

# Leadership, scholarship and lots of hats at fund raiser



Dargan



Dixon



Hampden



McFayden

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the honorees, who have made significant contributions in their professions and communities: Dee Dixon, CEO of Pride Communications; Bridget-Anne Hampden, President and CEO of JHR Associates and Shannon McFayden, senior executive vice president at Wachovia Corp.

Angelou presented a posthumous award to the family of Elizabeth Ross Dargan, retired teacher and principal with Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools and longtime community volunteer. An avid supporter of

UNCF, Dargan was serving her second year as chair of the Maya Angelou event when she died in late April.

Larisha Rhodes, a graduate of Beddingfield High School in Wilson, was awarded a \$5,000 scholarship. An aspiring poet and social worker, Nelson will attend Livingstone College in the fall.

"I believe in the lifting up of youth," said Angelou. "Education is the only thing that will liberate us from our ignorance."

A colorful display of hats—all shapes and sizes—made this year's "HAT-titude" con-

test another highlight of the luncheon at the Hilton Center City. Participants earned trophies for sporting the best hats in five categories: dressy classic, sassy, unique and whimsical.

"African-American women wear many hats—mothers, teachers, preachers. We wear many hats," said Angelou. Proceeds will benefit N.C. UNCF schools Bennett College in Greensboro; Johnson C. Smith University in Charlotte; Salisbury's Livingstone College; and Shaw University and St. Augustine's College in Raleigh.



PHOTO: WADE NASH

**GRADUATE LEARNING:** Vonda and Ron Frazier congratulate daughter Riana Friday at graduation ceremonies for Love of Learning in Davidson. The program, sponsored by Davidson College, prepares high school students for the academic and social rigors of college. Riana Frazier, a Berry Academy graduate, is headed to N.C. Central University in the fall.

## M.L. King papers go to Morehouse

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"I can't imagine a better home than the home of Dr. King for this collection," Redden told The Associated Press. "It was there for years, it's going to be there forever. I think that's a marvelous conclusion to this extraordinary process. It guarantees that it will be looked after properly and made available to the public."

Redden would not disclose the purchase price, but said Morehouse College will acquire the collection.

Andrew Young, a lieutenant of King's during the civil rights movement, became overcome with emotion when discussing the deal.

"People have seen this as an opportunity to step up and lay claim to Martin Luther King's nonviolent heritage as a part of Atlanta's tradition," Young said. "It really didn't belong anywhere else. The people who responded...it just lets you know who really understand and appreciates what Atlanta has done for them. Of course, in the process, they've done a lot for Atlanta."

Franklin did not immediately respond to calls seeking comment.

Atlanta is the birthplace of King and where he and his

wife, Coretta, are buried. The city was the sentimental favorite in the bidding and was rumored to have stiff competition from others across the country, including the Library of Congress, the Smithsonian Institute, Duke University, and the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture at the New York Public Library.

Coretta Scott King's death in January was a catalyst for the sale, as her will calls for the liquidation of her estate.

The collection includes items ranging from canceled checks, to a term paper he wrote as a student at Morehouse, to a draft of his most famous speech, "I Have a Dream," delivered at the 1963 March on Washington. As a requirement of the sale, the collection had to be bought as a single lot. If it is resold, it cannot be broken up as long as the Kings' children are alive.

Before the sale, U.S. Rep. John Lewis, D-Ga., was hopeful that the papers would end up at an institution in the South that can publicly display them. Lewis, who represents Atlanta, was a leader of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee during the height of the civil rights movement and the

youngest person to speak at the 1963 March on Washington.

"Atlanta is the home of the modern-day civil rights movement in America, and I think that's where the papers should be," he said.

Seven years ago, the Library of Congress offered \$20 million for the collection. Negotiations stagnated a year later after historians debated the value of the papers. Sotheby's also failed to sell the collection three years ago after it was displayed on the 40th anniversary of the March on Washington.

Morehouse College is an all-male historically black college near downtown Atlanta. The 139-year-old school stands as the largest private, liberal arts college in the country for men with 2,800 students, and one of only four all-male colleges in the U.S. The school's other famous alumni include actor Samuel L. Jackson, former U.S. Surgeon General David Satcher and film director Spike Lee.

*On The Net:*  
Sotheby's: [www.sothebys.com](http://www.sothebys.com)  
Morehouse College: [www.morehouse.edu](http://www.morehouse.edu)

## State employees face increased scrutiny

**THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

**RALEIGH**—The Department of Homeland Security would verify the legal residency status of all new North Carolina state employees under a bill unanimously approved last week by a House panel.

New state employees already submit self-identification forms to the state. But Rep. George Cleveland called that process an inadequate "farce."

"We have a humongous illegal alien problem in this country and state, and nobody's doing anything about it," said Cleveland, the bill's primary sponsor.

DHS has expanded its free, Web-based service across the country, although only a few states have capitalized on the project. Most have simply encouraged businesses to use the program to verify the legal status of workers

A number of states have considered mandating verification processes. In April, Georgia passed a law that requires all public employees to use the identification program, which compares the information provided by the prospective employee with a database of information from the Social Security Administration and DHS.

North Carolina's measure, which covers all employees, including those in the state's public university and community college systems, spends \$50,000 to help agencies use the electronic program. Rep. Linda Coleman, D-Wake, questioned whether that was enough money.

"You're putting the burden on state agencies. It's not their responsibility," Coleman said. "It's the federal government's responsibility."

The program, still in testing stages, is scheduled to expire in November 2008.

The Charlotte Post

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