

A PASSION FOR THE GAME

By Tammy Bankhead
WCP Communications®

"I know that I wouldn't be where I am today without God and the love and dedication of my mother," said Michael Levondre Rucker, the son of Jesse and Lauren Brown, has spent most of his life in the sports arena. He started playing football at the age of five. He began his career in the Pop Warner League, playing for such teams as the Falcons and Packers. Rucker does not limit himself to the football field. He is also an accomplished track star, but football is his passion. When asked what motivates him to excel as an athlete...Rucker responded, "You got to have passion for the game and that's what I have; a true passion for the game."

Rucker, who is naturally gifted with the talent of athleticism, knows that even natural talent must be nurtured and developed.

He has attended a variety of



Michael L. Rucker

campus to keep that competitive edge over his colleagues. His impressive list of training includes: Ragsdales Combine, Nike Camp, Duke Football Camp, Coastal

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AFRICAN LITERATURE ASSOCIATION MEETS IN GHANA



Dr. Sarah Barbour, Dr. Debra S. Boyd,
Dr. Marolijn De Jaeyer

By Debra S. Boyd, Ph.D.

"Pan-Africanism in the 21st Century: Generations in Creative Dialogue" was the theme of the 32nd Annual Meeting and Conference of the African Literature Association (ALA) which took place May 17-21, 2006 at the La Palm Royal Beach Hotel in Accra, Ghana West Africa. Hosting institutions and conveners were: the Institute of African and African-American Affairs at New York University (Professor Manthia Diawara); the CODESRIA African Humanities Institute Programme at the University of Ghana-Legon (Professor Kofi Anyidoho), the NYU-in-Ghana Program (Professor Awam Ampka). It was a profound season of cultural and intellectual enrichment.

The festivities began with an official opening ceremony that featured a traditional music and dance welcome followed by statements from University of Ghana representatives and distinguished guests: Prof. C.N.B. Tagoe, Ag. Vice-Chancellor, Univ. of Ghana; Prof. Yaw Nyarko, Vice-Provost for Global and Multicultural Affairs at NYU and Professor Adzei Bekoe, Chairman of the Council of State and former Vice-Chancellor, Univ. of Ghana. Dr. Debra Boyd, President of the ALA also made opening remarks:

"Ghana, land of the stools, kings and queens, Kwame Nkrumah, golden spaces, the black man's historical legacy and stellar protagonists in the human story. We are proud to bask once again in the aromas of our ancestors for this historic occasion. The year 2007 will mark the 50th Anniversary of Ghana's independence from colonial rule and also the bi-centennial of the abolition of slavery by the British. The ALA presence in Ghana at this time is an appointment with destiny, a prelude to the

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NC FRIENDS TO ASSIST LIBERIA



Dr. Seth O. Larty

By Mel White

The Liberian Organization of the Piedmont (LOP), under the leadership of its founder and current president James Y. Hunder, Sr., has launched a statewide effort to assist with the reconstruction of the Republic of



Larry Womble

Liberia, West Africa. LOP and other Liberian organization around the world are rallying behind newly elected Liberian President, Her Excellency Madame Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf. President Johnson-Sirleaf is the

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FORSYTH COUNTY HAS "HOLD OUT THE LIFELINE"



Saundra D. Todd

By Nakita Vanstory

"Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it." —Proverbs 22:6

Although infant mortality affects all racial and ethnic groups, this epidemic has reached devastating proportions in the African-American and Latino communities of Forsyth County. According to recent statistics provided by the Surveillance Unit of the Forsyth County Department of Public Health,

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