

SPEAKIN' OUT NEWS CELEBRATES WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

'Nevertheless: She Persisted'

HONORING THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS WOMEN

By Phyllis Jones, Speakin' Out News, senior staff writer with submitted courtesy photos

BUSINESS

Dr. Juanita Harris

Dr. Harris' career with the U.S. Army Aviation and Missile Research, Development and Engineering Center (AMRDEC) at Redstone Arsenal, Alabama, began in 2012. She has served in various leadership roles such as Deputy Director for the Aviation Development Directorate, Technical Director for the Aviation and Missile Research and others. She has a bachelor's degree in computer engineering from the University of Illinois, a master's degree in computer resources and information systems management from Webster University and a doctorate of management and organizational leadership from the University of Phoenix. The Illinois native was the first African American to be selected for the Senior Executive Service, in February 2015. Due to her leadership skills and vision, in November 2017, Dr. Harris became AMRDEC's new Director and was officially installed in January 2018.



Barbara Upshaw

By day, Upshaw is a software/systems engineer who received her B.S. Degree in Mathematics from the University of Alabama-Huntsville. By night, what started out as a "church service", has become a successful business for her. Upshaw is the designer and owner of Aura Graphics and Design. The freelance graphics design business, based in North Alabama, was launched in 2012. Upshaw, who is a Huntsville native and the mother of one daughter, provides a creative design solution for any event, special occasion or website enhancement. Catering to a variety of clients from various geographical areas, her mission is to provide high-quality design products that brands and sets the tone for any business, special events and occasions at a very affordable price. She firmly believes creativity and high-quality should not be sacrificed because of cost.



MEDICAL

Dr. Teneshia Daniels

This Mississippi native has been providing dental care for Madison County residents since 2011. As the CEO and practicing dentist of Premiere Dental, Dr. Daniels is committed to providing the most advanced dental care for her clients. While a student at Meharry Medical College, she was on the School of Dentistry Dean's List for four consecutive years, ranking 7th out of 63 students in her graduating class and received several well deserved honors. Dr. Daniels is married to Alabama State Representative Anthony Daniels (District 53). They are the proud parents of one daughter (Abigail) and is expecting their second child (a son) in April.



Dr. Whitney West Dunham

Dr. Dunham is an obstetrics and gynecology specialist at Crestwood Medical Center. The Pennsylvania native is a graduate of Meharry Medical College School of Medicine. Her 21 year service expands beyond just delivering babies. She treats various conditions such as female fertility, menopausal and post-menopausal disorders, hypertension and polycystic ovarian syndrome just to name a few.



Dr. Debbie Redmond-Hyder

Dr. Hyder is a pediatric specialist and has been practicing for 29 years. Her medical degree was received from Oklahoma College of Osteopathic Medicine and Surgery. She is one of 79 doctors who specializes in pediatrics at Huntsville Hospital. Dr. Hyder is also a Legal Medicine specialist who advises on a variety of laws and regulations regarding health care and public health. Her unquestionable professionalism has earned her the following awards: Top 10 Doctors Award (Huntsville, AL), Patients Choice Award and Compassionate Doctor Recognition.



POLITICS

Representative Laura Hall

Representative Hall was first elected to Alabama House of Representatives (District 19) in 1993. She is the first African American woman to represent this district. Her committee assignments have included Judiciary, Joint Interim on Medicaid, Welfare, Internal Affairs (Ranking Member), Madison County Legislation (Vice-Chair), just to name a few. In 2001, Representative Hall served as the Chairwoman for the Governor's Commission on Aids. The South Carolina native received her Bachelor of Science Degree in Biology, with a minor in Chemistry, from Morris College; Master of Science Degree in Science Education from Ohio State University; and the K-12 Administration Certification from Alabama A&M University. Her 40 year tenure as an educator includes teaching at J.O. Johnson High School and being an administrator at Calhoun Community College.



Judge Lynn Sherrod

Judge Sherrod became a Madison County District Judge in 1999 and was the first African American to win an at-large election in Madison County. Prior to serving as a district judge, she was appointed Municipal Court Judge by the Huntsville City Council in 1997, becoming the Presiding Judge of that court in 1998. The Gadsden native received her Bachelor of Arts degree from Fisk University in Nashville and her Juris Doctor from the University of Houston and University of Alabama, School of Law. She created the first-ever mediation system for small claims court in Madison County. She also established the first family drug court in Alabama in 2003 and later helped establish an adult drug court and a juvenile drug court. Her awards are numerous and most deserving. She now spends her time practicing law with Conchin, Cloud and Cole, LLC.



Judge Sybil Cleveland

Judge Cleveland was appointed Municipal Court Judge for the City of Huntsville in 1999, by the Huntsville City Council. Prior to her appointment, she served as an attorney in the general practice of law in Birmingham, Alabama and as a Municipal Prosecutor for the cities of Birmingham and Ensley. She was hired in 1992 by the Madison County District Attorney to serve as an Assistant District Attorney in the Child Support Legal Division. Judge Cleveland was then promoted to Deputy District Attorney and supervised the legal and support staff of the Child Support Division until her appointment to the bench. The Hartselle native is a graduate of the University of North Alabama where she earned a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Political Science. She received her Juris Doctor Degree from Samford University's Cumberland School of Law. Judge Cleveland, who is the mother of two daughters, created the Mental Health Court Program that provides necessary treatment to people struggling with psychiatric disorders and substance abuse problems.



LAW

Attorney Gayle N. Williams

Attorney Williams completed her undergraduate studies at Tuskegee University and she received her J.D., from Golden Gate University School of Law in San Francisco, California. The California native became a member of the Alabama Bar in 2003. Prior to focusing on areas of Probate and Family Law, she gained experience in the areas of mass torts, products liability and commercial litigation while employed at law firms in San Francisco, Oakland, Silicon Valley, California, Washington D.C. and Birmingham, Alabama.

She relocated to the Huntsville area in 2005 and joined the Legal Services of Alabama.

In 2007 she founded the Law Offices of Gayle N. Williams, LLC. She is a member of the Alabama Lawyers Association and the Madison County Bar Association.



REAL ESTATE

A. Karnice Holloway

Holloway is the owner/broker of Holloway and Associates, a Christian based real estate and property management firm. She has been taking care of her clients' residential and commercial needs for 25 years and has owned her own business since 2006. Licensed in Alabama and Tennessee, her firm's mission is to provide outstanding value, and to design and deliver quality service unmatched by their competitors. The North Carolina native is a graduate of Alabama A&M University, where she received her Bachelor of Science Degree in Finance and a MBA with a concentration in Accounting. As a member of the National Association of Real Estate Brokers, Holloway has also shared her time as a member of the Disciplinary Board Committee for Huntsville Area Association of Realtors and taught the Multiple Listing Service (MLS) class for new realtors. She and her husband (OJ Holloway) are the proud parents of two daughters (Lexis and Chandler).



Sandra and Alex Brazelton

Quali-Tech Properties is a successful family owned business that has been established for 25 years. Sandra Brazelton, owner of Quali-Tech, was once an engineer and then became a real estate agent, broker, and real estate specialist. As one of the most experienced real estate agents in the Huntsville area, Sandra and her daughter (Alex Brazelton - real estate agent and broker) have proudly worked in the Huntsville, Madison and North Alabama area by offering one stop shopping real estate services to buyers, sellers, builders and investors. They also provide onsite home inspections and credit help.

In addition Alex, with over 10 years of experience, brokers her tech savvy property management company, Alex and Co. Property Management. She assists her clients with new construction as well as selling, buying, investing and renting.



FASHION & MAKEUP

Knegleshia Smothers-Cobb

Smothers-Cobb was inspired by family and friends to create a personalized service to meet clients' beauty and fashion needs. The concept of Style Haven was birthed out of a passion and a love for hair and shopping, and her desire to help build self-esteem and character based on biblical principles. In January 2014, Style Haven was officially launched. The Decatur native is a graduate of the University of Alabama in Tuscaloosa, and has a B.A. in Communications/Public Relations. She is also a graduate of the Cosmetology program from J.F. Drake State Technical College and has a M.A. in Business Administration from the University of Phoenix. Smothers-Cobb's gift lead to opportunity. She has served as Public Relations Director on the board of the Alabama Fashion Alliance, featured as one of the lead stylist for Fashion Week 2014 for Kohl's menswear, served as personal assistant to Victoria Henley, American Next Top Model Cycle 19 and so much more. As much as she loves fashion, she loves her family more. She is a devoted wife and mother of three residing in Madison, Alabama.



Ellena LeJeune

Established in 2012 after the success of the first Fashion Week Alabama in 2011, Alabama founder/fashion designer LeJeune launched the Alabama Fashion Alliance (AFA), an all-volunteer group of passionate professionals, community leaders, and business owners that has been formed to work together for the common goal of uniting and advancing the fashion and fashion art industries - locally, statewide, and nationally. Based out of the city of Huntsville, AFA organizes style-focused networking mixers and Huntsville's premier events, Fashion Week Alabama, Fashion WeekEND/Alabama & Fashion Forward Awards



Sylvia Smith

After honing her skills on friends and family, celebrity makeup artist, Sylvia Smith, began her career as a makeup artist in 1995 at a local cosmetic counter. When she finished the makeup of her very first client she felt that she had found her calling. Since then she has had the opportunity to travel all over the United States to share her expertise with aspiring makeup artists and various clients. Until stepping out on faith in 2009 she continued to work for several cosmetic lines. That leap of faith took her into a new direction and in 2010 she opened the doors of Pro Makeup Artist Studio, a full service studio that offers makeup classes, consultations and private one-on-one lessons.

Sylvia has a very extensive resume which includes celebrity clientele. She has worked with model Tyson Beckford and Cristal "Serious" Steverson from Flava of Love, Derek J and Cynthia Bailey of Atlanta Housewives and she has also consulted with Ms. Patti Labelle. Sylvia has worked video shoots for artists such as Lil Jon as well as gospel artists Lavar Crawford and Sean Simmons just to name a few. She was also the makeup artist for Sean Simmons's CD cover to "It's Over" and for a documentary on NASA. Her expertise has appeared in publications such as Style Q, Passions and Black Hair Magazine, and Garage Glamour (Amherst Media). In addition, Sylvia was the lead Makeup Artist for Fine Arts Photo Vol. 1 Europe. She was the makeup artist for "The Looking Heart" and "Rock and Fire; Love Poetry from the Core", the book covers for Spoken Word Artist Marc Lacy and the Beauty Editor for Radar Magazine.



RELIGION

Rev. Endia Scruggs

Rev. Scruggs, a Madison County native, is a licensed and ordained minister of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church in America (CPCA). She was the first woman of the CPCA denomination to be called to an established congregation, Hills Chapel CPCA in Decatur, AL. She was the pastor of this congregation for eight and one half years. One year later, she was asked to serve as pastor of the Madkins Chapel CPCA in Huntsville, AL. Since her pastorate at Madkins Chapel, the congregation has grown numerically as well as spiritually. Her awards and recognitions are many. She was a recipient of the Morgan County NAACP Award, community service award from the Huntsville Progressive Alumni Chapter of Alabama A&M University and recognized her for the leadership and spiritual guidance she has shown in the community by Delta Theta Lambda Chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Incorporated just to name a few. Reverend Scruggs is married to Elder Eddie L. Scruggs and they are the parents of five adult children and two grandchildren.



Pastor Evangelist Emma White

Pastor Emma White is the pastor of Redeeming Love Outreach Ministries, a ministry that her late husband Bishop Paul James White founded in 1993. The 40-year educator and Mississippi native realized her ministerial calling years ago, while taking her children to the Birmingham Zoo. She knew God wanted her to bring people to the Kingdom. Pastor White took over as pastor following his death in 2002. Her passion for people runs deep. She graduated summa cum laude from Jackson State University with degrees in theater and special education, which she pursued because of a need to help disadvantaged individuals. She later received a master's in multiple learning handicaps from Alabama A&M University and currently teaches math and science at Danville High School.

Pastor White has received awards such as most outstanding young educator of Alabama, Morgan County Teacher of the Year and many more. In February 2018, Pastor White was featured in The Decatur Daily for her accomplishments and achievements in Morgan County. Pastor White is the proud parent of four children and eight grandchildren.



Rev. Earla Lockhart

If you have a need for a person to have a genuine concern for all people, Rev. Lockhart would be the "go-to person". Her various jobs (Public Relations Director - Huntsville Bible College, Public Affairs Specialist - US Army Space and Missile Command, Energy Advisor and Special Projects Advisor - TVA) required her to interact with people daily and to display patience. But if one had to guess what she would consider her best job ever, it would be serving as the Staff Minister of Congregational Care at the First Missionary Baptist Church. For the past 25 years, Rev. Lockhart has faithfully attended to the needs of the members, one-on-one or collectively. Her ability to hold your attention during her sermon is second to none. The Madison County native holds a Bachelor's degree in English and Sociology from Athens State University, Bachelor of Theology and Master of Ministry from Huntsville Bible College/University of Alabama-Huntsville and an Associate of Science Degree in Mortuary Science/Embalming from the Kentucky School of Mortuary Science.



MANUFACTURING

Valerie Rowan

Cosmetic manufacturer, Valerie A. Rowan, is the proud owner of Wholesale Natural Body Care, specializing in natural beauty and personal product manufacturing. With more than 18 years of experience, Valerie specializes in bulk product distribution, cosmetic private label, and drop-ship of natural products.

The New York native relocated to Huntsville, Alabama in late 1999. In 2000, she started BoTeaOlogy in a one bedroom condo, where she experimented with various essential oils and cosmetic bases. Realizing her customers' needs, she began studying cosmetic formulary. Today, Valerie manufactures both skin and hair products that are sold on the internet and in her local Huntsville store, located on Martin Lake Road. Her business has become very lucrative as she consults and formulates products for customers from across the country. Wholesale Natural Body Care (WNBC) is the home of many fast growing products that are yielding millions on Amazon. As a result, a new fulfillment and manufacturing facility is currently under construction to meet growing demands and will be completed in August 2018.

