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Linda Geiger Believes
In The Best For Her
Brookhill Neighborhood



Linda Geiger

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FENTRESS MARTIN
...Graduate student at UNCC

Fentress Martin's Goal Is To Become Dean Of A Business College

By Jalyne Strong
Post Staff Writer

Fentress Martin's ultimate career goal is to become the Dean of a business college, preferably at a predominantly black university. A graduate student at UNCC, she's in the process of career preparation. Fentress received her B.S. in business at A&T State University. She's now working on her M.B.A. She'll then pursue a Ph.D., at which school she hasn't yet decided.

She's chosen the business field explaining, "It's very diverse. There's a lot to work with." Fentress was the recipient of a four-year scholarship in business at A&T. And before she graduated the college in 1984, she was fortunate to have a professor who developed into her mentor and influenced her subsequent career choice.

"Dr. Craig is the Dean of A&T Business College," Fentress relates. "He was a great inspiration to me. I want to fill his shoes one day; meaning, I'd like to assume the same type of role for someone else that he portrayed to me."

While working on her graduate studies, this week's beauty is employed as a substitute teacher at Cochrane Junior High. She's gotten her "taste of the business world" by working for IBM previously and now she's working on the educational component of her career ambitions.

Asked if substitute teachers are still generally harassed by students, Fentress responded, "Oh, yes! They take every advantage they can." She claims she handles the situation by "humoring" the kids sometimes and establishing a rapport. "They'll get used to me and know I won't take so much," she smiles.

Though she seems to be very busy professionally, Fentress does make

time for a couple of personal development activities. She's a member of Toastmasters. As a Peer Mentor at UNCC, Fentress counsels incoming black freshmen and sophomores. Also, she's interested in modeling full-figure fashions. Finally, she's a member of the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority.

As far as hobbies go, Fentress calls herself a "dabbler." "I dabble in everything," she elaborates. She likes old movies, especially John Wayne westerns, and she likes critiquing films. She enjoys dancing. And Fentress is a poetess also. "I don't have as much free time for writing now," she admits. Fentress was more prolific during high school and college days, when she had poetry published in the school's newspapers and once in Black Star magazine. Her other leisure activities include rollerskating, skateboarding, cooking, quiet evenings alone-or with a companion.

She says she best describes herself as "Miss Congeniality." "I'm optimistic, I like meeting people, making friends and maintaining friendships," Fentress adds.

In a family of six children, at 23 years old, Fentress is the baby. "I am the youngest," she corrects. "There's some advantages to it," Fentress comments. "The youngest can acquire a lot of material things from older brothers and sisters. But sometimes the situation isn't that great. When you're considered the 'baby' you don't get that respect," she laughs. "My brothers and sisters will talk about some thing and they won't include me," Fentress complains.

But she always has an ally in her mother, Rosa Mae, who Fentress confirms is the person she most admires. "She's strong, mentally and physically," Fentress describes. "She's a survivor and a giving person."

She's also the person who gave this week's beauty her unusual first name. "She found it in a magazine," Fentress explains. "And I, recently, found it on the map. Fentress is the name of a city in Tennessee." Has her different name caused her any discomfort? "It's O.K. now," Fentress answers. "There are so many unusual names now that people more readily accept them. I get compliments but I still get funny looks, too."

A native of Wadesboro, N.C., Fentress had lived in Charlotte for two years. She says she doesn't miss her hometown. "There's not much to miss," she claims. To Fentress, the city of Charlotte, in contrast, "has a lot of promise."

Veteran Member Barbara Davis Heads AKA's Mid-Atlantic Region

By Audrey C. Lodato
Post Staff Writer

Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority has a membership of about 100,000. In the U.S., chapters are grouped into nine regions. The Mid-Atlantic Region, of which Charlotte is a part, is made up of North Carolina and Virginia. Barbara Davis, 30-year member of Charlotte's Alpha Lambda Omega graduate chapter, is regional director.

Ms. Davis, a retired educator, describes the Mid-Atlantic Region as "one of the outstanding ones. The dedication, camaraderie, desire to be a part of, cooperation, love and knowledge are tops in this region. I've never been refused when I've asked anyone to do anything." The region is holding its 33rd conference in Charlotte April 24-27.

Active members in the two states number about 6,000. Total regional membership is 8,000.

Ms. Davis herself seems to typify the region she directs. She works tirelessly supervising the more than 85 chapters under her charge. She presents workshops for both beginning and established chapters, holds meetings at both regional and cluster levels (there are five clusters in the two states), develops programs, oversees cluster operations, approves memberships for all the chapters, interprets rules and bylaws stipulations—the list goes on and on. It's nearly a full time job in itself, Ms. Davis admits.

Serving as regional director

Black Community To Honor A Great Lady

By Loretta Manago
Post Managing Editor

Friends of Louise Sellers who live in the Biddleville area have long recognized the labor and sacrifice Mrs. Sellers has given their community and on Saturday, April 5, those same friends will be giving her her flowers while she lives.

Through a "Louise Sellers' Appreciation Day," friends of the Biddleville area will take the time to say thank you to a woman who has given tirelessly of herself and her time. The auspicious occasion will not only give friends the opportunity to express their appreciation for Mrs. Sellers, but Mayor Pro Tem Al Rousoo and other local dignitaries will make kind remarks as well.

The event, which will be held at McDonald's Cafeteria, will also be the site for other worthwhile presentations. Dr. George Battle, pastor of Gethsemane AME Zion Church, will be presented a plaque and given a tribute as he will be honored as the founder and first president of the Biddleville-Five Points organization. Also on that night scholarships in Mrs. Sellers' honor will be established at Johnson C. Smith University and UNCC.

Saturday promises to be a memorable evening. The dinner and program, beginning at 7 p.m., will be entertained by the Caribbean Queen Modern Jazz Dance and singers Karla Carrington and Sonya Black.

For those who are unfamiliar with Mrs. Sellers, she is many persons rolled into one. A mother, housewife, entrepreneur, and community leader, Mrs. Sellers inspires everyone she comes into contact with, by her unselfishness, perseverance and capacity to care.

With a foresight and understanding not possessed by many, Mrs. Sellers fought hard to see the Biddleville-Five Points area would not face the extinction that another black community, Brooklyn, did. She saw that if what happened in



Louise Sellers
...To be honored Saturday

Brooklyn happened in Biddleville it would mean the loss of the neighborhood to those who had no understanding or concern for the existing social fabric or the resultant economic impact on the community.

Her work in this one community alone is astounding. Mrs. Sellers performed a relocation survey in the Biddleville-Five Points neighborhood in 1981. Last year in the same neighborhood she performed a public housing survey. Mrs. Sellers

is the founder of the Biddleville-Five Points Alcoholic group and is project consultant for the Public Housing Project Western Sight Housing Project. She has coordinated numerous community clean-ups, as well as coordinated and secured gas lines, sidewalks, curbs and gutters for her community. Her work has led transients to receive housing assistance and placement and she has worked diligently for placement of people on relocation workloads. Presently, Mrs. Sellers is president of the Biddleville-Five Points organization.

A native of Pembroke, N.C., Mrs. Sellers is currently the manager of Wright & Associates, her own professional cleaning company.

In other areas of the community Mrs. Sellers serves on the board of directors of Friends of JCSU, The West Trade-Beatties Ford Road Area Merchants Association and is a member of the Mecklenburg Citizens Forum, the 2005 Advisory Task Force, the School Board Health Committee, the Community Issues Council, the Strategies To Elevate People, the Project Catalyst Task Force Steering Committee, Grass Roots Leadership Organization and the Summit Avenue Housing Project advisory committee.

Mrs. Sellers is a supervisor of the Alternative Sentencing for the courts (Drugs & DUI) and an arbitrator for the Mecklenburg Court System.

Tickets to attend the appreciation day for Mrs. Sellers are \$10 and can be purchased at Burger King, located on Beatties Ford Road, or by calling E. Carrington at 535-1899.

Dr. Cleon Thompson Accepts WSSU Chancellor Post

Dr. Cleon F. Thompson Jr. will be inaugurated at Winston-Salem State University's eighth chancellor during an April 4 ceremony at the Kenneth R. Williams Auditorium on the campus at 10:30 a.m. C. D. Spangler Jr., president of the University of North Carolina, will preside, and Howard University President Dr. James Cheek will deliver the inaugural address.



Barbara Davis
...AKA regional director

requires a lot of travel, not only within the region but also to national board meetings held three times a year. Each regional director is a member of the national board of directors. At board meetings, explains Ms. Davis, "we discuss changes in constitutional requirements, the national scene and how we are to function within it politically, economically, socially, racially." Proposals and recommendations are then presented to the national body, or boule, which



Black Women's Movement To Create Change

The black women's movement has created change in all facets of society, but if it is to continue to be effective it must overcome the obstacles of poverty and the increasing number of households headed by black women, the former head of the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission said recently.

Don't try to cross a bridge until you're sure one is there.