

BUSINESS FOCUS

Briefs

Asante joins Kate B. Reynolds Charitable Trust

Abena Asante has joined the Kate B. Reynolds Charitable Trust as a program officer in the Health Care Division. She will be working primarily with health care nonprofits in western North Carolina.

Asante brings both foundation experience and a background in health care to her position. Prior to joining the Trust, Abena was a program officer at the Moses Cone-Wesley Long Community Health Foundation in Greensboro. She also worked with HealthServe, a free clinic in Guilford County, and as a community health educator with the Health Promotion and Disease Prevention section of the Guilford County Health Department.

Asante grew up in Ghana, West Africa, but came to the United States as a teenager. She has a bachelor of science degree in Community Health Education from the University of Florida and a master's degree in Healthcare Administration from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

Dobie named head of Transportation Institute

Dr. Kathryn Dobie has been appointed director of the Transportation Institute at North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University. Prior to her appointment she served as professor of transportation and logistics and UPS Chair in the department of business Administration.

Dobie received her doctorate from the University of Memphis in 1992. She joined the faculty of N.C. A&T in 1999. Prior to coming to A&T, she taught at the University of Arkansas and the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire.

Dobie continues to be actively engaged as a professor of transportation and supply chain management. She was recently appointed executive director of the Small Business Transportation Resource Center for the South Atlantic Region. Dobie is a past AST&L examiner responsible for the general business module for the CTL certification. She was chair for the Current Research and Surveys Track at the 2007 Council of Supply Chain Management Professionals (CSCMP) Annual Conference and is currently a member of the Research Strategies Committee for CSCMP. Dobie is an experienced ITV instructor and is actively engaged in introducing high school students to the World of Logistics, connecting their content studies with meaningful applications.

Dobie's research interests include supply chain security, service quality, and the impact of internal and external relationships on logistics operations and financial performance.

Well known Winston-Salem real estate agency expands

Leonard Ryden Burr has completed a renovation of its West End headquarters to create space for up to 15 more sales associates. As part of the renovation, Leonard Ryden Burr also reoriented the entrance of its building closer to the northeast corner facing historic Grace Court.

"We hear time and time again from agents who have joined us that Leonard Ryden Burr has the professional atmosphere they've been seeking," Curtis Leonard, a partner at Leonard Ryden Burr said. "We're thrilled with the continuing success of our company and decided to make room for more sales associates."

Leonard Ryden Burr was a rare exception in the real estate industry last year. The company enjoyed a 9.1 percent increase in sales over 2006 while the Triad average for real estate firms showed an 8 percent decline in sales. Corresponding to the percent sales increase, Leonard Ryden Burr also sold more houses in 2007 than 2006, with houses ranging from \$22,000 in price to more than \$2 million.

NewBridge's Lowe will step down as CEO

Robert Lowe has announced his retirement as Chief Executive Officer of NewBridge Bancorp (the "Company") effective June 30, and will continue to serve as Chairman of the Company and NewBridge Bank.

Colleagues and employees describe Lowe, the former Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of LSB Bancshares, Inc., as a well-respected, fair-minded and modest leader, one of those people who is instantly likable.

Lowe grew up in Chadbourne, NC, and received a bachelor's degree in economics from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

In 1965, Lowe entered the management training program of State Planters Bank in Richmond, Va. In 1969, he accepted a position with Industrial Bank of Lexington and joined Lexington State Bank in 1970, when the Bank's assets were less than \$30 million. Lowe was elected Vice President in 1973. He was elected Senior Vice President of the Bank in 1980 and Executive Vice President of the Corporation in 1982. On January 1, 1984, he was elected President and Chief Executive Officer of the Corporation and the Bank, and on January 1, 1990, Lowe was elected Chairman of both the Corporation and the Bank.

Lee receives ECU honorary doctorate

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

Golden LEAF Foundation President Valeria Lee received an honorary doctorate of letters from East Carolina University during the school's commencement ceremony Saturday.

The honorary degree is in recognition of Lee's public service to North Carolina during her tenure at Golden LEAF as well as the many other public service roles she has held over the course of her distinguished career.

Serving as Golden LEAF's president since 2000, Lee has overseen the foundation's work in tobacco-dependent, economically distressed, and/or rural communities throughout North Carolina. During her presidency, Golden LEAF has awarded 667 grants totaling more than \$246 million to support diverse projects in agriculture, economic development, workforce preparedness, education and other areas.

"Throughout her successful tenure as Golden LEAF's president, Valeria has been an exemplary leader and champion for the Rural Communities of North Carolina," said Tommy Bunn, chairman of Golden LEAF's board of directors. "We're thankful for all that she continues to do for North Carolina and congratulate her on this well-deserved honor."

Lee's career spans more than 35 years in nonprofit and foundation work, including two of North Carolina's largest grantmaking organizations: the Golden LEAF Foundation and the Winston-Salem-based Z. Smith Reynolds Foundation.

Prior to taking the reins at Golden LEAF, Lee served as a program officer for the Z. Smith Reynolds Foundation. She is also the former general manager of WVSP-FM, a public radio station that was located in Warrenton, N.C.

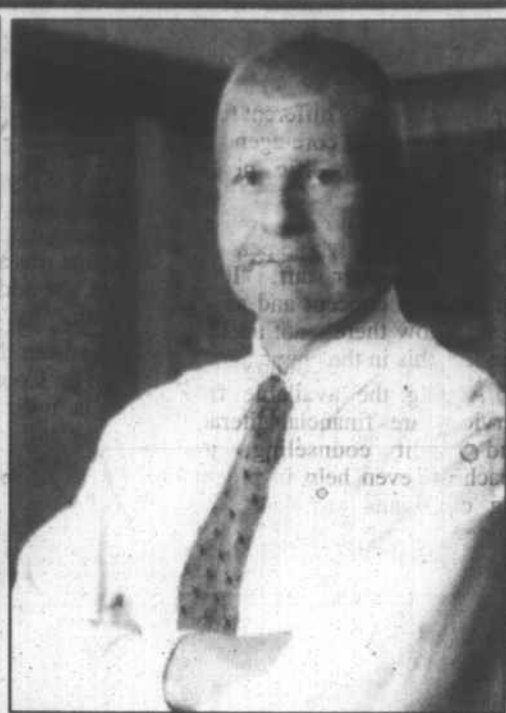
"I am honored to receive this award and would like to express deep appreciation to all who have supported me throughout my career," Lee said. "It has been a privilege to serve this great state, and I plan to continue to work alongside the many hometown heroes who commit themselves to the advancement and prosperity of North Carolina."

Lee announced in October 2007 that she will retire from the foundation later this year.



Dr. Marilyn Sheerer gives Valeria Lee her hood.

ECU News Services Photo



Merrill Lynch Professor Jon Duchac.

Business school's Duchac earns honor

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

Jon Duchac, Merrill Lynch Professor of Accounting and director of the Enterprise Risk Management Program at Wake Forest University's Calloway School of Business and Accountancy, has won a Fulbright Distinguished Chair in Economics and Business from the Fulbright Scholar Program.

He is the first member of the Wake Forest faculty to be awarded a Fulbright Distinguished Chair.

The Distinguished Chairs Program is considered one of the Fulbright Program's most prestigious and selective programs. Of the 40 scholars chosen as chairs to serve as visiting lecturers or researchers at leading higher education institutions, only two or three are chosen from the field of business.

This fall, Duchac will conduct research and teach two courses and a doctoral seminar at the famed Vienna University of Economics and Business Administration in Austria. It is considered the largest university focusing on business and economics in Europe and is known for producing the developers of the basic theories of capitalism.

He will also travel to universities throughout the region on behalf of the Fulbright Commission. On his way to Vienna, he will spend two weeks at the University of Iceland, giving a lecture series for graduate students on international accounting and risk management.

Duchac has taught in Wake Forest's accountancy and risk management programs for 15 years. He has served as a consultant for a number of companies on such issues as accounting for derivatives, structured financial transactions and risk management strategies.

During the fellowship, Duchac hopes to find ways to connect the Fulbright Program to Flow House, Wake Forest's residential study house in Vienna, and explore possible partnerships with the two universities. "At the end of the semester, I'm hoping to be able to conduct an international conference that brings together Wake Forest, the Vienna University of Economics and Business and the Fulbright Commission," Duchac said.

The Fulbright Scholar Program was established in 1946 under legislation introduced by the late Sen. J. William Fulbright of Arkansas to build mutual understanding between the people of the United States and other countries. The program is funded by the U.S. Department of State, Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs.

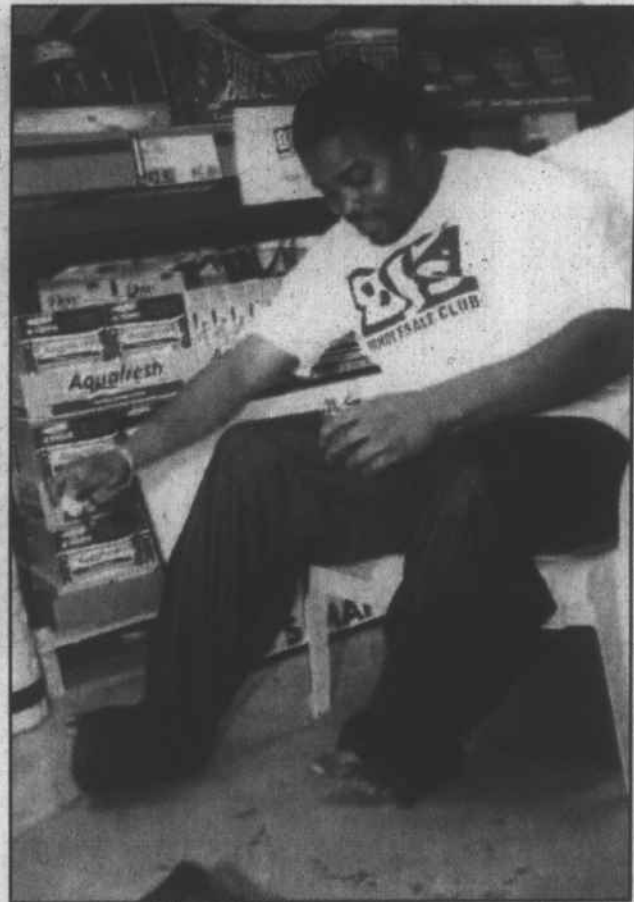
"Pregnant" dad wins Diaper Challenge

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

VALLEY STREAM, N.Y. — Dad-to-be Kenneth Ryan and a very expectant coach Nicole Avin of Queens Village, New York, delivered an exciting win that earned them a year's supply of Pampers diapers along with a cart full of baby essentials. BJ's Wholesale Club hosted its first-ever "BJ's Dad's Diaper Dash", a pregnancy challenge event designed to show dads-to-be just what expecting moms go through when pregnant and also to showcase how new parents can save money while stocking up on all of the baby products they need.

In honor of Mother's Day, five dads-to-be were given five minutes to complete a series of tasks that included shopping for baby-related products while enduring the rigors of daily pregnancy — including getting up from a bed and making it, bending down to pick up toys and painting their toenails. The course was completed while daddy dashers wore 37-pound empathy bellies simulating the major symptoms of pregnancy including weight gain, bladder pressure, increased pulse and body temperature and lower backaches.

See Challenge on A11



Dad-to-be Kenneth Ryan looks pretty in pink racing to win the Dad's Diaper Dash.

PRNewFoto/BJ's

Thrivent Financial invests money, time with Habitat

CHRONICLE STAFF REPORT

Thrivent Financial for Lutherans and Habitat for Humanity International have entered a four-year, \$125 million alliance that will result in several new homes for Triad families.

In the Triad, Habitat for Humanity of Forsyth County, Habitat for Humanity of the Lexington Area and Habitat for Humanity of Greater Greensboro have been awarded \$175,000 — or 65 percent of the funds necessary to build three homes in 2008. These homes will be built by area volunteers, of whom at least one-half will be Lutheran and one-fourth will be Thrivent Financial members.

Habitat for Humanity Forsyth County started its very first Thrivent Build house with a four-day blitz build on March 26-29. Homeowner Janet Brown and her 10 year old son, Ahmad, have been working alongside the Yadkin



Volunteers work on the Thrivent Habitat house.

Habitat Forsyth Photo

Valley Thrivent Chapter with well over 200 Lutheran and Thrivent members participating.

The Greensboro build started in February and when completed this month, more than 200 Lutheran and Thrivent volunteers will have worked on the house.

More than 100 volunteers from the community and from the

Davidson-Randolph County Chapter of Thrivent Financial are expected to participate in the Habitat for Humanity of the Lexington Area build, which started last month.

Based in Minneapolis, Minn., and Appleton, Wis., Thrivent Financial for Lutherans is a not-for-profit membership organization that helps nearly three-million members achieve their financial goals and give back to their communities. As a not-for-profit fraternal benefit society, Thrivent sponsors national outreach programs and activities that support congregations, schools, charitable organizations and individuals in need.

"The Triad builds are leading the way for the 11 Thrivent Builds with Habitat homes to be built in North Carolina in 2008," said Mike Wendt, Southeast and Mid-Atlantic Regional Coordinator for the Thrivent Financial Builds with Habitat Program.