

CAREERS

Briefly

Award for Vega

Mark Vega, a graphic designer at Greensboro Signs By Tomorrow, received the Graphic Designer of the Year honor at the 2013 Forsyth County Entertainment Awards, which are presented annually to individuals and groups who make significant contributions to the local entertainment and arts scene.



Vega

Signs By Tomorrow creates state-of-the-art indoor and outdoor custom signs, digital printing, custom graphics and display solutions for diverse Triad area clients.

Company President Susan Allen says Vega and all Signs By Tomorrow employees come with a diverse mix of experience as professionals that drives the company's commitment to creating an ongoing relationship with clients and top quality signs.

"We are very proud of Mark for his achievements and look forward to his continued efforts with Signs By Tomorrow and within the local community," Allen said.

WFU a 'value'

Wake Forest University is one of the nation's "Best Value" colleges and universities according to The Princeton Review.

The 2014 list, which features 150 schools in all — 75 public and 75 private colleges and universities — was posted today on the websites of The Princeton Review and USA Today.

"Wake Forest has long been a place of extraordinary opportunity," said Wake Forest President Nathan O. Hatch. "We continually strive to balance financial aid and academic resources to assure the highest level of educational quality."

The Princeton Review profiles Wake Forest in its book, "The Best Value Colleges: 2014 Edition."

The selection process analyzed school-reported information across more than 30 data points covering academics, cost, and financial aid as well as data from The Princeton Review's surveys of students at the schools over the past three academic years.

Of the 75 schools chosen in each category, the top 10 are ranked 1 to 10. All others, including Wake Forest, are listed alphabetically.



Hatch

Rookie honor for Larson

The North Carolina Community College System Small Business Center Network (SBCN) recently named Martha Larson, director of Davidson County Community College's Small Business Center, its 2013 'Rookie of the Year.'

Larson was one of nine individuals honored during a SBCN conference in Asheville.



Hatch

Directors such as Larson, who have been in their position for two years or less, are eligible to receive the 'Rookie of the Year' award. Among other accomplishments, it was Larson's leadership of DCCC's Small Business Center that caught the attention of SBCN.

Under Larson's direction, the center has been able to significantly increase client counseling and enhance its image in its service area of Davidson and Davie counties. In 2013, the center saw a 300 percent increase in services, sponsored more than 30 business programs and conducted more than 50 consultation sessions. By the end of the year, the center's work resulted in five startups, 15 jobs added and one loan secured.

In addition to the Rookie of the Year honor, the annual, statewide awards recognize small business centers and center directors in categories such as Innovation, Business Success Story and State Director of the Year. Center directors are also recognized for years of service and credentialing.

The Small Business Center Network is organized in six regions to correspond with the System's Customized Training regions and increase coordination with the regional economic development partnerships. In 2012-2013, SBCN provided 3,781 entrepreneurship seminars to 46,782 attendees and counseling to 6,971 individuals, resulting in 528 business startups and 2,967 jobs created or retained.

NAACP calls on Burr to end judicial stall tactics

CHRONICLE STAFF REPORT

The North Carolina NAACP has joined the growing chorus of those imploring U.S. Sen. Richard Burr to stop stalling the confirmation of Jennifer May-Parker, who has been nominated by President Obama to the U.S. District Court of Eastern North Carolina.

"The North Carolina NAACP, the people of North Carolina, say today that we will never stand by as justice is delayed," N.C. NAACP President Dr. William Barber II said on Jan. 25 in announcing the state initiative aimed at prodding Burr to support May-Parker.

"Because justice delayed is justice denied," May-Parker is the chief of the Appellate Section of the United States Attorney's Office for the Eastern District of North Carolina. In that role, she directs the office's defense of criminal convictions before the Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals and the United States Supreme Court.

In June, President Obama nominated May-Parker to the U.S. District Court of Eastern North Carolina, which has a vacancy that is more than eight years old. The Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts has called the long-term vacancy a "judicial emergency." Advocates say May-Parker's confirmation would also give the state's U.S. District Court a some semblance of racial diversity. Winston-Salem's Judge James Beaty of the U.S. District Court for the Middle District of North Carolina is currently the only African American U.S. District Court judge, but he will soon reach "senior status" (a court designation for judges 65 and older) and begin his transition to retirement.

If confirmed, May-Parker would be the Eastern District of North Carolina's first black judge and eventually the only black U.S. District Court judge in the state.

"The 44 counties of the Eastern district, commonly referred to as the state's Black Belt, are home to the largest proportion of African Americans of any federal district," reads a NAACP statement. "It is a region that has been wracked by the institutional injustices and racial discrimination of 200 years of chattel slavery and then another 100 years of sharecropping and Jim Crow."

On Jan. 24, the NAACP state conference's Executive Committee unanimously voted to use the strength of its 100-plus adult, youth and college branches and its 160-plus coalition partners to put pressure on Sen. Burr over this prolonged delay of justice.

Burr, a Republican from Winston-Salem, has refused to talk about his tacit opposition of May-Parker's confirmation. His silence is baffling to many, since he is the one who initially recommended May-Parker to President Obama.

"I don't talk about any recommendations I make to the White House. All my conversations are with them," Burr told The Huffington Post. "I just don't share anything about the judicial nominations process."



Burr



Barber



Photo courtesy of S. Hughes

Sandra Hughes gives a motivational speech.

Media trailblazers to discuss careers, diversity and more

CHRONICLE STAFF REPORT

Trialblazing black journalists Sandra Hughes, Don Griffin and Allen Johnson will discuss their careers and much more during a Saturday, Feb. 22 panel discussion sponsored by the Triad Association of Black Journalists (TABJ).

"Untold Stories: Veteran Journalists Discuss the Evolution of Diversity in Newsrooms" will start at 11 a.m. at the Artz at the Ritz Theatre, 709 E. Washington St., in High Point. The discussion, which will be moderated by WGHP anchor Neill McNeill, is free and open to the public. The panel and audience are invited to tour the Historic Washington Street Commercial District after the event.

Griffin, Hughes and Johnson will discuss how newsrooms have handled diversity over the past five decades and how they themselves



Johnson



Griffin

overcame adversity to become among the best in their field. The panelists will also take questions from the audience.

Hughes spent four decades as a popular anchor and reporter at WFMJ, where she became the first African American woman in the area to host her own daily talk show. Hughes, a Greensboro native, is now a journalism professor at her alma mater, N.C. A&T State University.

One of the state's first black television journalists, Griffin is a native of Davidson County. He was the face of WSOC-TV's Action 9 unit until he retired last September, one week shy of his 31st anniversary at the Charlotte station.

Johnson, a native of Greensboro, is the editorial page editor at the News & Record in Greensboro. He is one of a very few African Americans who hold such a

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Area architects honored for innovative designs

CHRONICLE STAFF REPORT

Local members of the American Institute of Architects celebrated their 2013 successes during a Dec. 12 reception at the Millennium Center.

The organization's biannual design awards were presented to several members. An architectural jury chaired by Ian J. Colburn (Snohetta, New York City, New York) selected 10 design award winners in three different categories — Honor, Merit and Citation. Colburn also spoke at the reception, praising the quality of work being produced by area architects and firms.

Winston-Salem firms CJMW Architecture and Walter Robbs Callahan & Pierce Architects received three awards each. CJMW Architecture earned an Honor Award for its Delivery Center in North Charleston, S.C.; a Merit Award for its Rizzo Conference Center (Phase III) in Chapel Hill; and a Citation honor for the architecture and interior design of the Center for Design Innovation in Winston-Salem. The jury applauded CJMW's for "expertly" expressing changes in programmatic scale through "attentive detailing."

Walter Robbs Callahan & Pierce was recognized with an Honor Award for the Health Sciences Building at UNC Pembroke, a Merit Award for the renovation of the Statesville City Hall and a Citation for The Barn at Wake Forest University. Recognizing the power of sustainable design, the jury commented that the Health Sciences Building "has the ability to convey a sense of well-being" by harvesting light and air throughout the building.

Owen Architecture received a Merit Award for its careful addition and renovation of the Owen House in Winston-Salem. Citation Awards were also given to West & Stem Architects for the WinMock at Kinderton Event Center in Bermuda Run and Edwin Bouldin Architect for accessibility improvements to the Youth Conference and Administration Buildings at Haw River State Park.

Architect Adam Sebastian received an Honor Award and the People's Choice Award for his Hole One Residence in Clemmons, and Jack Steelman, the city's former Downtown Development director, was honored with the inaugural Advocate for the Built Environment (ABE) Award.

AIA Winston-Salem Section is comprised of about 100 architects and associate architects from Forsyth, Alexander, Alleghany, Ashe, Caldwell, Davie, Stokes, Surry, Watauga, Wilkes and Yadkin counties.



The Barn at Wake Forest

File Photo

State retailers shelling out thousands for scholarships

CHRONICLE STAFF REPORT

The NC Retail Merchants Association (NCRMA) and its grocery division, the Carolinas Food Industry Council (CFIC), are giving away nearly \$90,000 in scholarships to North Carolina students this year.

Thirty-five awards valued at \$2,500 each are being offered by NCRMA and CFIC. The awards will be offered to high school and college students working in the retail industry or whose parents work in the retail industry to support the 2014-2015 academic year.

Unlike traditional scholarship programs that only reward the highest level of academic achievement, NCRMA and CFIC will recognize students whose academic credentials fall within an average to above-average range. Funding for the 35 scholarships is provided through the NC Retail Consumer Alliance, a nonprofit retail foundation that works with consumers to build strong communities.

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