

BUSINESS FOCUS

Briefs

Garland named Foundation's ED

Amy S. Garland has been appointed executive director of The Blessings Project Foundation, which works to foster individual enrichment, empowerment and a sense of respect and responsibility in the local and worldwide communities.

Garland specializes in marketing and public relations and has served non-profits, small businesses and the arts community for nearly 20 years. She will oversee the Foundation's grant process, build cooperative relationships with the non-profit community, and manage marketing and public relations for the Foundation.

The Foundation was established in 2006 by local philanthropist Beverly Johnston, who serves as the organization's president and chairman of the Board of Directors. Through a biannual grants process, Blessings Project Foundation provides funding for workshops, presentations and supports non profit organizations who share the belief that spiritual and physical growth is inseparable from the health of the planet. Foundation offices are located at 823 Reynolda, LLC, a special events space in Winston Salem.

In the past year, the Foundation has awarded grants totaling more than \$100,000 to organizations, including the ECHO Council, to help build diverse cultural relationships in the local community; Piedmont Earth Day Fair, to raise awareness for environmental sustainability; and the Nyanya Project, to raise funds for women raising grandchildren in Africa orphaned by AIDS. For more information, call 336-725-8230 or visit www.blessingsproject.org.

Gerlach to replace retiring Valeria Lee at Golden LEAF

Golden LEAF has announced that Dan Gerlach will serve as the foundation's new president effective Oct. 1. Following an extensive search process, the foundation's board chose Gerlach to succeed retiring President Valeria Lee.

Gerlach comes to Golden LEAF from the administration of Governor Mike Easley, where he has served since 2001 as senior policy advisor for fiscal affairs. Since then, Gerlach has played a leading role in crafting and negotiating the state budget. Before entering the administration, Gerlach headed up the North Carolina Budget and Tax Center, a nonprofit that advocated for a progressive state tax system.

Gerlach will take the reigns of the foundation from Lee, who has served as Golden LEAF's president since 2000. During Lee's presidency, Golden LEAF awarded 682 grants totaling more than \$351 million to support diverse projects in agriculture, economic development, workforce preparedness and education.

N.C. man one of Jaycees' top ten young people

Chapel Hill's Stephen Lee is one of the prominent businesspeople and politicians on the 2008 Ten Outstanding Young Americans list announced last week by the United States Jaycees.

Lee, 39, is the senior scientist in the Director's Office of the U.S. Army Research Office. He has been working to develop new tools and capabilities to save lives of both civilians and soldiers in Iraq and Afghanistan.

His motivation and management skills have initiated a 98-percent growth in the U.S. Army's technical program he manages. Lee also regularly volunteers with the local schools and Cub scouts, as well as working directly with undergraduate and graduate students at the University of North Carolina. Lee and the others will be honored at a black-tie awards Sept. 27 in San Diego, Calif.

The Ten Outstanding Young Americans program (TOYA) is one of the oldest and most prestigious recognition programs in America. Annually since 1938, The United States Jaycees has sought out the ten young men and women who best exemplify the finest attributes of America's youthful achievers.

Many notables have been honored as Outstanding Young Americans in the past, including Presidents John Kennedy, Richard Nixon, Gerald Ford, and Bill Clinton, and Vice Presidents Al Gore, Dan Quayle, and Dick Cheney.

Professionals to hold charity gala

The Piedmont Club, in partnership with Safari Professionals, will host a Safari Charity Gala on Friday, Sept. 19 at 8 p.m.

The cost is \$50 per person and all proceeds will be donated to the Muscular Dystrophy Association, Crosby Scholars and ClubCorp's Employee Partner Care Foundation.

There will be more than 20 silent auction items, including a beach weekend, jewelry, Carolina Panthers autographed paraphernalia, spa services and an overnight stay at the Vintage Inn Bed and Breakfast in Yadkinville. Music will be provided by The Downtown Band and T.J. the DJ. Hors d'oeuvres will be served and a cash bar will be available. Safari attire is encouraged.

The Piedmont Club is located on the 19th floor of the BB&T Financial Center at 200 W. Second St. Parking under the building.

For more information or to make reservations, call 336-724-7077.



Algenon Cash

Algenon Cash cited for 'moving and shaking'

CHRONICLE STAFF REPORT

Algenon Cash, the managing director of mortgage firm Wharton, Gladden & Co., has been nominated for Business Leader Media's 2008 Movers and Shakers Award.

Business Leader Media is publisher of several magazines, including "Business Leader," "The Park Guide" and "The Corporate Relocation Guide."

Cash's nomination stems from his mission to mix business with community service. Cash, who is

also the chairman of Wharton, Gladden & Co.'s operating committee, feels so strongly about giving back to the community that all associates at the company are required to participate in civic efforts outside work through a program called, "Power of One."

"I think businesses and corporations need to be about more than just making money," Cash says. "I think they need to be good corporate citizens for their community."

Cash can also be heard on WQMG Radio, dispensing financial

advice to listeners throughout the Triad.

"Even if a listener isn't in my target demographic as a buyer of commercial real estate, it gives them a chance to learn about money management," he says.

Outside of wealth management, Cash frequently speaks about success and leadership, believing that his upbringing in an urban Winston-Salem neighborhood calls him to share his time and talents whenever possible.

LAW LEADERS



Submitted Photo

The Winston-Salem Bar Association has newly-elected officers for the 2008 - 2010 term. They are (from right) Eric Ellison, president; Lorraine Mortis, secretary; S. Wayne Patterson, vice-president and Artrese N. Ziglar, treasurer. The Association is the organization for African-American lawyers in the Winston-Salem area. The new officers say they look forward to a greater level of community involvement in the upcoming year.



Garland Burton Jr.

Burton hired to up WFU's diversity efforts

CHRONICLE STAFF REPORT

Wake Forest University has hired a director of business diversity programs.

Garland Burton Jr. has assumed the title, leaving behind a position at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

He is responsible for building strategic partnerships between Wake Forest and a more diverse pool of vendors, suppliers and contractors in Winston-Salem, the Triad and beyond.

Burton served six years as administrative manager and director of the Historically Underutilized Business Program at UNC. He is also the former president and general manager of Burton Developers Inc. and worked for Durham's Department of Engineering for six years.

Burton - who has a bachelor of science degree in organizational management at St. Augustine's College - has received a number of awards recently, including the North Carolina Minority and Women's Business Enterprise Coordinators Network Achievement Award, the UNC-Chapel Hill Chancellors Award and the United Minority Contractors of North Carolina Advisor of the Year Award. He was also honored at the 2008 Greater Durham Chamber of Commerce Circle of Influence Award ceremony.



Photo by Sgt. Kathryn Jarvis

Kim Price (from left) and Thad Woodard, NCBA's president/CEO, present Major General William E. Ingram Jr. and Brigadier General Iwan Clontz with a \$25,000 check.

N.C. Bankers giving back to the military

CHRONICLE STAFF REPORT

The North Carolina Bankers Association contributed \$25,000 to the North Carolina Soldiers and Airmen Assistance Fund last week in Raleigh at the N.C. National Guard Joint Force Headquarters.

The donation is the first of four military contributions that the association will make. Entities at Ft. Bragg, Camp Lejeune and Seymour Johnson will also receive \$25,000 checks, bringing the association's total donation to \$100,000.

Kim Price, the association's chairman and presi-

dent & CEO of Citizens South Bank of Gastonia, presented the first check. The money was raised as part of the association's "Salute To Our Troops" event, which took place in Raleigh on April 26 and included a parade and a slew of family-friendly events.

The N.C. National Guard's Soldiers and Airmen Assistance Fund provides emergency aid to N.C. National Guardmembers and families in financial crisis.

Founded in 1897, the North Carolina Bankers Association has more than 150 members.

Sweet effort for soldiers now a nonprofit

CHRONICLE STAFF REPORT

The signature product of a local gift and candy boutique has earned nonprofit status.

Sweetie's on Reynolda Road has won local and national acclaim for its red, white and blue "Patriot Boxes," which are stuffed with "Goodies Ready to Eat" (or "G*R*Es") and shipped mainly to military men and women serving in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Boutique Owner Jackie Williams and her staff began creating Patriot Boxes in 2007 as a way to say for local residents to say "thank you" to soldiers. Although some customers purchase the boxes for loved ones, others buy boxes or make contributions so that random soldiers can receive them. Sweetie's works with local military offi-



Williams

cial to select soldiers who do not receive many communications from home.

Now that the boxes are an individual nonprofit corporation operating under the name, "Patriot Box/GRES, Inc.," customers will have added incentive to support the effort.

"We are pleased to announce the nonprofit rating for our Patriot Boxes, and are grateful for the local support and concern shown to those serving our country abroad," says Williams. "Because of the nonprofit status, the cost of the Patriot Boxes can be taken as a charitable tax deduction by the purchaser."

Sweetie's has shipped more than 700 boxes overseas in the last year. They come in assorted designs that represent each branch of the military. Williams has received kudos from people like U.S. Sen. Elizabeth Dole and President Bush for her efforts. Dole was among dozens who attended a one-year anniversary celebration for Patriot Boxes in July.

Sweetie's is located at 1228 Reynolda Road. For additional information about Patriot Boxes, go to www.sweetieswinstonsalem.com.

