

The Valley Weekly

Volume 1, No. 30

Friday, April 3, 2015

FREE

*"The greatest threat to freedom
is the absence of criticism."
- Wole Soyinka*

AAMU Students Victims in Spring Break Shooting

Alabama A&M University administrative and law enforcement officials have reviewed reports related to the March 28 shooting of seven individuals on Spring Break in the vicinity of Panama City Beach, Fla. Of the seven, AAMU officials have confirmed that three of the victims, all female, are AAMU students.

The AAMU students are: Twenty-year-old Kearria Freed, who remains hospitalized in critical condition;

Kelli Regina Curry, 20, who is listed in stable condition; and Annesia Powell, 19, who is currently undergoing surgery.

The shooter, 22-year-old David Jamichael Daniels of Mobile, Ala., has been arrested by the Panama City Beach Sheriff's Office. The suspect is not an AAMU student.

AAMU's Lt. William Schumake noted that a Bay County investigator stated that the AAMU students were "innocent victims

in the wrong place when an altercation broke out resulting in shots being fired."

The University is mobilizing its counseling services for students or personnel who might be traumatized by the incident and has dispatched campus personnel to Mobile, Ala. Meanwhile, the campus is issuing a call for prayers for the victims' speedy recovery. Updates will be forthcoming as they become available.

by Jerome Saintjones

Antiracist Essayist Tim Wise Speaks at Oakwood

On March 30, antiracist essayist and educator Tim Wise spoke to Oakwood University students for the second time on issues surrounding the treatment of minorities in this country, and how communities can respond appropriately to injustices.

In 2010, Wise along with several other notable presenters such as Cornel West, Roland Martin and Nia Long, were Oakwood's guests for the "Sharpen Your Mind Lecture Series."

Tim Wise has spent the past 20 years speaking to audiences in all 50 states, on over 1,000 college and high



school campuses. He has also lectured internationally, in Canada and Bermuda. Wise's antiracism work traces back to his days as a college activist in the 1980s, fighting for divestment from (and economic sanctions against) apartheid South Africa. Scholar and philosopher Cornel West described Tim Wise as, "A vanilla brother in the tradition of abolitionist John Brown."

Tim Wise has spoken at Oakwood University before and he has a powerful way of speaking the truth and providing an avenue on how to address societal issues."

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HHA Holds "Black Lives Matter" Basketball Tournament

The four-night Huntsville Housing Authority "Black Lives Matter" basketball tournament was a vehicle to connect local teens with the Huntsville police officers.

The tournament ran from March 24-27. The basketball tournament may have been "the hook" to get the youth to attend, but the main goal was community team building and social networking.

Huntsville Police Department for years has conducted ongoing initia-

tives to help build community relations within the neighborhoods they serve. However, this was a specific directed event to foster better relations with the youth in the public housing homes.

"We want to have a relationship with the community that we serve and that's why we're taking this step and participating with the Huntsville Housing Authority with this initiative," said Lt. Jeffery Rice.

The program is a continuation of the "All



Lives Matter" campaign that Huntsville Housing Authority began in January as a response to the Police involved shootings in Ferguson, Missouri. Huntsville police officers and other community leaders

met with the local youth to discuss and learn ways to prevent another tragedy between youth and Police Officers.

"The purpose of this is to have open and honest communication with one

another," said Rice.

The youth had to participate in half-hour mentoring sessions with police officers and community leaders before they were allowed to play in the tournament.

They discussed topics such as Law Relations, Motivation and Character and the Power of Influence. They also used role-playing exercises to demonstrate to the teens how to behave if stopped by a Police officer.

Many of the youth involved in the tournament

were excited about the opportunity to positively interact with the local police and community leaders.

The sessions will be taught by local black mentors including Housing Authority President and CEO Michael Lundy, police Lt. Jeffrey Rice, City of Huntsville Multicultural Affairs Officer Kenny Anderson, Huntsville Utilities spokesman Dr. Harry Hobbs and L.C. Smith, founder of Real Fathers Making a Difference.

by Dr. Harry Hobbs

Volunteering = Showing Love

I am a 20 year old sophomore attending Calhoun Community College where I am a student mentor and community volunteer with the Media Arts Institute of Alabama.

It was an honor to be a scholarship recipient at the 9th Annual Rosetta James Foundation's "Honoring Our Elders" Celebration. Attending this gala event gave me a chance to meet Mrs. Rosetta James and several other community volunteers from Huntsville and North Alabama which showed me that I can never be too old to volunteer, donate my time, or mentor a young child in my community.

After listening to their bios and watching each life story in pictures, I noticed that the 2015 Honorees all had one thing in common; Love for their fellow man and consistency. They were all consistent in volunteering, and striving forward to make



a difference in the community. Their consistency paved a trail that will guide someone in the right direction. I realized that when you volunteer you are "Doing things out of love and not for yourself". That night I learned a valuable lesson," that having Love for your fellow man is the key to unlocking true life wealth." Volunteering to help someone can open someone's eyes even if they've never seen the right path before. I know this for a fact because someone volunteered to mentor

me. My life changed when I got my first mentor in high school, who took the time to talk to me, council me, show me love and tell me that I was important, and no matter how hard things got at home or at a school I was going to be successful in life. Having someone volunteer to take the time to show me love has helped me become more focused on my goals in life to become an entrepreneur, writer and book publisher. The stories of these elder volunteers taught me to continue to serve and volunteer in my community because it is one of the highest forms of showing love for your fellow man and your community. Thank you to the Rosetta James Foundation and Dr. Dorothy Huston for showing me Love with this scholarship to help me make my journey in life just a little bit smoother!

by Lance Brazelton

The Links to Hold Multicultural Affair

The Greater Huntsville Chapter of The Links, Inc., will hold its 17th Annual Multicultural Extravaganza on Saturday, April 11, at the Ernest L. Knight Reception Center on the Alabama A&M University campus at 2 p.m.

The two-hour event's theme is "Giving Praise for Our Diversity." The free activity will include art, music, dance and refreshments.

The members of The Links, Incorporated are influential decision makers and opinion leaders. The Links, Inc. has attracted many distinguished women who are individual achievers and have made a difference in their communities and the world. They are business and civic leaders, role models, mentors, activists and volunteers who work towards a common vision.

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Publisher

The Valley Weekly, LLC

Editor-in-Chief

Dorothy W. Huston

Assistant Editor

Georgia S. Valrie

Editorial Assistants

Linda Burruss
Gary T. Whitley

Layout & Design

James Huston

Photographer

Eugene Dickerson

- Contributing Editors -

Hortense Dodo
Dave Herron
Daryush Ila
TuVy Nguyen
Bonnie Spencer
JaLissa Williams

Website Administrator

Calvin Farier

Editorial Consultant

Jerome Saintjones

Mailing Address:

The Valley Weekly
415A Church Street-Suite 100
Huntsville, AL 35801
(256) 651-9028
www.valleyweeklyllc.com

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The Valley Weekly

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From the Editor



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

I have had the great blessing of having worked in all levels of education from K-12 to a staffer at a governing board. For some reason, regardless to the organization or agency, no one ever seems to believe that there are enough resources to 'get it done.' A colleague said to me once that we needed to stop complaining about what we do not have and live within our budget. In other words, we knew what our budget was, we knew what our goals were and essentially we had to get it done. Initially, that advice cut me the wrong way but I thought about it for a long time. As a business owner, it is very clear to me that we must live within our budget; otherwise, the business cannot be successful. All of us must learn to get it done with what we have! It's akin to counting calories. Either we count the calories we eat each day in light of our physical activity to maintain our desired size, or we find ourselves in my shape with extra seasonal pounds that we did not manage during the winter months. In every situation, I try to have a 'get it done' spirit. So, regardless of the space we occupy, let's get it done!

We had the opportunity to go to the Von Braun Center on last Saturday evening to experience the Ringling Brothers and Barnum Bailey Circus. I was as excited to see the magnificent acts of talent and showcase as I was in Nashville over 20 years ago when the children were young. We never get too old to enjoy the Circus. It was a wonderful evening out in our great city. There is plenty to do around town if we just get out and get it done. No matter how old we get, we should remember to enjoy the 'child' in us. It truly was one of the greatest shows anywhere!

During this time of Lent, let's enjoy the Easter season. This is a time of celebrating the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, described in the New Testament as having occurred three days after the Crucifixion. I'm fasting, praying and repenting. I even plan to get in a good walk outside as soon as the weather is warm enough for my threshold.

Until next week,

Dorothy



Onyx Black Business Expo

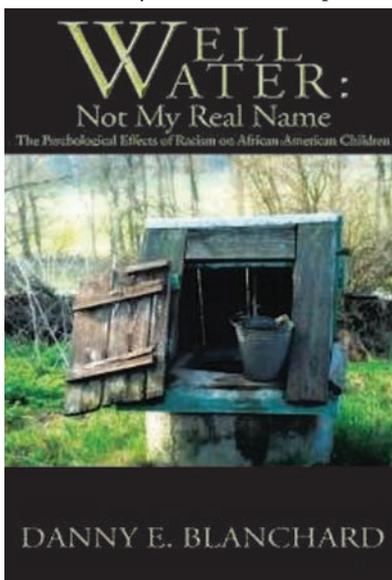
The Onyx Group presented to Huntsville, Ala., its 1st Inaugural Black Business Expo. The expose' took place on March 22 at the entertainment lounge Envy. The group's vision was to create an up-scale atmosphere for like-minded individuals with influential institutes. The empowering collaboration was a success. More than half dozen vendors presented works of art, cuisine, fashion and literature.

The event helped increase and prompt the importance of black-owned businesses; offering unique exposure, promotion, networking opportunity and the much needed support from African-American communities as a whole. Guests and each participant gave out coupons and donations to support the gathering. The proceeds will be donated to "Harris Homes for Children."

The group initially began as a Book Club. Onyx members would regularly discuss cultural issues dealing with the African American status quo. Eventually, the book club comprised into a group of seven young black men that wanted to facilitate options and avenues for a community that is often times overlooked.

Onyx plans to present several more events throughout the year. The Onyx Group presents: Book Bag Drive for Kids, Voter Registration, Health Awareness and Youth-Town Halls. Mission Statement: The Onyx Group advocates advancement of culture through motivation, inspiration and afforded opportunity.

Pictured (l-r): Stephon Dunlap, Courtney Null, LaBronte Molten, Cardinas A. Campbell, Jekorio Johnson, Jeremy Patton, (Not Shown: Quintin Carlock)
by Cardinas A. Campbell



What Will You Do with Your Gig?

Oh, Joy!

If Huntsville is ultimately successful in pulling off its latest endeavor to open the doors toward an impressive one-gigabyte per second of data, how would your world change? What would you do with all the extra time saved from performing routine Internet tasks and good old surfing? Could your mind collect all of the extra data that would be thrown at your computer screens at the blinking of an eye?

What about all the citizens who live on the periphery, those remote areas that are part of the city limits, but which have been ignored by the city, ISPs and developers for generations ... sans natural gas, sans sewer systems, sans respect? Umm. Yes, what



about those same areas whose residents pay dearly for poor, marginal-speed Internet, even though they are only minutes away from a high-tech city?

Well, if you are one of *those* people, it's very difficult to get too excited. It has always been yet another chorus of "not yet" and "just wait."

When that gig finally arrives, it will no doubt be followed by a truckload of creativity long penned up and simply waiting on a dose of vision.

Way to go, Huntsville.

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Well Water: Not My Real Name

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

Danny E. Blanchard

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

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- + Why does STEM education matter to your community?

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Your essays will be evaluated based on the thesis, organization, support and development of ideas, insight into the subject, and clarity, style, and mechanics of the paper. Ten essays will be selected for award. **Essay must be submitted no later than April 17, 2015 by 4pm Central Time. Late entries will not be accepted. Winners will be announced no later than April 30th, 2015.** Each award winner and his guests will be invited to attend an award recipient reception at the LogiCore Corporate Headquarters to receive their award plaque and computer.

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Talking Tax: 5 Home Office Deductions

If you use your home for business, you may be able to deduct expenses for the business use of your home. If you qualify you can claim the deduction whether you rent or own your home. If you qualify for the deduction you may use either the simplified method or the regular method to claim your deduction. Here are five tips that you should know about the home office deduction.



1. Regular and Exclusive Use:

As a general rule, you must use a part of your home regularly and exclusively for business purposes. The part of your home used for business must also be:

- Your principal place of business, or
- A place where you meet clients or customers in the normal course of business, or
- A separate structure not attached to your home. Examples could include a garage or a studio.

2. Simplified Option:

If you use the simplified option, you multiply the allowable square footage of your office by a rate of \$5. The maximum footage allowed is 300 square feet. This option will save you time because it simplifies how you figure and claim the de-

duction. It will also make it easier for you to keep records. This option does not change the criteria for who may claim a home office deduction.

3. Regular Method: If you use the regular method, the home office deduction includes certain costs that you paid for your home. For example, if you rent your home, part of the rent you paid may qualify. If you own your home, part of the mortgage interest, taxes and utilities you paid may qualify. The amount you can deduct usually depends on the percentage of your home used for business.

4. Deduction Limit: If your

gross income from the business use of your home is less than your expenses, the deduction for some expenses may be limited.

5. Self-Employed: If you are self-employed and choose the regular method, use Form 8829, Expenses for Business Use of Your Home, to figure the amount you can deduct. You can claim your deduction using either method on Schedule C, Profit or Loss From Business.

See the Schedule C instructions for how to report your deduction.

*by David E. Herron
DEH Associates & Consultants, LLC*

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Four to Be Inducted into AAMU Alumni Hall of Fame

The Alabama A&M University Alumni Association, Inc., will induct four individuals into the prestigious Alumni Hall of Fame Thursday, April 30, at the Embassy Suites Hotel in Huntsville, Ala., at 7 p.m. The men and woman are being honored for their university support, public service and career success.

The four include Dr. Taylor Byrd, Jr., retired educator; Mrs. Georgia S. Valrie, institutional advancement professional and Alumni Affairs director emeritus; Mr. Langston J. Walker, businessman; and Gadsden City Councilman Deverick Williams.

Dr. Taylor Byrd, Jr., Education Alumni Hall inductee, is a native of Greene County, Alabama. In 1959, he enrolled as a student at Alabama A&M University and earned the Bachelor of Science degree in 1963 with a major in Agricultural Education and Gen-

eral Science. He pursued further graduate studies at Tuskegee University and earned the Master of Science degree in 1969 with a major in agricultural education and extension, and the Doctor of Philosophy degree with a major in agricultural education and



economics in 1972 from Pennsylvania State University. Byrd began his career in education as a high school science teacher and coach, and an agribusiness instructor in the public school systems of Alabama. Following the attainment of the doctorate degree, he was employed at AAMU as an associate professor and chairman of the Department of Agribusiness Education. Under his leadership as chairman, the programs and

the faculty expanded. After serving eight years at the University, he worked within industry and the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA). At TVA, he was regional manager of minority economic development in Muscle Shoals, Alabama; and regional manager of community diversity development in Huntsville, Alabama. In 1996, Dr. Byrd returned to Alabama A&M University with a three-fold position as TVA liaison and director for distance learning development; director of recruitment and retention; and instructional technology outreach and research professor, Department of Agribusiness, College of Agricultural, Life and Biological Sciences.

Mrs. Georgia Sharp Valrie, the Community Service Alumni Hall of Fame inductee, received the Bachelor of Arts degree in 1971 with a major in sociology

and the Master of Science degree in adult and continuing education in 1977, both from Alabama A&M University. In 1983, she earned the Executive Development Program Certificate from



Pennsylvania State University. During her tenure as the Director of Development and Alumni Affairs at AAMU, she garnered the respect and admiration of alumni throughout the United States. When Alabama A&M University was the HBCU of the month for the Tom Joyner Foundation in November 2001, she helped raise over \$590,000. After serving 31 years of dedicated and exemplary service at AAMU, she retired in August 2003, only to join Technology Management Training Group, Inc. and to serve five years as vice president of outreach programs. She later served as the Director of Development for Union Chapel Christian Academy, establishing the UCCA Foundation to provide financial support for scholarships and to enhance the academic programs. She is and has served as a member of numerous professional, civic and community organizations.

Mr. Langston J. Walker, the Business and Industry Alumni Hall of Fame inductee, is highly recognized among his colleagues,



peers and constituents as an extraordinary business man. He has a wealth of experience in accounting, auditing, business and finance, investment and management. Langston is a 1972 honor graduate of Alabama A&M University where he received the Bachelor

of Science degree with a major in accounting. He pursued graduate studies at Harvard Graduate School of Business and earned the Master of Business Administration in 1980. Additionally, he holds certification as a Certified Public Accountant (CPA) and he was the first AAMU graduate to become a CPA in 1975.

Mr. Deverick Williams, the Government and Law Alumni Hall of Fame inductee, is an energetic member of the City Council in Gadsden, Alabama. Currently, he is serving his second term representing District 2, and he is the City Council President. When



he was elected City Council President, he became the first youngest and African American to serve in the position. One of the contributions that Councilman Williams made in the City of Gadsden is he ably led the committee to change the name of Meighan Boulevard to Martin Luther King Memorial Parkway. The Gadsden, Ala., native is a proud 1994 graduate of Alabama A&M University where he received the Bachelor of Science degree with a major in Accounting. During his matriculation at AAMU, he was a member of the Bulldogs Football Team. Currently, he is the President and CEO of the Leira Group, Inc, a consulting services provider serving the business community. Additionally, he has twenty (20) years of professional experience in human resources where he served companies in the automotive industry such as Honda Manufacturing of Alabama, LLC. Tickets may be purchased by calling the Office of Alumni Affairs, Alabama A&M University, at (256) 372-8351.

Calendar at a Glance

April 4
Easter Bonnet Parade/Bunny Bonanza (\$5 per child)
Huntsville Botanical Garden

April 15
"Night of a Thousand Flowers"
Grisham Pavilion (\$45/person; Garden members only)
Huntsville Botanical Garden, 5 p.m.

April 16
Confucius Institute Ceremony
VBC-North Hall, 6 p.m. (Free)

April 17-19
Spring Plant Sale
(Open to the Public)
Grisham Pavilion
Huntsville Botanical Garden

April 24
AAMU Annual Black Tie Scholarship Gala
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Alabama Women in Jazz Focuses on New Generation



The Alabama Women in Jazz Program (AWIJ) was created by Patrice Bivins of Valley Arts and Entertainment, Inc., a 501(c)3 performing arts organization and member of the Huntsville Arts Council.

The purpose of AWIJ program is to support female musicians throughout the State of Alabama, to bring awareness to the community about the number of female musicians who reside in our Alabama communities, and to provide a performance platform for female musician students alike. In addition, our programs will include touring female jazz musicians.

Founder

With a vision to start a music

program for underserved music students in the Huntsville community, upon returning to her hometown of Huntsville, Alabama, Bivins founded Valley Arts and Entertainment, Inc. in 2006 to provide music programs for

youth in music, and later established Valley Arts Music Scholarship Program to support students who were financially challenged in trying to meet their musical goals and dreams.



At the age of 11, Bivins was encouraged by her mother to take piano lessons and as a result she played piano for over 5 years

in various recitals and local church choirs. She also played clarinet in her school band.

While in California, she had an opportunity to attend the UCLA Music Extension and Entertainment Studies Program and gained knowledge about the ropes of artist management. The program was taught by music industry professionals such as (Randy Jackson, previous judge on American Idol) and other industry professionals that Bivins established close working relationships with.

She had a chance to manage recording artist "Maxee" who later joined R&B singing group, Brownstone, a first female group to sign with MJJ/ Sony Records in California.

Bivins has produced several



performing arts events, including talent shows, musical conference events, and a host of workshops to the community. She also served as a

judge of the Homegrown Talent event at Panoply. Her educational background includes a B.S. in business management, M.B.A., and M.P.A.



2015 Alabama Women in Jazz Festival

The 2015 Alabama Women in Jazz Festival is scheduled to take place September 2015. This year, some fabulous touring female

musicians will be presented, as well as local Alabama female jazz musicians.

Don't miss your opportunity to see ... JAZZ IN PINK and DOREEN'S JAZZ BAND.

A Master Class conducted by Doreen is being accompanied by her 9-year-old daughter, who plays drums. It will be educational, enjoyable, and inspirational to middle school students and parents.

Further information about our women's membership, vendors, tickets and time of performances will be provided on our website at www.valleyartsandentertainment.org and Facebook at [hsv-womeninjazz](https://www.facebook.com/hsv-womeninjazz).

Contact us at info@valleyartsandentertainment.org

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DLC

Tennessee Valley

Diversity Leadership Colloquium



Tuition Payable Upon
Acceptance

*Accepting Applications
for Cohort 2!*

Vision:

The Diversity Leadership Colloquium (DLC) advances leadership excellence by advocating and progressing the affirmation and inclusion of diversity in strategic markets and communities of interest for competitive intelligence.

Mission:

DLC's mission is to become a premier provider of diversity training for inspiring and experienced leaders throughout the lifecycle.

Values:

Our values are: Collaboration for Excellence; Appreciation with Insight; Respect for Understanding; and Empathy for all ... C.A.R.E.

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

DLC is designed for individuals interested in gaining access to networks, mentors, and sponsors that have traditionally not been available to diverse members of the broader community. Enrollees will be exposed to topics such as: Understanding and Embracing Diversity, Organizational Culture and Structural Reform, Racial and Gender Intelligence, Social Justice and Equality, Networking and Mentoring, Politics, Heroes and Holidays, Critical Thinking and Self-Affirmation and Living the CARE Values.

Individuals and companies are making sincere efforts in verbalizing a commitment to diversity excellence. However, we must be trained to build the next generation of leaders who have the skill sets, tools and commitment to execute.

Training Schedule

DLC will run four quarterly, eight week colloquia. The sessions will be held on Tuesday evenings from 6 to 9 p.m. Participant cannot miss more than 2 sessions.

Location: 415-A Church Street - Downtown Huntsville

Enrollment limited to: 16 - **Tuition:** \$795

2015 Schedule

Spring April 7 - May 26 - Deadline to register (April 3, 2015)

Summer July 7 - August 25 - Deadline to register (June 7, 2015)

Fall Oct 6 - Nov 24 - Deadline to register (September 6, 2015)

To Apply

- Application Form
- 3 References
- Resume
- Photo

DLC Tennessee Valley Diversity Leadership Colloquium APPLICATION FORM

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

Name _____ Date _____

Address _____ Apt. Unit # _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone (mobile) _____ Business/Home _____ E-mail _____

Company/Organization _____

Title _____

U.S. Citizen? Yes No Enrolling Quarter _____

Education

High School Attended _____ Graduated: Yes No

College(s) Attended _____

Highest Degree _____ Career Field _____

References

Name _____ Association _____

Phone _____ E-mail _____

Name _____ Association _____

Phone _____ E-mail _____

Name _____ Association _____

Phone _____ E-mail _____

Please mail this Application Form, 3 Letters of Reference, and Resume to: 415A Church Street-Ste. 100, Huntsville, AL 35801 - (256) 651-9028; visit us at www.diversityleadershipcolloquium.com; or e-mail info@diversityleadershipcolloquium.com. Tuition and photo will be required only if accepted to participate.