



The scholarship winners with their families and Department officials.

Children of police officers earn scholarships

CHRONICLE STAFF REPORT

Six college-bound teenagers were presented with Law Enforcement Family Scholarships on Tuesday afternoon during a short ceremony at the Public Safety Center. The scholarships are worth \$500 a year for four years, for a total of \$2,000.

Money for the scholar-

ships was raised through the Law Enforcement Family Scholarship Golf Tournament and through donations from local individuals and businesses. The Winston-Salem Foundation selects the recipients and administers the scholarship fund.

The recipients are:

- Elizabeth Hope Collins, daughter of Sergeant David Collins and Carla Collins.

She will attend North Carolina State University;

- Hayley Ann Cozart, daughter of Sergeant Robert Cozart and Kelly Cozart. She will attend Surry Community College;

- Krystal Anne Fish, daughter of Sergeant Christopher Fish and Sergeant Trace Fish. She will attend UNC-Wilmington;

- Kathryn Elizabeth

Kiger, daughter of Lieutenant David Kiger and Sandra Kiger. She will attend Appalachian State University;

- Anna Leigh Weavil, daughter of Dennie and Angie Weavil. She will attend Queens University; and

- Myriah Danielle Lane, daughter of Melody Lane. She will attend Greensboro College.

Photo by Todd Luck

Moody

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a little leeway, by allowing Moody to use his self-created seasoning blend to give the restaurant's fried chicken more of a punch. The decision proved wise after customers went gaga; one, in particular, changed Moody's life forever.

"She was visiting from Texas or somewhere ... she loved the fried chicken," Moody recalled last week. "She offered a lot of money for the seasoning recipe."

After some thought, Moody declined her offer, but it got him thinking.

"I figured that if she was willing to buy it, other people would too," he said.

Spice Delight was born soon after that. But with no big-name food distributor on his side, Moody had his work cut out for him. He would fill a backpack with hundreds of small plastic bags containing a sample of his seasoning blend, and hand them out wherever roamed. Moody, in his trademark white chef's uniform and hat, became a regular at downtown music events and local festivals. His efforts paid off, as more and more people used the phone number on the sample packets to place orders for the seasoning. Customer feedback also led Moody to change the concept of his all-natural, low sodium seasoning.

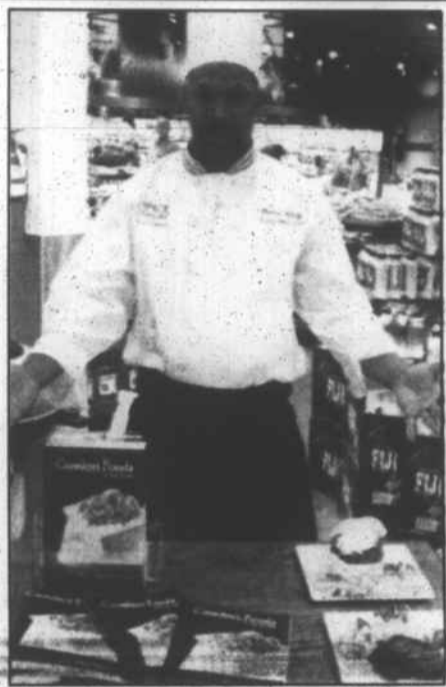
"It was intended as a fried chicken seasoning, but people started telling me that they use it on beef and fish ... so I changed the concept to an all-purpose seasoning," he said.

The Fresh Market, the Triad-rooted chain of upscale grocery stores, helped propel Moody to heights he never imagined. He began working at the Winston-Salem store - which is now located on Robinhood Road after recently relocating from Thruway Shopping Center - more than three years - giving live cooking demonstrations and offering the finished products to shoppers. Of course, Moody used his own seasoning for the demonstrations, and, again, the spices became a hit with customers, so much so that the Winston-Salem store began carrying full-size containers of Moody's Spice Delight on its shelves.

The native New Yorker was pleasantly surprised by the big helpings of Southern hospitality that have been heaped on him by the folks at The Fresh Market.

"They have been amazing," said Moody.

Moody's Spice Delight is now available at 15 The Fresh Market stores in North Carolina and Virginia. He has vis-



Submitted Photo

Chef Moody prepares items from his cookbook at The Fresh Market.

ited nearly all of them to do cooking demonstrations and tout his product, which has sold a whopping 5,000 containers in the last four years.

Moody used some of the proceeds from his success to publish his first cookbook, "Comfort Foods of the South." Many of the recipes featured in the book are inspired by his late mother, Mildred, who gave a young Moody his start in the kitchen.

"She was from Savannah (Ga.) ... her cooking style was very Southern," he stated.

The cookbook, which is also sold at The Fresh Market stores and the local Borders, was released almost exactly one year ago, on July 24. It has sold more than 1,000 copies. The cookbook's success has inspired Moody to do a soon-to-be released follow-up.

"I want to focus on the new Southern-style cooking," Moody said like a painter talking about his next great masterpiece. "Everything in the book will be baked, broiled, pan-fried or grilled."

But before the next book is printed, Moody will be going back to his self-promotion roots in order to tell the Triad and the world about his latest Spice Delight products: his Sweet and Zesty BBQ Sauce and signature BBQ Rub.

"The concept of the sauce came to me out of frustration, really," admits Moody, who said he was tired of doing cooking demos using his spices and rub, but one of the popular name-brand

sauces, which for a chef of his high standards was insulting.

"Most of the sauces are thick because they have all of these preservatives in them, and they are either too vinegary or sweet," Moody said with a look of slight disdain. "My sauce is all natural ... I use things like raw apple cider vinegar and raw turbinado sugar."

Moody's sauce hit The Fresh Market shelves in early April and has already sold about 1,500 bottles - a tally that even has him a little surprised.

"I was amazed by that," he said. "People love the sauce. People love it so much that I have people who just want to drink it."

There are days that Moody has to pinch himself to see if this is all a dream. Long gone are the days when he was one of the nameless, faceless people who prepared mouth-watering dishes with little or no recognition. His culinary talents and knack for self-promotion have garnered him feature stories in "Yes! Weekly" and the "Winston-Salem Journal" and Raleigh's "News & Observer," which featured Moody after its food columnist shared a train ride from Raleigh to Washington, D.C. with Moody, who, of course, pulled out a sample of his Spice Delight.

Moody also conducts cooking classes at Chef Don McMillan's Stocked Pot and Wake Forest University Baptist Medical Center's Best Health in Hanes Mall.

Late last month, Moody appeared on WFMY's the "Good Morning Show," on which he showed viewers how to use his products to whip-up an easy Barbecue Chicken Wrap and Salad Slaw (a combination of a tossed salad and cole slaw). The television appearance has sent Moody's creative mind into overdrive once more. He is looking for a videographer to tape a few of his cooking segments in hopes that a local station will find them appealing enough to give him a few minutes each week to show local folks how to make quick, healthy meals.

"The Triad is really the only area that does not have a local cooking show ... Charlotte has one. We need one here," he said.

Moody's success has enabled him to work at The Fresh Market only a few days a week. When he is not there, he is working to promote his Spice Delight brand and planning his next move.

"I just want to see how far I can take this. I really did not choose this profession, I think that it choose me," said Moody, citing the many incidents of happenstance that have propelled his career from one zenith to the next.

Reynolds

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Susan M. Ivey, chairman, president and chief executive officer of Reynolds American. "Our employees wanted to help bridge the gap created by a demand for food that is far exceeding the supply of donated food this year. We're proud of how quickly our employees stepped up to help fill empty shelves at the food bank and feed the hungry."

Clyde Fitzgerald, the executive director of the food bank, said the support could not have come at a better time.

"Second Harvest Food Bank is grateful for this generous support of our pro-

grams," said Fitzgerald. "Reynolds American and R.J. Reynolds Tobacco Company employees have long taken a leadership role in addressing critical community needs. Although food donations have increased over one million pounds in the past year, the sustained 76 percent increase in demand has totally outstripped supply. Today, 250,000 people in our 18-county service area, including more than 80,000 children, cannot say for sure where their next meal is coming from. The Reynolds donation will help ensure that children and their parents, who have run out of food due to grave financial circumstances, will be fed."

Scholars

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In South Africa, the scholars visited senior executives from GE, Johnson & Johnson and other global companies in the country to gain first-hand insight into global business and professional and personal leadership development.

"The South Africa trip taught me the significance of cross-cultural communica-

tion," said Rodriguez, a rising senior at Bennett. "I now have a greater awareness and appreciation for diversity and inclusion."

Dargan, also a rising Bennett senior, added, "I truly appreciate this eye-opening trip that has caused me to move rapidly toward truly understanding globalization. I feel as if I have been given the world, and it is all due to the empowered women of The Executive Leadership Council."

RAC

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wrote bad checks.

In another sworn statement, Mark Patrick, who like Hammons lives in the Seattle area, says he told Rent-A-Center that his payments would be late due to his wife's hospitalization. Patrick claims the company made repeated, profane collection calls. Patrick says Rent-A-Center employees later arrived at his house and tried to kick the door in. When Patrick returned he found his doorframe split and shoe marks on the door.

"While companies certainly have the right to collect on outstanding debts, state law, along with the most basic standards of common courtesy, dictate how companies may collect on those debts," said Attorney General Rob McKenna. "Attempting to kick doors down, calling the debtor's friends and relatives, and scaring their children aren't included in those basic standards."

In June, the Washington State Attorney General's Consumer Protection Division filed claims against Rent-A-Center asking King County Superior Court to declare Rent-A-Center's collection practices and rental contracts in violation of the state's Consumer Protection Act and Lease-Purchase Agreements Act. The AG's office has also requested that the court force Rent-A-Center to comply with an earlier demand to turn over documents related to its collection and other practices and to stop engaging in unlawful conduct.

"Because of a loophole in state and federal laws that apply to debt collection, Rent-A-Center employees believe they can use harassing tactics to collect from renters who are late on their payments," said Assistant Attorney General Jim Sugarman.

The State's complaint has a

laundry list of allegations, including claims that during collections calls, Rent-A-Center employees used profanity and other abusive, threatening or humiliating language, including calling consumers "deadbeat," "liar," "thief" and "ghetto trash."

In addition, state attorneys claim that Rent-A-Center violates the Lease-Purchase Agreements Act by failing to disclose the individual cash price of each property it rents. This practice prevents consumers from exercising their early purchase option, causes them to run up additional purchase costs or causes them to lose their chance to purchase property.

Texas-based Rent-A-Center has 3,000 stores nationally and 50 in the State of Washington. It sells furniture, televisions, and other consumer items using a rent-to-own business model. Consumers make weekly, and sometimes biweekly or monthly payments. Through these payments, consumers ultimately pay far larger prices for items than charged in traditional stores.

As an example, documents filed by the state show that through weekly payments Rent-A-Center charged a total of \$3,585.21 for a refrigerator, \$4,073.25 for a laptop computer and \$6,594 for a used television. Generally consumers' payments must be taken to the store each week in person. According to a Rent-A-Center tax filing, only 25 percent of its consumers actually complete this payment schedule.

Last week, Rent-A-Center issued a statement denying the allegations and saying they will "prove to be unfounded."

"The Attorney General's claims of a pattern of abusive conduct are demonstrably wrong ... the Attorney General's claims are an unfortunate attempt to mischaracterize RAC, its coworkers, and its commitment to ethical business conduct," the statement reads.

Births

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too, and fell into a state of crisis in 2008.

The largest decline in births were in California and Florida, two states hit hardest by the housing crisis.

"I wasn't surprised," Hogue said, of the new numbers, which are not final and will be updated.

But the downturn's effect on the public psychology - and families' willingness to have babies - may not have really hit until the fall of 2008, said Stephanie Ventura of the health statistics center, the agency that put out the report.

Of course, 2007 was a year in which more babies were born in the United States than any other year in the nation's history. In the past, a fluctuation of births by 1 or 2 percent would not be seen as very significant, especially from such an unusual year.

But the drop seems to break an unusual trend. Births had been rising since 2002, and birth rates had been increasing in women of different age groups, said Ventura, chief of the agency's reproductive statistics branch.

Births were up in January, February and April of 2008 compared to 2007, but were down every month after that except September. The largest declines were in October and November.



Hogue

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