

MISSION TO MALI 2008



Dr. Debra S. Boyd and Dr. Salif Beeté, Dean of University of Mali

Debra S. Boyd, Ph.D.

Field Missionary to the Nations - African Studies Consultant

Gao, ancient center of trade and learning situated on the Niger River, was the phase one site of Dr. Debra Boyd's 2008 Mission to Mali Republic in West Africa. The US Embassy in Mali invited me to spend a week in the city of Gao to give lectures to young people at the "Espace Américain Gorongobou," an expansive cultural center opened in the spring of 2007 that houses meeting rooms, library, and a teacher-training center. Gorongobou, a term that means knowledge, light and intelligence, was used to designate the circle of wise men that formed Emperor Askia Muhammad's entourage during the empire era. Several recently formed organizations operate

Continued on Page 33

NORTH CAROLINIAN ELECTED VICE PRESIDENT OF NATIONAL CONTRACTORS TRADE ASSOCIATION

Charlotte, NC – The National Association of Minority Contractors (NAMC) at their recent four-day conference in Charlotte, NC elected new officers and members to its national board. Association officials closed out the conference declaring it an overwhelming success with more than 500 attendees representing construction industry participants (including some of the nation's top builders), minority and women-owned firms, state and local government officials and representatives from the association's 27 chapters.

New officers elected were Richard Copeland, President; Gloria Shealey, Executive Vice President; Esther Francis, Treasurer; and Hoyt Hsiao, Secretary. "This is the first time in NAMC's 39 year history that women were elected to executive leadership positions," said an association official.

Gloria Shealey is President and CEO of The Daniele Company, LLC, Chapel Hill, NC and local NAMC chapter chair of the United Minority Contractors of North Carolina (UMCNC). Her company is a licensed general contracting and construction management business. A native of Rocky Mount, she brings 25 years of experience to the business and has current projects totaling over \$60 million, including commercial office, higher

education, and medical facilities.

Richard Copeland is President and CEO of Thor Construction Inc., Minneapolis, MN, and is the largest African-American construction company in the nation specializing in site development, construction management, consulting, design build and general contracting. Thor Construction has exceeded the \$200 million mark in revenues this year.

Esther Francis is President and CEO of CBIC Construction & Development, LP of Houston, TX. The firm handles complex multi-million dollar hospital facilities, prisons, and higher education facilities, providing general construction, design build, job order contracting as well as project and construction

Continued on Page 34

A WORKING MAN STILL WORKING ON HIS DREAMS



Fletcher Gnato Waden

By John Raye

It would not be an exaggeration to say that Fletcher Gnato Waden, is forceful and passionate about business ownership. As he approaches his 81st birthday, Waden has his eye on one thing and one thing only;

the building of a bigger and better business.

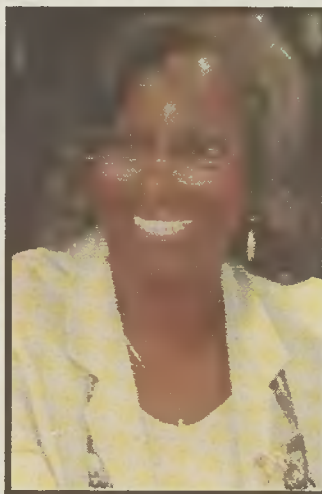
Working out of his home office in Winston-Salem, Waden, whose tall, muscular frame, belies his age, is a man of dedicated authority and serious conviction. He walks, talks, eats and sleep business development 24/7. He is, in other words, a business-minded person, single focused on a specialty business little known to the public or to the average individual.

He is the founder and owner of two companies, Waden Supply Company, Inc., which deals exclusively with contractors doing business with federally funded and federally assisted programs and projects.

"With this company, I bid, buy and sell industrial and commercial materials and equipment to companies doing business with the federal government. I do not sell to the individuals or to the general public", said Waden.

Waden's major work involves an association with two well known companies, Trane, a world leader in the heating and air conditioning field and Vulcraft, the nation's

Continued on Page 15



Gloria Shealey

INSIDE...

Truliant Federal Credit Union Conducts TruOpportunity Builder Workshop Series	5
What's New at Partnership for Home Ownership	6
Diabetes Epidemic in the US	10
We Must Save Ourselves or Else	19
Next Age Leadership. . .	29
Get Real About Your Day Job	31
Unsafe to Be Black and Female.	38

BACK TO SCHOOL