

CAREERS

Firm rebrands

Walter Robbs Callahan & Pierce Architects, PA – the Triad’s largest architecture firm – has adopted a fresh identity that embraces the firm’s nickname, firm culture and comprehensive design services. Now known as Walter Robbs, the firm is retaining all current partners, including vice presidents Rence Callahan and Clark Pierce.

“We wanted a new identity that is dynamic, easier to remember and recognizes the growing number of people on our firm’s management team,” Callahan said. “For some time, our management team has been larger than just namesakes Larry Robbs, Clark Pierce and me. The shorter Walter Robbs brand is more representative of our firm as a whole and, perhaps even more important, sets the stage for the future.”



Curtis

Walter Robbs’ president Larry Robbs became the firm’s most senior partner when founder Lloyd Walter retired in 1999. Wesley Curtis and Steve Ulp have been a part of the firm’s management team since 2007. In conjunction with the firm’s rebranding, Matt Messick and Ken McDaniel have been named members of the Walter Robbs’ management team. Additional partners at Walter Robbs are Jane Barea, Jim Bogenberger, Joe Bircher, Katie Pepper and Amy West.

“For years, many people simply called us by the nickname Walter Robbs, which we’re embracing in our firm identity going forward,” Curtis said. “We carefully considered a number of factors before updating our logo.”

The firm’s new web site can be viewed at walterrobbs.com. Bull & Beard of Winston-Salem designed the firm’s new web site. Walter Robbs retained local graphic designer Julie Helsabeck to create the firm’s new logo.

New job for Páez

Dr. Doris Páez started her new job as the executive director of the Centers for Exceptional Children on June 1. She had served as executive director of Forsyth Futures since 2010.

Mari Krane has been named as the interim Executive Director of Forsyth Futures.

“I’m excited about the opportunity to focus on my passions for psychology, education and children,” Páez said. “I’m confident that Forsyth Futures will continue to thrive under Mari’s leadership and direction and the strong staff we’ve grown.”

The mission of The Centers for Exceptional Children is to provide a world class educational/therapeutic experience for children with special needs, from birth to 11 years old. Created in 2010 by the merger of The Special Children’s School and The Children’s Center, The Centers for Exceptional Children, are dedicated to serving children with developmental delays, orthopedic disabilities and other health impairments. Páez will replace Mike Britt, who is retiring.

Holt Brothers hire

Raleigh-based Holt Brothers Construction has hired Patrice Gilmore as its new vice president of Supplier Diversity & Inclusion. In this role, Gilmore will lead and further promote the company’s established efforts to maximize procurement opportunities with corporations and diverse businesses such as suppliers, contractors and subcontractors.

A respected industry veteran, Gilmore brings more than 15 years of experience in supply chain management and procurement in the corporate real estate field. She was formerly the senior supplier diversity manager of Atlantic and California Regions at Lend Lease Inc., where she was responsible for the development and implementation of a diversity program aimed at providing assistance to Small, Minority and Women Business Enterprises (SMWBE) and growing the use of SMWBEs in the construction industry.



Gilmore

Gilmore is active in national industry organizations including the Institute for Supply Management, the National Association of Minority Contractors, the American Contract Compliance Association and numerous regional organizations.

Born in Lexington, Gilmore graduated from North Carolina A&T State University, where she majored in Construction Management. She currently resides in the Raleigh-Durham area.

“Companies today are increasingly committed to spending with minority- and women-owned businesses to ensure equal access to economic opportunity. The addition of Patrice punctuates our commitment and makes Holt Brothers Construction uniquely situated to continue our leading minority-owned business position both in the Triangle and the construction industry as a whole,” said Holt Brothers Construction Terrence Holt, who runs the company with his brother, Tory.

Both Holt brothers are former N.C. State and NFL football players. They founded the company in 2007.

NEW CARVER PRINCIPAL PICKED

CHRONICLE STAFF REPORT

Travis Taylor has been named the new principal of Carver High School. He replaces Ronald Travis, who will be the principal of Main Street Academy.



Taylor

Taylor has been the principal of Lexington Senior High School since 2011. Previously, he served as principal of the Southern School of Engineering in Durham from 2007 to 2011 and the principal of East Lee Middle School in Lee County from 2005 to 2007.

Taylor also has experience as an assistant principal and science and math teacher for Durham Public Schools.

He was named Lexington City Schools Principal of the Year in 2013.



He also was named the 2012 Principal of the Year by the N.C. Association for Scholastic Activities for increasing student participation in scholastic activities and competitions.

Taylor earned a bachelor’s degree in middle grades education from N.C.

Central University and a master’s degree in school administration from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

Last month, Superintendent Beverly Emory said she wanted an

See Principals on A9

NABJ to honor another local legend

CHRONICLE STAFF REPORT

The Triad Association of Black Journalists (TABJ) announced last week that N.C. A&T’s Dr. Linda Florence Callahan will receive the NABJ Journalism Educator of the Year Award at the 39th annual NABJ Convention & Career Fair, which will be held July 30 – Aug. 3 in Boston.

The award recognizes the service, commitment and academic guidance of an outstanding journalism teacher, professor or educator. The honoree must have helped to increase the number of black journalists in newsrooms.

Triad resident Sandra Hughes, a veteran television broadcaster and professor, will also be honored at the Convention.

Before Callahan embarked on her more than 30-year career in education, she was a newspaper and radio reporter.

As an educator, Callahan has molded young minds at Johnson C. Smith University, The Ohio State University, Alabama A&M University and Elizabeth City State University. Since 1996, she has taught a host of classes, including broadcast production, print journalism, and public relations at N.C. A&T.

A longtime member of NABJ, Callahan was the founding president of affiliate chapters in Charlotte and Columbus, Ohio. In 1997, she became the first journalism educator to serve on the NABJ Board of Directors. That same year, Callahan founded the regional workshop at N.C. A&T in partnership with the North Carolina Scholastic Media Association (NCSMA). She leads this initiative every year. Other programs throughout the country follow the model she created.

In August 2013, Callahan received a national award for her efforts at the 101st Annual Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication (AEJMC) Conference. She earned the Robert P. Knight Multicultural Recruitment Award for encouraging and advising underrepresented students in journalism for more than three decades at five different universities.



Callahan



Photo by Ken Bennett / Wake Forest University

Charles Iacovou’s appointment becomes effective July 1.

New WFU Business dean picked

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

Charles Iacovou will become the next Dean of the Wake Forest University School of Business, effective July 1.

Since joining the School of Business’ leadership team in 2007, Iacovou has served in a number of senior administrative roles, including Director of the Full-time MBA Program, Senior Associate Dean of Graduate Programs and Senior Associate Dean of Faculty. For the past two years, he has served as the School’s Vice Dean. In this capacity, he has had oversight responsibility for undergraduate, graduate and non-degree programs. He also has been responsible for faculty affairs, academic centers and all administrative and professional staff functions of the school.

Under Iacovou’s leadership, the School of Business faculty and staff formulated a strategic framework for business education at Wake Forest between 2012-13, which is currently being implemented. This followed Iacovou’s successful efforts to co-lead the integration of the graduate and undergraduate business schools at Wake Forest.

“I am honored and enthusiastic to serve as the next Dean of the School of Business. Our School is distinguished in the landscape of higher education because of our focus on holistic student development and our deep connection to the practice of business,” said Iacovou. “It is a privilege to be working with colleagues who are committed to providing superior talent and thought leadership to organizations so that they can make the world a better place.”

Provost Rogan Kersh chaired a national search for a leader of impeccable experience and an appreciation for the



Hatch

power of a well-rounded business education in a collegiate-university setting.

“Throughout our comprehensive search process, which attracted very strong interest from across sectors and indeed across the globe, Charles distinguished himself as the best choice for Wake Forest,” said Kersh. “Our committee concluded definitively that he is the leader we need to build upon what faculty and staff envisioned as the ideal model for 21st century business education.”

“As Vice Dean and as Professor of Management, Charles has proven himself to be a dynamic leader,” said President Nathan O. Hatch. “I am confident he has both the vision and the operational expertise to take Wake Forest to the next level as a distinctive and distinguished school of business.”

Before joining Wake Forest University in 2001, Iacovou led an electronic bank, Laiki eBank, in Europe. Additionally, he has provided strategic planning, management consulting, and leadership training services to firms in the financial services, international trade, logistics, media and other industries. As Professor of Management, Iacovou has received numerous teaching and research awards from students, alumni and faculty.

Iacovou was a faculty member in the McDonough School of Business at Georgetown University from 1997 to 1999. He received his Ph.D. in Management Information Systems from the University of British Columbia and his B.S. degree in Business Administration from the University of Vermont. He completed his undergraduate studies with the support of a scholarship administered by the Cyprus Fulbright Commission.

Product of foster care making a difference

BY COURTNEY J. JACKSON
N.C. A&T

Robert E. Thomas is a member of a minority group — the small percentage of adults who grew up in the United States foster care system and later graduated from college.

Thomas earned a bachelor’s degree in mechanical engineering in 2001 and a master’s degree in industrial technology manufacturing in 2004 from North Carolina A&T State University.

According to statistics, of the 800,000 children and youth who have experienced foster care system each year, only 2.7 percent of them,



Photo courtesy of NC A&T

Robert E. Thomas

between the ages of 25 and 34, end up earning a bachelor’s degree.

Thomas, on the other hand, beat the odds. He worked as a mechanical engineer at Northrop Grumman Corporation, a patent examiner at the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office and as a senior mechanical engineer at Alion. He is currently a law student at Detroit’s Wayne State University and a few months away from taking the bar exam.

But it is his conviction to fight for the well-being of children in the foster care system that keeps him going.

See Thomas on A9