to bring the first Famous Toastery to the state of Georgia and we have plans to open at least four more locations throughout the state.

AT: What advice would you give young women wanting to break into the world of owning a business?

Carisse: Don't let risk hold you back from jumping out of your comfort zone. So many people are afraid of departing from what they know into a totally new industry or career path. It's one of those things that if you try hard, it's very possible you will succeed. Be your own biggest motivator and believe in yourself. **AT**

Fundraising Veteran Sam Burston to Create ‘Another Kind of Masterpiece’ as Vice President and Chief Advancement Officer of Clark Atlanta University



Sam D. Burston has been appointed vice president and chief advancement officer of Clark Atlanta University.

In this new role, Burston will oversee the University's fundraising, advancement services, public relations and marketing and media relations functions.

"Sam Burston is one of America's most respected advocates for higher education opportunity. His work at the United Negro College Fund through special events alone, resulted in increased revenues, from \$3.1 million to \$9.1 million in only five years, increased national visibility and, most important, exponential impact in the lives of deserving young scholars," Ronald A. Johnson, the president of CAU, notes. "We are most fortunate that he sees in this new assignment a comparable scope of possibility and reward in our work to transform Clark Atlanta University into a global pipeline for intellect, research, creativity, innovation and entrepreneurship. With Sam now a part of our advancement team, I am confident that our ongoing transformation can become a model for 21st century academia, not just among HBCUs, but for all of America's higher education community."

Burston, who had served as national director of the United Negro College Fund since 2011, brings 20 years of executive-level development experience to this new post. He joined the UNCF in 1997 as area director. In 2003, he was UNCF's regional director of workplace initiatives. From 2005 to 2011, he served as its regional development director, managing a staff of 13, including six area development directors. In this role, Burston directed public relations and constituent communications, alumni relations and volunteer engagement, and also helped

develop campaign programs and collateral, all resulting in achieving an annual \$7.5 million goal. As national director, he was responsible for constituent initiatives among national groups and professional organizations, faith-based campaigns and programs among other key donor segments. His portfolio included oversight of nearly 90 annual initiatives, from national broadcasts, to signature galas, to alumni and pre-alumni development conferences."

Burston says that while accepting a new assignment outside of UNCF required thoughtful consideration, joining the team at Clark Atlanta University was an easy decision. "My experiences with UNCF are ones that I treasure. They continue to illuminate my professional path. I've had the honor of working with development professionals across the United States. The relationships I've developed and the successes achieved by our UNCF team are irreplaceable. My decision to join the advancement team at Clark Atlanta," he adds, "will allow me to channel those experiences into work that I believe will ultimately impact how others view the role of HBCUs in heightening and sustaining America's global competitiveness. It's an exciting undertaking and, for me a chance to help create another kind of masterpiece," says Burston, also an acclaimed visual artist. AT "I have long respected and admired Sam Burston's work," says Caldwell. He is a die-hard advocate for our nation's HBCUs and a stalwart champion for creating equity and access for young scholars and leaders. His personal and professional integrity are unimpeachable and, as important, his creativity is in large part responsible for elevating the UNCF brand. I am excited to now have his expertise and perspective on our team at CAU. He is a pivotal addition to our ranks and will play a key role in our institutional transformation." **AT**



About the Author:

Brent Leary is a partner of CRM Essentials. He is co-author of "Barack 2.0: Social Media Lessons for Small Business." You can follow him on Twitter at twitter.com/brentleary

Marketing Tech is Driving Companies to Up Their Customer Engagement Game

Marketing technology expert Scott Brinker put out his first MarTech Landscape infographic of vendors in 2011, where it included 150 vendors. And since, the annual infographic has become an industry standard for understanding the MarTech landscape. The 2017 edition features an astounding 5,381 marketing technology vendors.

Collaborating with Brinker on the 2017 list was Atlanta-based expert Anand Thaker, CEO and founder of IntelliPhi. I had the opportunity to talk to Anand about the current MarTech landscape. Here are a few takeaways from our conversation.

There's a lot more data, a lot more devices, a lot more interactions taking place today. How does that shape what's going on with technology from a marketing perspective?

Anand Thaker: A lot of the work that's being done and the products that are being developed are still relatively point solutions. A lot of companies are still talking about platforms, and I think that's also aspirational, and it needs to be. I think with marketers, when you have 5,381 tools at your disposal, it's pretty tough to be able to understand what you really need and don't need. But at the same time, it's been very much helping marketers understand how to operationalize the work that they're doing, get some top level insights about how their campaigns are performing, and, quite frankly, really understand how to transform to be a modern marketer in this digital world.

Artificial intelligence has been the big theme for the year. Where does marketing technology play a role in artificial intelligence and how companies are using it?

Anand Thaker: I see a lot of opportunity for marketers in AI around the idea of being able to really sharpen a pencil. I know that I have a number of leads in the pipeline, and AI helps to be able to prioritize which ones we should go after. Also, another opportunity is to uncover things or uncover opportunities that may not be completely visible or understood by one person. So, if there's a tremendous amount of data at your disposal, having AI is useful to be able to gain some insights or some new insights that you may not have.



You were talking before about the behavioral side of things and how some startups are really heavy on the data side, maybe a little too heavy. Can they be too heavy on data in this day and age?

Anand Thaker: There's never enough data, certainly. How much you rely on it holistically in the decisions that you're making is something that should be under question, right? I think that, especially in the status-based world, which is prolific around the marketing technology space, predictable revenue has really started to trend on finding ways to understand our company from that data perspective. And that has pretty much taken hold. And at the same time, that's very good for early to mid, in some instances late-stage startups. But what are you sacrificing in terms of potential other opportunities? There are a lot of new innovations that have occurred in our lifetimes that haven't been because of a customer or data point, right? There's just a lot of wisdom and instinct, and judgment that has been developed over time and that actually does have a significant role to play in how marketers should think about a lot of these things.

The current MarTech landscape infographic includes more than 5,300 companies. What areas are driving this growth?

Anand Thaker: Areas like artificial intelligence), account based marketing, customer experience and customer data platforms are driving new startups to join the MarTech landscape. **AT**

Yvette Pegues Has All the Right Moves

By Donnell Suggs

“**H**aving a disability is scary but it’s not impossible,” says Yvette Pegues an hour before she’s scheduled to take center stage to speak the virtues of the Quadriciser Therapy System at a speaking engagement in Kennesaw. “We are all capable of greatness.” Having used the Quadriciser for six to eight months, Pegues was the perfect person to speak about the machine and what exercise and staying active — both mentally and physically — can do for anyone’s life, disabled or not. Her company, Your Invisible Disability Group, attempts to better prepare companies to create a culture of inclusion for individual employees or customers. “It’s not just a non-profit service; I think it’s bigger than that,” Pegues says. “People need services specifically for their needs. Every single disability is different and our services just don’t end with providing people with information.”

Pegues’ goal during the wellness event: to get individuals with temporary or permanent disabilities motivated about getting mobile again. “Non-movement can lead to depression, weight gain and many other problems,” says the mother of two who was diagnosed with a genetic brain defect years ago and had to learn to use her body all over again. She wasn’t just up there to speak about living with a disability, she was “living forward;” something she has tried to do every day since her diagnosis. “We are the largest people group in the world,” she says of the millions of Americans with permanent or temporary disabilities through incident, injury or accident. “I’m trying to create a solution for a problem that most will have at a certain point of their lives. Pegues mentions aging as an example of how anyone can be affected. “Our organization helps people live forward after a life-changing event.”

Pegues knows a little something about that as well.

The former systems engineer was even medically mute for eight months. “God created our bodies to move, to have constant flow and if technology catches up to us and we are able to move again, we have to be sure to have taken care of our bodies.”

Pegues is confined to a wheelchair but only in the actual sense. Her life and career as a mother, public speaker, adaptability expert, life coach, author and former Ms. Georgia Wheelchair and Ms. Wheelchair USA (2014-2015) makes Pegues a perfect example of what happens when one’s life and the life of their family changes in an instant and what was once the norm becomes anything but. “I know as a woman of God he will use this to get

me to where he wants me to go,” says the Miami, Fla., native and multiple degree holder. “I went from being an engineer to being disabled to being a pageant winner to being a published author. I’m so much more than my disabilities.”

Currently in school working on a doctorate in education, Pegues is an example to many, particularly her sons, of perseverance and “sticktoitiveness.” “I want them to never have an excuse,” she explains. “Hopefully they will be inspired to get their education and continue learning after that.”

Pegues, herself, is still learning. Despite having grown up in Florida, she did not know how to swim; flash forward to today and she is now a triathlon finisher.

“I don’t think I ever even walked five miles when I was able-bodied,” she says with a laugh. “When I got to the finish line I heard someone say ‘congratulations Ms. Pegues you are a triathlete’, not a para-triathlete. It’s all about taking that first step and inspiring people. If I can, you can.” **AT**





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THE JULIA | MIAMI, FLA.

By Katrice L. Mines

It's not difficult to be sold on a weekend, just minutes from the ocean in South Beach Miami. Add to it three days in boutique accommodations curated especially for adults, only; and a complimentary French-inspired breakfast spread that includes croissants and vegan banana bread or an olive loaf and wine during the evening wind down, and you have the makings of a satisfying escape.

The Julia, a 29-room hotel in the South of Fifth neighborhood, is named after the iconic founder of Miami

Julia Tuttle. A complementary addition to the restaurants and shops sprinkled throughout the relaxed and walkable residential area, its fresh and modern aesthetic begins from the street — the traditional, yet atypical, Art Deco facade and Mediterranean Revival architecture are from its original build in the 1930s. The Julia is built from the foundation of the third oldest hotel in Miami Beach.

Crafted by renowned architect and interior designer Stephen Busto, the property's interior begins with an eclectic Mediterranean garden party-styled lobby —

antique touches intermingled, including the original Cuban tile flooring and artwork from local and international artists. Modernities like a Starbucks coffee machine, floods of natural lighting and plenty of periodicals make the hub of it all an apt meeting place that feels both chic and proper.

The adults-only concept is precisely delivered in The Julia's minimalist and smart guest rooms. Outfitted with custom-designed furnishings, solid oak plank flooring and modern artwork throughout, the details have been fine tuned. In each room, paper cutouts in the style of Matisse, by Canadian artist Edward Bader, feature faceless vacationers floating in serene pools of color. The message: you bring yourself to this artwork ... *and* you were top of mind in the design of this stay. For a little extra, book one of the five two-story "Ibis" rooms featuring vaulted ceilings from which hand-crafted art installations of the Scarlet Ibis, a native to the tropics, playfully lend colorful silhouettes.

And when you're taking in the surroundings from its patio, you'll likely christen "break from the norm" that is The Julia both just right and just enough.

Nightly rates start at \$189. **AT**



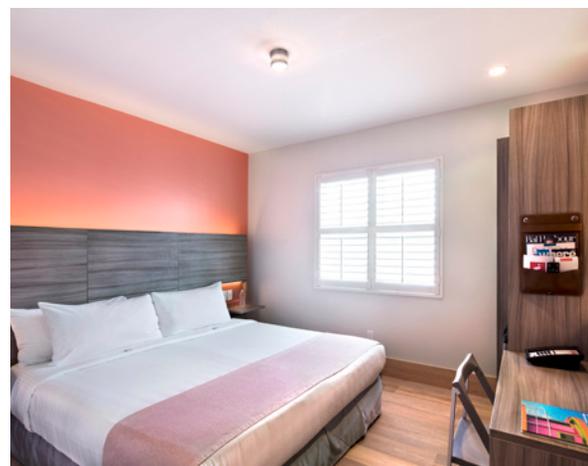
What to do while there.

Sunrise Yoga: Stroll down a couple of blocks to the beach for yoga alongside the ocean. Bliss.

The Brickell City Centre: Shop a spell and then grab lunch at the **Big Easy Wine Bar & Grill**. Inspired by the lifestyle and spirit of South Africa, the unfussy, woodsy digs backdrop comfort fare like hand cut steaks, Cauliflower Samosas, Chili-Coffee Rubbed Pork Flat Bread and Mini Malay Veggie Bunny Chow.

Phillip and Patricia Frost Museum of Science: Recently opened in downtown Miami's waterfront Museum Park, Frost Science is dedicated the core science behind living systems, the solar system and known universe, the physics of flight, light and lasers, the biology of the human body and mind, and much more. Guests can explore the world of science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) in an experiential setting with interactive exhibitions and unique shows.

Lobster Bar Sea Grille (Miami Beach): World-class seafood, prime steaks, and superior service in a dazzling, upscale setting. The Lobster Bar Lobster Bisque Au Cognac is a must.





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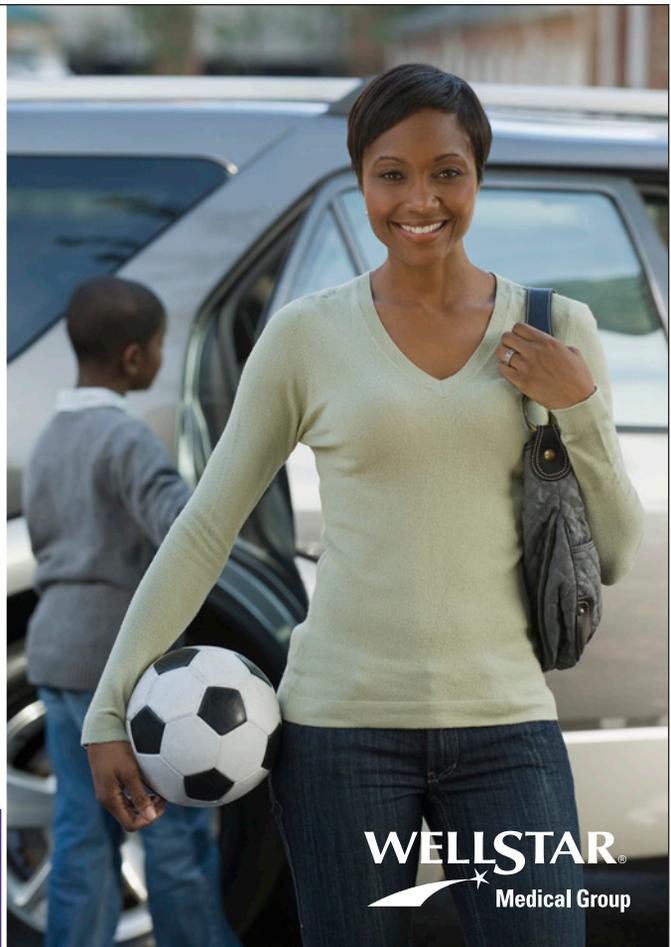
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Go Further

2018 KIA RIO: BEST IN CLASS?



by Brian Armstead

Thankfully, automakers have not abandoned the entry-level sedan. There are a lot of drivers in the United States that, for personal or financial reasons, just don't want to spend a lot of money on a new car purchase. So, should they be cheated with under-equipped buckets of steel with little to no creature comforts? Should they have to suffer with poor reliability and deal with cars that provide very little safety?

Well, Kia doesn't think so. Yes, the Hamster brand which prides itself on providing a wide range of sedans, coupes and utility vehicles, takes care of the entry level end of the market with the excellent 2018 Kia Rio. It's a roomy, well-equipped, and now much safer way to get around town with comfort and convenience.

I mentioned safety because the Rio, now in its fourth generation, was not a stellar performer in government and insurance industry safety testing. As I strongly urge everyone buy their cars based on safety, I can now recommend the 2018 Rio, as Kia went back to the "drawing board" when designing the Rio's safety protocols. And you get all of the same safety gear no matter what trim level you choose. From the \$13,900 base LX, to the \$16,100 S, and in the \$18,400 EX, expect crash test scores to be much better in this all-new edition. The 2018 Rio is also available in sporty hatchback (five-door) trim, just add \$300 to each respective trim level for prices.

Which now leads us to the aforementioned pricing. Just \$13,900 for the LX? There is no way Kia can effectively content this vehicle for such a low price.

Wrong!

One of the hallmarks of Kia, and corporate cousin Hyundai, is that these two, then upstart brands from South Korea, have always thrown the "kitchen sink" into all of the vehicles they sell, no matter the price point.

On the road, the 130 horsepower four banger is peppy, but inadequate until you select "sport" mode (auto transmission models). Then the car comes alive and promises to get out of its own way during highway passing maneuvers.

Thanks to the upgraded-for-its-class suspension, and motor driven power steering, tossing the Rio around is fun. Not quite Mazda Miata like fun, but fun nonetheless. All Rios are Front-Wheel Drive. Just when you thought drum brakes would finally die, S and LX trims have rear drums, while LX trim offers disc brakes front and rear.

The 2018 Kia Rio offers exceptional value across all trim levels. Factor in Kia's incredible 10-year, 100,000-mile limited powertrain warranty, and aside from corporate cousin Hyundai Accent, no other manufacturer offers so much for so little money. **AT**

WEEKENDER

DINNER PARTY



'Tis the season.

Midnight Barbecue at Studio No. 7

The first thing you should know is that it's not at midnight. The second, it's not technically a barbecue. Instead, it's an opportunity for creatives and conversationalists to get together in a laid-back environment. It combines a love of street food, craft cocktails, and global culture. Each installment coincides with the latest exhibit at Studio No. 7, which attendees can view before enjoying a three to five course meal that has been thoughtfully paired with cocktails.

studio7.com

Civic Dinner

Civic Dinners gathers together six to 10 diverse guests – friends, coworkers, neighbors, community members – around the table face-to-face to have conversations that matter, prompted by three questions designed to bring out personal stories, shared values and empathetic actions. There are no speakers, special guests or egos at the table.

cividdinners.com

Hush Dinner Club

A simple enough concept: Great food, great friends, and a great time. As a roving supper club, you'll dine at all the best restaurants around Atlanta with the best people in town.

hushdinnerclub.com

Le Diner en Blanc

Le Diner en Blanc is an annual al fresco, invite-only dinner party at locations revealed only to the attendees in the final moments. If invited to attend, all you must do is bring a table, tablecloth, and two white chairs – and, of course, dress elegantly and in white. Sign up now for a chance to be invited.

atlanta.dinerenblanc.com

DECEMBER:

2017 HALL OF FAME INDUCTION CEREMONY

SUNTRUST PARK

DECEMBER 7, 2017 | 6-9:30 P.M.

For the 19th consecutive year, Atlanta Tribune: The Magazine will recognize the achievements of Georgia's most notable individuals at its 2017 Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony.

<https://at2017hof.eventbrite.com>

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SATURDAY, DECEMBER 16, 2017

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Join the United Negro College Fund and Atlanta Mayor Kasim Reed at Atlanta's signature fundraising gala. Founded more than a quarter century ago by former Mayor Andrew Young and Billye S. Aaron, the ball's purpose is to involve celebrities, dignitaries, civic leaders, volunteers, public officials and other supporters in the annual local fund-raising activities for UNCF.

Uncf.org

JANUARY

27th ANNUAL TRUMPET AWARDS

JANUARY 20, 2018

LOCATION: COBB ENERGY PERFORMING CENTER

The awards, conceived by Xernona Clayton, and this year hosted by Larenz Tate and Erica Ash, acknowledge the accomplishments of men and women who have significantly contributed to enhancing the quality of life for groups and individuals by partnering with the cause of justice and equality for all.

Trumpetfoundation.org

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Panelists Martin Luther King III '79, The Rev. Dr. Raphael Warnock '91, State Representative Stacey Abrams, Ambassador Andrew Young engage in an intergenerational conversation to discuss, "Where Do We Go from Here?"

morehouse.edu



Rooftop Terrace, Le Pavillon Hotel

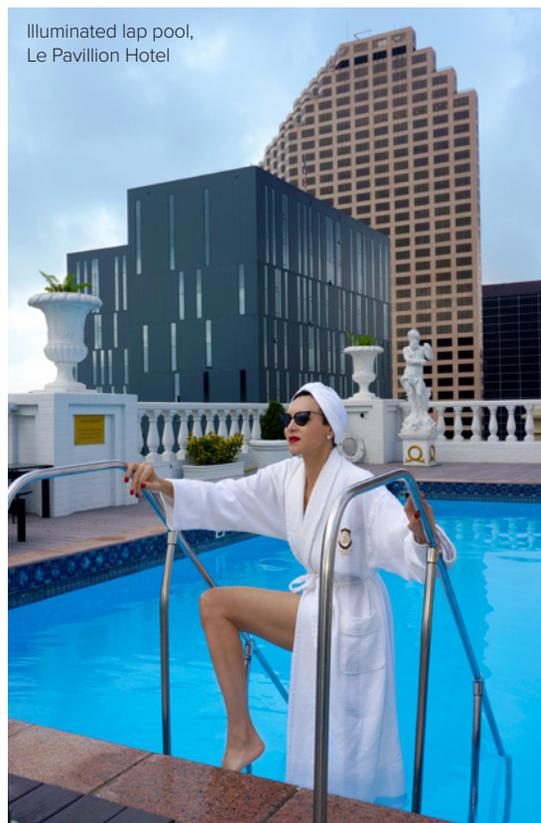
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LE PAVILLON HOTEL

NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA

by Regina Lynch-Hudson
 Photography by Courtland C. Bivens III

From the rooftop terrace of New Orleans' luxurious Le Pavillon Hotel, I found the ideal perch to look back over the past year, while overlooking the heart of America's most celebratory city. Offering a bird's eye view of downtown New Orleans, the centrally located Le Pavillon Hotel is mere blocks from the French Quarter's 'Crown Jewel' main artery, Bourbon Street – a spirited strip of jazz clubs and quaint watering holes that cater to high-energy seekers. Nearby, Royal Street (more my speed) flaunts a walkable mélange of antique and art galleries, boutiques and legendary restaurants. Not only is Le Pavillon a sweet spot to soak in the street scenes, it is also a prime locale to make lofty proclamations. After a lap in the illuminated pool, and a resolution or two, I reveled in the surrounding spectacle of holiday glitz, glamour and grit.



Illuminated lap pool, Le Pavillon Hotel

Bling Nest: Le Pavillon, built in 1907, is a stunningly commanding structure, and a member of Historic Hotels of America and Leading Hotels of the World. The hotel's environs are where Parisian splendor mixes with Old World architectural beauty. Here, we waltzed under crystal chandeliers, amid antiques and Italian statues, in route to our gorgeously appointed guestroom – one of 226 inside the property. Le Gallery Lounge, the hotel's mini-art gallery, rounded off an enchanting experience. www.lepavillon.com

Holiday Cuisine: Cajun and Creole fare is a popular lure for visitors during yuletide season. Restaurants show off with multi-course spreads, showcasing Crawfish Étouffée, Jambalaya, Gumbo, Beignets and holiday twists on local favorites. Meals in the Le Pavillon Hotel's award-winning Crystal Room proved to be hearty feasts of French cuisine with Southern flair.

Breakfast at Brennans (www.brennansneworleans.com) is another dining tradition. We religiously order Flaming Bananas Foster as the grand finale, and gasp as it's created before



Le Gallery, Le Pavillon Hotel

our very eyes. Dinner at Restaurant R'evolution (www.revolutionnola.com) offered imaginative reinterpretations of classic dishes – and my “R” monogram on the china was an endearing touch.

Shopaholic's Paradise: New Orleans is a top market for handcrafted gifts where artists and artisans create one-of-a-kind finds.. Hubby hit a homerun when he stumbled upon the Tresor Gallery, and surprised me with a custom-constructed doll, designed by master doll-maker Vinsantos, and created as a whimsical caricature of its owner, yours truly. Vinsantos even flew to Atlanta to fine-tune the grand dame. www.tresorgallery.com **AT**



Flaming Bananas Foster at Breenans



TresorGallery, Vinsantos



Blissbehavin' In covers top bliss destinations where busy executives indulge in leisure activities. Publicist/travel writer Regina Lynch-Hudson has developed articles, and destination marketing concepts for countless airlines, venues and tourism boards. www.thewritepublicist.com

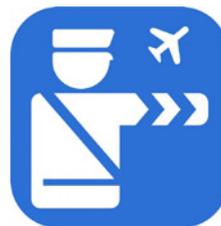


PASS IT ON

If you travel abroad often, you've likely come to dread the inevitably long customs lines. But for travelers through 24 airports across the United States, the wait just became a bit less inevitable with the roll out of the MOBILE PASSPORT app.

The travel hack we've all been waiting for, international travelers can download the U.S. Customs and Border Protection's Mobile Passport app before your next trip. Set up your profile and you're ready for your next trip. MOBILE PASSPORT allows U.S. and Canadian passport holders (on B1 or B2 visas) to submit their passport control and customs declaration information via their iPhone or iPad and bypass the regular line to enter the United States.

This app effectively replaces the traditional blue-and-white paper declaration form required of all travelers entering the United States by air or sea. When you land at one of 24 select airports, you'll find a special Mobile Passport lane that's almost always far shorter than the regular customs line, and it's free. Atlanta, Dallas, Baltimore, Boston, Chicago, New York, Los Angeles ... Need we go on? **AT**



AHEAD: Saving for the Mid-level to Senior Executive

There is no silver bullet to achieve financial security. The most effective way to reach financial goals is through an appropriate blend of financial products to build, protect and preserve wealth long-term.

By your 40s and 50s, you are likely settled into your career and reaching your highest potential income-earning years. It's important to continue to stay the course and not get sidetracked from your retirement goals.

SEEK THE HELP OF A PROFESSIONAL

People try to go it alone when, in fact, they would benefit more from seeking professional advice by interviewing two or three people and finding someone you are comfortable working with.

CONSIDER LONG-TERM EXPENSES

Consider long-term care, especially for your parents. With time on your side, retirement could be only 20 years down the road, so now is the time to take advantage of catch-up provisions, which allow you to invest more on a tax-deferred basis, and think about long-term care insurance – you need to protect your money.

KEY ADVICE: Create multiple streams of income. Think about passions that you can turn into a side business, or consider real estate investing. Ultimately, diversifying your income will ensure retirement success.

In your 60s and beyond

Most would consider these the “Golden Years,” and if you have made the right plans, you could be coasting into retirement.

MAKE SURE YOUR FINANCIAL PORTFOLIO IS IN ORDER

Make sure you've done estate planning and [that] investment assets are correct in terms of asset allocation. It's important to make sure assets will benefit those intended, because with poor planning, an inheritance can turn into a debt.

CONSIDER THE LENGTH OF YOUR RETIREMENT

The average American's retirement can last 20 years, according to experts. Ensure your plan allows you to live as you've been accustomed, as most people do not reduce their lifestyle during retirement.

KEY ADVICE: Don't panic if you haven't made plans. It's never too late to start, so long as you have the discipline to commit to an effective financial plan. **AT**





This is Sunday Dinner. It's when we all come together to enjoy really good food. And each other. Get recipes at publix.com/sunday-dinners.

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{WARM AND COZY FARE}:

Braised Short Ribs

There's something about this time of year that fuels my love for cooking and baking more than others. To accompany the lower temps, I decided to rev up my cooler weather repertoire during a recent weekend. And I couldn't think of a better way to launch into the land of seasonal eats than with my favorite braised short ribs. So I grabbed my extra-large Dutch oven and let the fun unfold.

Hearty beef short ribs, cooked to moist, tender, melt-in-your-mouth perfection, made for a Sunday supper that was loved by all (every cook's goal, right?).

Served over creamy polenta, with pasta, mashed potatoes, as tacos, and more, this dish is supremely versatile ... and a gift that keeps on giving.

BRAISED SHORT RIBS

Ingredients:

3 lbs beef short ribs
1 large onion, diced
3 carrots, peeled and diced
3 garlic cloves, minced
Kosher Salt
Freshly ground pepper
Garlic powder
1 tablespoon tomato paste
2 cups beef broth
1 bottle dry red wine
1 tablespoon brown sugar
Few dashes of Worcestershire sauce
Bundle of fresh thyme, tied together with kitchen twine
2 bay leaves
1 cup flour
1/4 cup olive oil

Method:

Preheat oven to 350 degrees F.

Season flour with salt, pepper and garlic powder. Separately, sprinkle salt and pepper on short ribs. Dredge short ribs in flour to coat, dusting off excess. Set aside on a baking sheet.

Heat oil over medium-high heat in a large Dutch oven. Add short ribs and sear on each side until golden brown (working in batches, if necessary, to prevent overcrowding the pot). Remove seared ribs and return to the baking sheet.

Add onions, carrots and garlic and sauté until tender, using same oil. Stir in wine, broth, tomato paste, sugar, Worcestershire, and more salt and pepper to taste. Add short ribs back to the Dutch oven, toss in thyme and bay, and bring to a boil. Lower heat and simmer until the liquid is reduced by almost half.

Place covered Dutch oven in the preheated oven and cook for 2 to 2.5 hours, until short ribs are fork tender. Remove twine and bay leaves. Transfer the ribs to a baking sheet. Spoon fat off the top of the braising liquid. Taste for seasoning. Add ribs back in, serve and enjoy! **AT**



Dawn M. Richards is the founder of the food and lifestyle brand, D.M.R. Fine Foods. With her food passion leading the way, Dawn shares recipes, travel stories, fashion, entertainment and lifestyle features on dmrfinefoods.blogspot.com and other media outlets, while maintaining a career as a *FORTUNE 500* legal executive.

READY, SET ... START THE NEW YEAR STRONG

Skip the resolutions this year and work on an immediate To-Do list that could make the year a bit more efficient and a lot less stressful.

MEAL PLAN

Make a calendar of meals that you'll make for four to five weeks at a time and use it to guide your grocery shopping and improve your eating with some intentional forethought.

SCHEDULE A PHYSICAL

To keep from putting it off, go ahead and schedule your annual physical for the beginning of the year in January. While it's a good time to commit to living healthier in the new year with a fitness routine, make sure you get up to speed on all of your baselines at the same time. And while you're at it, schedule your dental appointments for the year.

TUNE-UP YOUR VEHICLE

After you've gotten a clean bill of health from your physician, do the same for your car with your mechanic. Begin with the basics like an oil change, tire rotation, and topping off of fluids, and then look into other mileage specific tuning up. Don't know where to begin? Just check your owner's manual.

LEARN SOMETHING NEW

Sign up for that lesson you've been wanting to take or browse YouTube for a DIY project you've been putting off around that house. You just may pick up a new hobby and skill at the same time.

DONATE CLUTTER

If you haven't used it or worn it in a year, stop moving it around and reorganizing it and donate it to a second-hand shop. You won't miss it.

CLEAN OFF YOUR HARD DRIVE

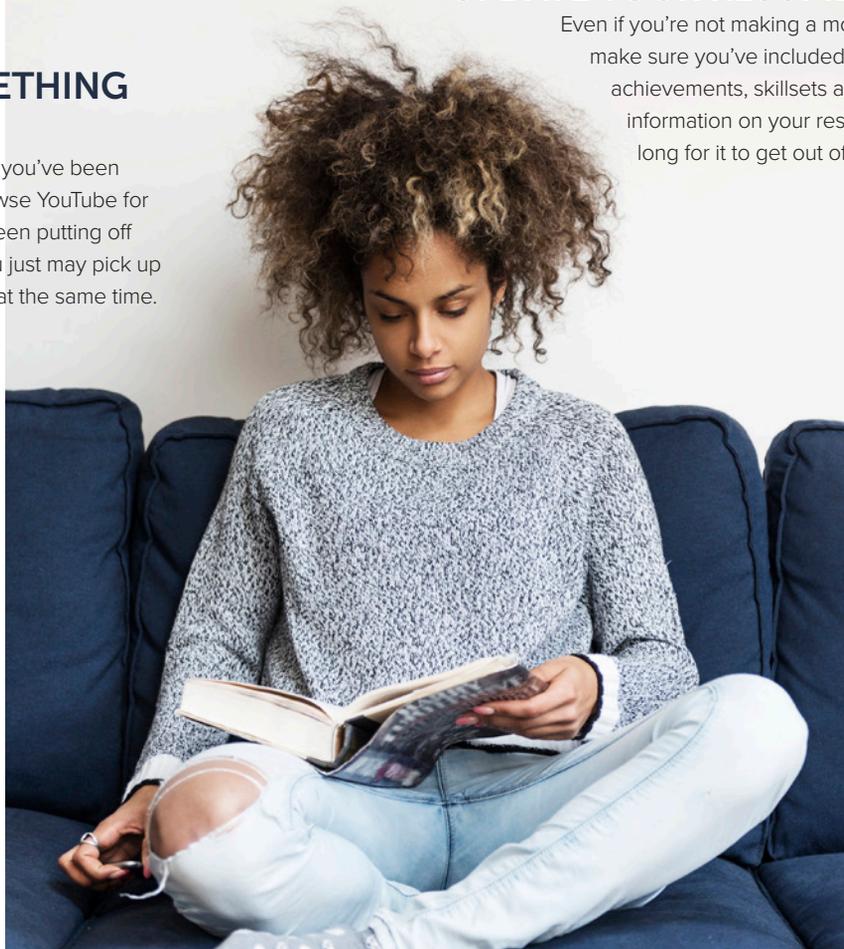
If you're like most of us, your computer is probably full of old files that you haven't accessed in years and likely don't need. Deleting them and freeing up space just may speed up your computer and help it run more smoothly.

FINISH THAT BOOK

Stop binge-watching your queued list of shows for one weekend and finish that book you started reading months ago.

UPDATE YOUR RESUME

Even if you're not making a move professionally, make sure you've included your recent achievements, skillsets and other pertinent information on your resume. It doesn't take long for it to get out of date. **AT**



THE 2017 UNCF ATLANTA
 Mayor's Masked Ball



Ted Blum, Sarah Elizabeth Reed,
 Mayor Kasim Reed, Mrs. Carolyn Young,
 Ambassador Andrew Young,
 Smanatha Gibson, Tyrese Gibson



Rodney Bullard, Chick-fil-A



Wendy Stewart, Bank of America

The 2017 UNCF Atlanta Mayor's Masked Ball is a premier fundraising gala and major social event focusing on raising awareness of the need and benefits of a college education, the students UNCF serves and the contributions of historically black colleges and universities. Hosted by a diverse group of corporate sponsors, local businesses and professional organizations the Mayor's Masked Ball Atlanta is an evening of celebration attended by national celebrities, civic leaders, alumni, dignitaries, volunteers and friends of UNCF.

'Tis the Season of Giving

THE 2017 UNCF

Mayor's Masked Ball

www.uncf.org/atlantammb



LEFT TO RIGHT: Mayor Kasim Reed, *Ball Host*, Sarah Elizabeth Reed, *Ambassador* Andrew Young, *Ball Founder*, Ted Blum, *Ball co-chair*, *Managing Shareholder - Atlanta, Chair of Corporate and Securities* Greenberg Taurig, Mrs. Carolyn Young, Justine Boyd, *Regional Development Director, UNCF*, Smanatha Gibson, Tyrese Gibson, *Entertainer*