

The Valley Weekly

"A friend is long sought, hardly found, and with difficulty kept." - St. Jerome

FREE

Volume 2, No. 27

www.valleyweeklyllc.com

Friday, March 18, 2016

DLC Begins Spring Session with 17-Member Cohort V

The Tennessee Valley Diversity Leadership Consortium has announced the beginning of the 17-member Cohort V for Spring 2016. The group gathered on Tuesday, March 8, at the University of Alabama in Huntsville's Wilson Building for the first session on "Diversity in Education." The program will conclude on April 26.

Cohort V participants include Starrett Archie, site manager of the Sparkman Home Club of the Boys & Girls Clubs of North Alabama; Caleb W. Ballew, associate attorney at Martinson and Beason, P.C.; Richard W. Collie, director, student support services, J.F. Drake State Community and Technical College; Nicole Griffin Fields, NCTHS librarian/state test coordinator, Lee/New Century High Schools; Ellengold Goodridge, director, adult and continuing education, Oakwood University; Darryl L. Jackson, executive director, Office of Student Financial Aid & Scholarship, Alabama A&M University; Christopher "Chris" J. Kern, vice president-relationship manager, PNC Bank, N.A.;

Turkessa Coleman Lacey, Planner III, City of Huntsville Community Development; Sa'Brina Lampley-Wheeler, Women's Pastor, Beacon Hill Worship Center; Michael May, customer service lead agent representative, Huntsville Utilities; Tamekia Y. Montgomery, business services assistant, University of Alabama in Huntsville; Larissa A. Moore, assistant branch manager, Progress Bank & Trust (Madison); Lucrecia Walker Points, senior human resources generalist/EEO officer, Huntsville Utilities; Kelsey Roach, product manager, Social Solutions Global, Inc.; Arthurine Shackelford, engineer and musical artist; Dr. Verlindsey Brown Stewart, office systems technology instructor, J.F. Drake State Community and Technical College; Anthony Wheeler, founder/senior pastor, Beacon Hill Worship Center.

Throughout the eight-week colloquium, participants will engage in a variety of topics led by local professionals. Among the topics are the areas of politics and government; servant leadership;

ogy, to provide outreach to over 100 students at J. O. Johnson High School on March 7.

Olshefski's talk was focused on careers of the future for students who go on to earn either two- or



small business and entrepreneurship; religion, community and civic engagement; law, equality and social justice; finance, investment and planning; and networking and mentoring.

DLC offers inspiring and

experienced leaders opportunities to benefit from qualified and seasoned trainers, scholars, and business professionals who share and discuss research and best practices regarding obtaining excellence through diversity.

Dr. Dorothy W. Huston is DLC's executive director, and Georgia S. Valrie serves as program coordinator. For additional information on the current of upcoming fall colloquium, call (256) 536-9717.

HU Executive Teams with Chamber on Workforce Development

COL (Ret) John Olshefski, vice president of customer care at Huntsville Utilities, (right) joined with Christy Hubbard, Career Coach, Huntsville City Schools, Huntsville Center for Technol-

ogy, to provide outreach to over 100 students at J. O. Johnson High School on March 7. Olshefski's talk was focused on careers of the future for students who go on to earn either two- or

four-year college degrees, along with how to get prepared for college while still in high school. Olshefski focused on the importance of diverse career choices from becoming a plumber, electrician, metal worker, and engineer preparing them for possible work in good paying jobs at places like Toyota, Remington, Polaris and Huntsville Utilities.



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Sneed's Cleaners

St. Bartley PB Church

St. Luke Christian Church

Starbucks (Governors Drive, N. Parkway at

Mastin Lake Road/University Drive)

Union Chapel Missionary Baptist Church

Calendar of Events

March 17

Master Artist Workshop with David Dunlop
Huntsville Museum of Art
9 a.m.-4 p.m.

March 18

HOT Coffee
(Free Networking Organization)
Huntsville Chamber of Commerce Auditorium
Contact: Vicki Morris at faceto-
face.vmorris@gmail.com
7:45 a.m.

Inaugural Education Banquet
for the Julius R. Scruggs Child
Development Center and Acad-
emy
Guest Speaker: Selwyn M. Vick-
ers, M.D.
First Missionary Baptist Church
Blue Spring Road
Huntsville, Ala., 6 p.m.

March 19

"An Evening of Academia,
Achievements & the Arts" in
Honor of Dr. Virginia Caples
(Endowment of the Virginia
Caples Lifelong Learning Insti-
tute
Tickets: \$100
Elmore Building, 7 p.m.

April 1

HOT Coffee
(Free Networking Organization)
Huntsville Chamber of Com-
merce Auditorium
Contact: Vicki Morris at faceto-
face.vmorris@gmail.com

7:45 a.m.

AAMU College of Business and
Public Affairs
SILENT AUCTION
Huntsville Country Club
6 p.m.

April 2

First Lady's Scholarship Lun-
cheon
Alabama A&M University
Ernest L. Knight Reception
Center
Tickets: \$40
Reserved Tables of 10: \$500
11 a.m.

April 11-May 20

Osher Lifelong Learning Institute
at UAH Spring Term
OLLI is a learning community
designed for adults 50+
Daytime and evening classes.
Details: Osher.uah.edu/Catalog
or (256) 824-6183

April 15

HOT Coffee
(Free Networking Organization)
Huntsville Chamber of Com-
merce Auditorium
Contact: Vicki Morris at faceto-
face.vmorris@gmail.com
7:45 a.m.

April 22

Annual Black Tie Scholarship
Gala
Alabama A&M University
Von Braun Center

April 30

Civil War Symposium
"Four Bloody Years of War:
Policy and Strategy, Sedition and
Emancipation"
SpringHill Suites by Marriott
745 Constellation Place Dr., SW

Huntsville, Ala.
9:15-4:30 p.m.

May 3

Interfaith Mission Service An-
nual Awards Dinner
UAH Exhibit Hall

INAUGURAL EDUCATION BANQUET
FOR THE
Julius R. Scruggs
Child Development Center and Academy
SOARING TO SUCCESS THROUGH SCIENCE,
TECHNOLOGY, ENGINEERING, AND MATHEMATICS
(STEM)
Friday, MARCH 18, 2016
6:00 PM
AT THE
FIRST MISSIONARY BAPTIST
CHURCH

GUEST SPEAKER:
Selwyn M. Vickers, M.D.
SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT FOR MEDICINE
AND DEAN OF THE SCHOOL OF MEDICINE
AT UAH

Pastor Julius R. Scruggs, D.Min.
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Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. | Central, North Alabama Alumnae Chapter

Founders Day Gala 2016
Saturday, March 19, 2016
Six o'clock p.m.
The Jackson Center
6001 Moquin Drive
Huntsville, Alabama 35806
\$50 | Formal Attire
Featuring: Mrs. Cynthia Butler - McIntyre, Past National President

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The Valley Weekly

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From Our Guest Editor

KEVIN FERGUSON



On March 12, 2016, I had the opportunity to share the story of my personal journey at the celebration of the 10th anniversary of the Rosetta James Foundation. To this day, it still amazes me how God allowed a kid from rural Alabama to experience a host of amazing opportunities and achievements. My success derives from the culmination of family, friends, mentors, teachers, and church members who have made several small deposits in my life over the past 26 years.

I am forever grateful for Rodney Passmore, who taught me leadership, citizenship, and collaborative skills on my journey to Eagle Scout; Robert Avery, who introduced me to the Dean of Engineering at Alabama A&M University; Rhonda Whitman, who encouraged my wife and I to pursue ambitious goals while supporting one another; Finally, Dr. Dorothy Huston, who imparted the philosophy that "grit can take you places where talent alone cannot".

Each of these individuals serves as a representation of how mentorship has played a tremendous role in my achievements. These experiences have shaped my belief that investing in human capital is a community's greatest opportunity for long-term success. Having so many people believe in my capabilities gave me the push I needed in moments in which I did not believe in myself.

In 2012, I graduated from Alabama A&M University summa cum laude with a degree in electrical engineering. Since graduation, I have the opportunity to work for two great energy firms. I was recently accepted into Cornell's Johnson School of Management, Yale's School of Management and will hear from Harvard Business School in the coming weeks. Additionally, this year will mark the third year since my father and I launched the Ferguson & Son Scholarship Fund (FSSF).

Since our inception, we have awarded six scholarships to deserving students and exposed over 50 students to science, engineering, and technology. While I am very thankful for each of these triumphs, I have found in the pomp and circumstance of particular successes, the back-story of how we got there often goes untold. I know that each of these accomplishments would not have been possible without the deposits, mentorship, and support of my family, friends, teachers, and mentors.

Ask yourself this: who contributed to your success? How have you gotten this far? Over the next few weeks, I challenge you to reflect on your achievements and think of all the people who made it possible. Next, I encourage you to get involved in a non-profit, church group, or organization whose mission shares your passion. Finally, I leave you with a message from the late Maya Angelo: "I've learned that people will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel."

Until next week!

When you can't find a printed copy of The Valley Weekly around town, follow us on-line at www.valleyweeklyllc.com.

Kevin

PICTORIAL: Rosetta James "Honoring Our Elders" Celebration

March 12, 2016 - The Jackson Center - Huntsville, Ala.



This Week: Washington at a Glance

The Hamm Consulting Group



Your Washington Recap

Here are your top issues in DC this week:

1. The House and Senate are in session this week. Among other bills, the House this week will extend the authorization of the Federal Aviation Administration from its current expiration date of March 31 to July 15, 2016, to give Members time to sort out the biggest obstacle in the bill, the privatization of FAA functions, including the air traffic control system.

The Senate is expected to finally reach an agreement on moving the Energy Policy Modernization Act, along with language to provide \$250 million for drinking water funds (in aid of Flint, MI), which will be offset by raiding the Department of Energy's Advanced Technology Vehicle Manufacturing account.

2. Washington is eagerly expecting President Obama to announce his Supreme Court nominee this week before he leaves for Cuba on March 20 and the Senate adjourns for 2 weeks on Friday for its Spring Recess. Reportedly, he has narrowed his choice to 3 federal appeals court judges: the D.C. Circuit's Merrick Garland and Sri Srinivasan and the 9th Circuit's Paul Watford.

3. This week, the House Ways

who strongly oppose last year's budget agreement that would add \$30 billion in spending in FY2017, so that the House Budget Committee can proceed with its markup of the FY2017 Budget Resolution.

4. Last Friday, the Committee to Draft Speaker Ryan for President announced it would cease its efforts to collect 1 million signatures for a petition urging House Speaker Paul Ryan (R-WI) to put himself forward in the event of an open convention.

The announcement came a day after Speaker Ryan's lawyers sent a cease-and-desist letter to the group.

5. Dr. Ben Carson, who last week endorsed Republican Presidential

candidate Donald Trump, will have a major role in advising Mr. Trump on education and health care policy. Dr. Carson has not said he would seek to abolish the U.S. Department of Education, a position held by other past and present GOP candidates.

He has said that one role the department would have played in his administration would be to "monitor our institutions of higher education for extreme political bias."

Based on his proposal, the department would set up a complaint system for students and after investigating complaints, the department would "deny federal funding" for colleges that are found to engage in extreme forms of bias.

6. 2016 Presidential Watch. Tuesday brings 5 primaries: OH,

FL, NC, MO and IL. Last week, Carly Fiorina endorsed Ted Cruz, while Ben Carson opted for Donald Trump.

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and Means Committee will mark up a package of bills which will claim \$16 billion in savings (\$98 billion over 10 years) by targeting overpayments in Obamacare subsidies, child tax credits, and state social services grants.

The cost-cutting bills are intended to appease fiscal conservatives,

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JAMES WILLIAMS, III, Baritone-Bass

● A ticket is not required. A free will offering will be requested. ●

Good Friday, March 25, 2016 at 6:30 p.m.
First Seventh-day Adventist Church
1303 Evangel Dr., NW, Huntsville, AL
256-534-3131 • valleyconservatory.com

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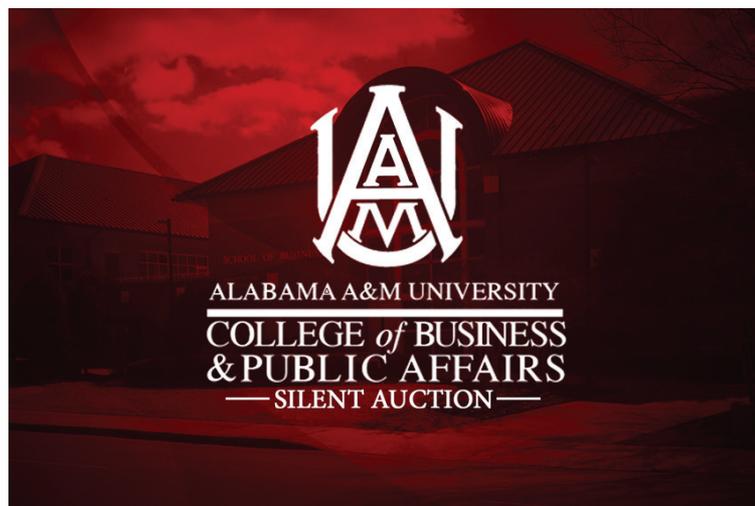
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256-534-1360

AAMU Business School to Hold Silent Auction

The College of Business and Public Affairs (COBPA) at Alabama A&M University is hosting the first ever Silent Auction on Friday, April 1, 2016, at the Huntsville Country Club, starting at 5 p.m.

The Silent Auction is a fundraising event supporting new programs and initiatives benefiting COBPA such as, but not limited to: Student Textbook Fund, which will provide financial assistance for students who qualify to defray the cost of textbooks; Student Travel Fund, which will encourage students to engage in career development opportunities (e.g., conferences, case competitions, presentations, co-ops) located outside the college; and Experiential Learning Opportunities, which will assist students in developing "soft skills," and becoming more competitive for career-level positions.

Your support in higher education helps young adults to find their purpose and passion in life by contributing to their future and preparing them to become hardworking citizens in society. Whether you attend, bid, volunteer, spread the word, or make contributions towards the event, your support is greatly appreciated. Your gift towards an educational entity is one of the best seeds to sow into the future



generation and legacies. COBPA's mission is to "provide quality education that develops our students into socially responsible managers, entrepreneurs, and leaders." We are focused on reinforcing our culture of teaching excellence and with your assistance; we will earn the resources to reach our goals.

The event will be free for guests to attend and will include hors d'oeuvres. There will also be socializing and entertainment while guests are bidding on items. The AAMU COBPA Silent Auction will consist of luxury items that are great for business, family, and leisure. A few of the auction items are as follows: A big screen TV courtesy of "Best Buy" on University Drive; a tab-

let; an AAMU embroidered golf carrier courtesy of Off-Campus Bookstore on Oakwood Avenue; luggage; Michael Kors watch and purse set; Dinner for a Day-personal chef services; Tour du Mundo wine collection basket; and much, much more.

Bids on items begin at prices as low as 50 percent off the retail value, with bidding increments as low as \$25! We all love a good bargain, so the AAMU COBPA Silent Auction will be a great opportunity for you to win nice products at great prices while contributing to a great cause.

We hope to see you on Friday, April 1, at the Huntsville Country Club.

by Amoi Savage



Ivory W. Reedus, LUTCF

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HUNTSVILLE SKILLS TRAINING

DETAILS MAR-MAY

Alabama A&M Wellness Center

Training Schedule	Cost
Saturday Skills Training Mar 19, 26, Apr 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 Grades 4-11	\$224 for Skills Training
Sunday Skills Training Mar 20, 27, Apr 3, 10, 17, 24, May 1 Grades 4-11	\$224 for Skills Training
Monday Baby Ballers Mar 21, 28, Apr 4, 11, 18, 25, May 2 Ages 4-5	\$140 for Skills Training
Wednesday Rookie Dribblers Mar 23, 30, Apr 6, 13, 20, 27, May 4 Ages 5-7	\$140 for Skills Training

TESTIMONIALS

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- Eddie Martin, Head Coach - Greater Atlanta Christian & 7-time State Champion

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On This Day - Friday, March 18, 2016

Vanessa Williams - Grammy Award-winning singer and actress. Williams became the nation's first African American Miss America in 1984.

- BlackInTime.info

STAY INFORMED: Huntsville City Council Meetings

City Council regular meetings are held in the City Council Chambers of the Municipal Building on the 2nd and 4th Thursday of each month at 6 p.m. City Council Work Sessions also held in the City Council Chambers of the Municipal Building on the 1st and 3rd Thursday of each month at 6 p.m.

For more information, call (256) 427-5011.



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Author to Visit the Valley in April

Amy-Jill Levine of Vanderbilt University will be in Huntsville the weekend of April 15-17, 2016, as the guest of Temple B'nai Sholom, Church of Nativity (Episcopal), First Presbyterian Church, and Trinity United Methodist Church. Dr. Levine is the author of such books as *Jesus, The Misunderstood Jew*, and *Short Stories by Jesus -- Enigmatic Parables of a Controversial Rabbi*. She is a lecturer for The Teaching Company, and has lectured for that concern on The Old Testament, and Great Figures of the New Testament.



Talks are open to the public without charge. On Friday evening, April 15 at 5:30 p.m. there will be a dinner [reservation required and there will be a per person charge of \$20.00] at The Cooper House of Central Presbyterian Church, followed by a Shabbat service at Temple B'nai Sholom during which Dr. Levine will address the general theme of how Jews and Christians use and read scripture differently. The service will be followed by Oneg, where dessert will be served.

The Saturday lectures on April 16 will be held at Church of the Nativity. There will be morning sessions at 9:30 ["Jesus in his Jewish Context: Piety, Practice, Prayer and Politics"] and 11:00 ["The Bible and Sexuality"] and one in the afternoon at 1:30 ["How Jews and Christians Speak about the Middle East Differently"]. There will be a lunch served, [reservation required at a per person charge of \$12.00], but no charge for the talks.

On Sunday, April 17, Dr. Levine will deliver sermons at First Presbyterian Church at 8 a.m. ["Finding the Pearl of Great Price"] and 11 a.m. ["Dangers on the Road to Jericho: The Good Samaritan in his Time and Ours"]. She will lead Sunday School at Church of Nativity at 10 a.m. ["How to Hear a Parable: The Laborers in the Vineyard"].

We are seeking additional sponsorships to help underwrite the costs associated with bringing Dr. Levine to Huntsville. For those contributing a minimum of \$250, there will be a Saturday evening reception with Dr. Levine in a private home, allowing 2 to attend the reception, the Friday evening dinner, and have lunch on Saturday. Individual sponsorships [allowing 1 to attend the reception, 1 Friday evening dinner, and 1 lunch on Saturday] are available for a contribution of \$150.00.

Sponsorships may be made payable to Temple B'nai Sholom and mailed to 103 Lincoln Street NE Huntsville, AL 35801, reference "Amy-Jill Levine".

NIKE Basketball Skill Clinics Are Coming to Huntsville and North Alabama

RCE Skills Academy Announces 2016 Basketball Clinic Partnerships with Nike and Elite Hoops

Rocket City Elite Skills Academy, Elite Hoops and Nike Basketball camps have signed a long-term agreement to offer a year round schedule of customized and intense basketball skills development training camps and 3on3 leagues to youth of all ages in Huntsville, North Alabama and Southern Tennessee. Led by Director of Player Development, Mr. Ronnie Elliott, these skill training camps are an excellent way for young basketball players to improve their ball handling, perimeter moves, and shooting form. These sessions are staffed with elite coaches and trainers with assistance from high school coaches, college coaches and former professional players.

"These basketball skills clinics are designed to enhance young players shooting, ball-handling, and team play skills. "We are happy and excited to be partnering with Nike and Elite Hoops to bring their proven basketball training and skills programs to Huntsville. If you have a young athlete on a school team, church team or recreational team, these skills camps are a perfect way to prepare them for the upcoming season" said Coach Ronnie Elliott.

More Information: Rocket City Elite Skills Academy, Elite Hoops and Nike Basketball Camps will be offering year-round basketball training clinics throughout Huntsville for basketball players 4 years old to the grade 11. Each training session maintains a 6:1 player coach ratio. For more information on camps, clinics, private individual or small group training, call Mr. Burnette at 256-658-1235 or Mr. Elliott at 256-426-2576; <http://www.elitehoopsbasketball.com/huntsville>

Civil War Symposium

April 30, 2016
9:15 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

SpringHill Suites by Marriott
745 Constellation Place Dr SW,
Huntsville, Alabama 35801

Four Bloody Years of War

Policy and Strategy, Sedition and Emancipation

Advance registration required by April 15
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•\$30 for members
•\$40 for general audience
•Students 16 and under are free (with adult)

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Steve Woodworth
Keynote Speaker
"Conspiracy to Assassinate President Lincoln"

Kent Wright
"How the Confederates Private Navy and British Policy Shaped the Entire War"

Peggy Allen Townes
"From Slavery to Sufficiency"

Greg Biggs
Featured Speaker
"Laying the Blueprint: Sherman's Logistics in the Atlanta Campaign"

John Scales
"Did Forrest Make a Difference?"

John Allen
Interactive Panel Discussion Moderator

* No restaurant on premises; attendees will be on their own for lunch - plenty of lunch spots in close driving distance, and brown-bagging permitted.

Tennessee Valley Civil War Round Table

The Tennessee Valley Civil War Round Table is a certified 501(c)(3) non-profit agency dedicated to the study of persons, passions, and events of and surrounding the American Civil War. In addition to studying and discussing Civil War events via monthly meetings, the Round Table vigorously supports battlefield and historic site preservation, American Civil War sesquicentennial commemoration events, guided field trips, archival photo contests, a theater plays and support to others in their Civil War-related activities such as theater plays and formal documentaries. And our activities are growing!

Come share our passion!

8:30-9:15 Doors open, check-in
9:15-9:30 Welcome and Intro (John Mason)
9:30-10:15 Kent Wright (How the Confederate Private Navy and British Policy Shaped the Entire War)
10:15-10:30 Break
10:30-11:15 Steve Woodworth (Conspiracy to Assassinate President Lincoln)
11:15-11:30 Break
11:30-12:15 Peggy Allen Townes (From Slavery, to Sufficiency)
12:15-1:30 Luncheon *
1:30-2:15 John Scales (Did Forrest Make a Difference?)
2:15-2:30 Break
2:30-3:15 Greg Biggs (Laying the Blueprint: Sherman's Logistics in the Atlanta Campaign)
3:15-3:30 Break
3:30-4:15 Interactive Panel Discussion (Q&A-based discussion open to all aspects of the ACW, moderated by John Allen)
4:15-4:30 Wrap-up and Adjourn (John Mason)

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