



# WOMEN'S HISTORY



## Paula R. Newsome, O.D., M.S. F.A.A.O.

By Fran Farrer-Nash  
THE CHARLOTTE POST

In 1984, Paula Newsome arrived in Charlotte driving an old Toyota and has since been blessed with extensive experiences and opportunities. The most impressive being, building her optometric practice into a million dollar operation with state of the art equipment and a large base of patients.

Paula considers her success and the growth of her business as blessings. Blessings are bestowed on individuals that share their God given gifts and give back to the community with the faith of a mustard seed. Paula's sharings begin at home as an elementary school tutor, and extend abroad.

"A people without a vision shall perish." "To whom much is given, much is required." "I feel that I have been blessed with so much that going to do mission work is one small way of giving back. Once every other year and twice on the off years, I go to Guyana, South America and Jamaica. The work we do is under very different conditions from what I do in the United States. First, there is no air conditioning and we are working with the aid of a generator if we have that. The people are so appreciative of the work that we do that although we may see 100 people in a day, we do not tire because it is part of our titling of our talents. We are working with people who walk or boat to get to us for, in some cases miles, just so that we can help them with their eyes. I have seen patients in Guyana cry because they could finally see their children or jump and run because they have enough eye drops to last them for a year. We do a lot of good on those trips that are sponsored by the Global Outreach Ministry at Friendship Missionary Baptist Church," shares Paula.

A pioneer in her own right, Newsome has a plethora of firsts to her credit. She was the first African-American to graduate from UAB School of Optometry

with concurrent degrees in Optometry and a MS in Physiological Optics, and the first African-American to be on the faculty at UMSL School of Optometry; successfully complete a residency at The Eye Institute-PCO, on the faculty of Vision Expo, International Vision Expo for 15 years, on Vision Council of America; serve on the AOA's Primary Care Committee, optometrist to be awarded a Kellogg Leadership Award; win a American Optometric Foundation Award, serve on the NC State Optometric Society's Third Party Committee; spokesperson for the Vision Council of America; consult with Transitions Optical and be on their education faculty, and consult with the Spectacle Lens Group of Johnson and Johnson. But most impressive is being the first African-American female to be inducted into the American Academy of Optometry, to practice in the state of Missouri, establish a practice of optometry in North Carolina and serve on the AOA's State Legislative Affairs Division, Scope of Practice. These accomplishments truly depicts "Women's History."

Involvement in the community, Paula is chairperson of board of directors at Discovery Place Science Museum, member Jack and Jill of America Inc., The Links Inc. and Delta Sigma Theta Inc, and member board of

directors, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill General Alumni Association.

For her involvement, Paula has received the Crystal Award presented by Julianne Malveaux at the NABPW National Convention in 1998, and Harvey Beech Outstanding Alumnus Award, UNC-Chapel Hill, 2000. She has been featured in numerous publications including Southern Journal of Optometry, Review of Optometry and Optometry Today.

A native of Wilmington, Paula received her B.A. in biology in 1977 from University of North Carolina Chapel Hill, O.D. in optometry and M.S. in Physiological Optics in 1981 from University of Alabama, and primary care residency in 1982 from Pennsylvania College of



Newsome

Optometry in 1982.

To further her education, Paula received a fellowship from American Academy of Optometry, New Orleans, La in 1988, and was the first African-American female in the country to become a fellow.

Paula's extensive work experience includes assistant professor, University of Missouri, where she taught ocular pharmacology, ocular pathology, pre-clinic, geriatric and pediatric optometry 1982-1984, and instructor at Pennsylvania College of Optometry, teaching geometric optics for the summer program 1981-1982. Beating all odds and defying all skeptics, Paula started her private practice, Apogee Vision Care, in 1984. Seeking to improve the visual needs of the community, Paula

became president of AAA Vision Care Inc., a fully integrated practice with 3.5 optometrists and one ophthalmologist on staff full time and 15 employees in two offices in April 1997. Currently, Paula is president of Advantage Vision Care with a staff of eight.

In cooperation with two others, Paula opened Advantage Learning Center, a 501 C-3 non-profit academic center specializing in afterschool programs, summer camps and tutorials for remediation and enhancement concentrating on children in

grades K-5. The premise was to help bridge the gap in test scores for students in Mecklenburg County.

Paula is the proud mother of an 8-year-old daughter, Ayana Renee. They are members of Friendship Missionary Baptist Church, where Paula is a Sunday school teacher.

Most memorable experience:  
*Meeting Nelson Mandela*

### KINLOCH PRODUCTIONS, INC.

The area's only minority owned and operated "turnkey" video production company!



We work with our clients to create a professional, high-impact product...complete with crisp writing, specialized graphics and creative editing. Let us put our imagination to work for you!

#### Specializing In:

Corporate Videos • Marketing Videos  
Training Videos • Commercials  
Full-scale Television Programming  
TelePromPTer Training and On Camera Skills Training

Von and Lee Kinloch, Owners

Office - 704-455-6836

Mobile - 704-560-1741

"Putting Our Imagination To Work For You!"

### REEVES EYE CLINIC

Dr. Curtis C. Reeves, Jr.,  
Ophthalmologist



#### - Specializing in -

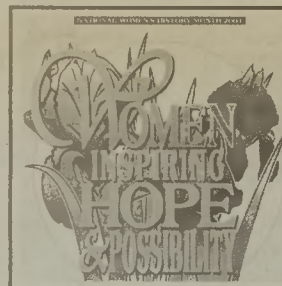
- Glaucoma • Diabetes • Cataract Surgery • Lens Implants
- Laser Surgery • Eye Exams
- Division of Motor Vehicles Eye Exams

Features include, but not limited to:  
"NO" Overnight Stay Cataract Surgery

Designer Glasses, and  
1-Hour, Same-Day Optical Lab

Call for appointment: 704.333.0799  
1212 S. Mint Street, Charlotte, NC 28202  
Medicare and Medicaid Welcome

20% OFF selected glasses with this ad



The blessing of hope brings  
the gift of possibility

Mecklenburg County  
Women's Commission  
Hal Marshall Services Center  
700 North Tryon Street  
Charlotte, NC 28202  
(704)336-3784  
FAX (704)336-4198

### THEATER & FASHIONS

Nettie Reeves Presents the Eighth Annual  
Portraits of Black Women

# Love and WAR

March 20, 2004

Seven O'Clock PM

Spirit Square, 345 North College Street, Charlotte, NC

Starring Sandra B. Lewis from A Good Man is Hard To Find  
Fashions by Carl Brown, co-founder of FUBU The Collection

#### DOOR PRIZES

Encased autographed shirt by FUBU The Collection  
Weekend getaway at the Wyndham Hotel  
and more...

Light hors d'oeuvres, champagne, and fine desserts

\$40.00 Reserved Seating

Group & Senior Discount Rates Available

Order tickets on line at [www.blumenthalcenter.org](http://www.blumenthalcenter.org) or call the Box  
Office at 704-372-1000

Cocktail Attire

Proceeds benefit The Mint Museums' African American Art Collection



WYNDHAM HOTELS & RESORTS

vizcon

The Charlotte Post  
"Some Old Values, Bright New Ideas"

Douglas Says...  
"The only accessory you  
need is a body!"

Carl Brown co-founder of  
FUBU  
The Collection



The Mint Museums  
Experience Art

## Professional Eye Care

for Adults & Children



Dr. Paula R. Newsome  
Optometrist

### Where We Care

- ~ Professional Vision Care
- ~ Examination and treatment of the eye and visual system
- ~ Designer frames at affordable price
- ~ State of the Art practice
- ~ Accepts most insurances
- ~ Where the emphasis is on the patient!
- ~ Difficult to fit contact lenses
- ~ Lasik evaluations



Dr. Paula R. Newsome & the Staff of Advantage Vision Center  
wish to thank you for allowing us to serve you  
for 20 wonderful years.

March 17, 1984 - March 17, 2004

1016 S. Church • Charlotte, N.C.  
Tel. (704)375-3935 • Fax (704)333-7238  
E-Mail: [advaneyeb@bellsouth.net](mailto:advaneyeb@bellsouth.net)

Hours:  
M.-Th. 8:30am - 6pm  
F. 8:30am - 5pm