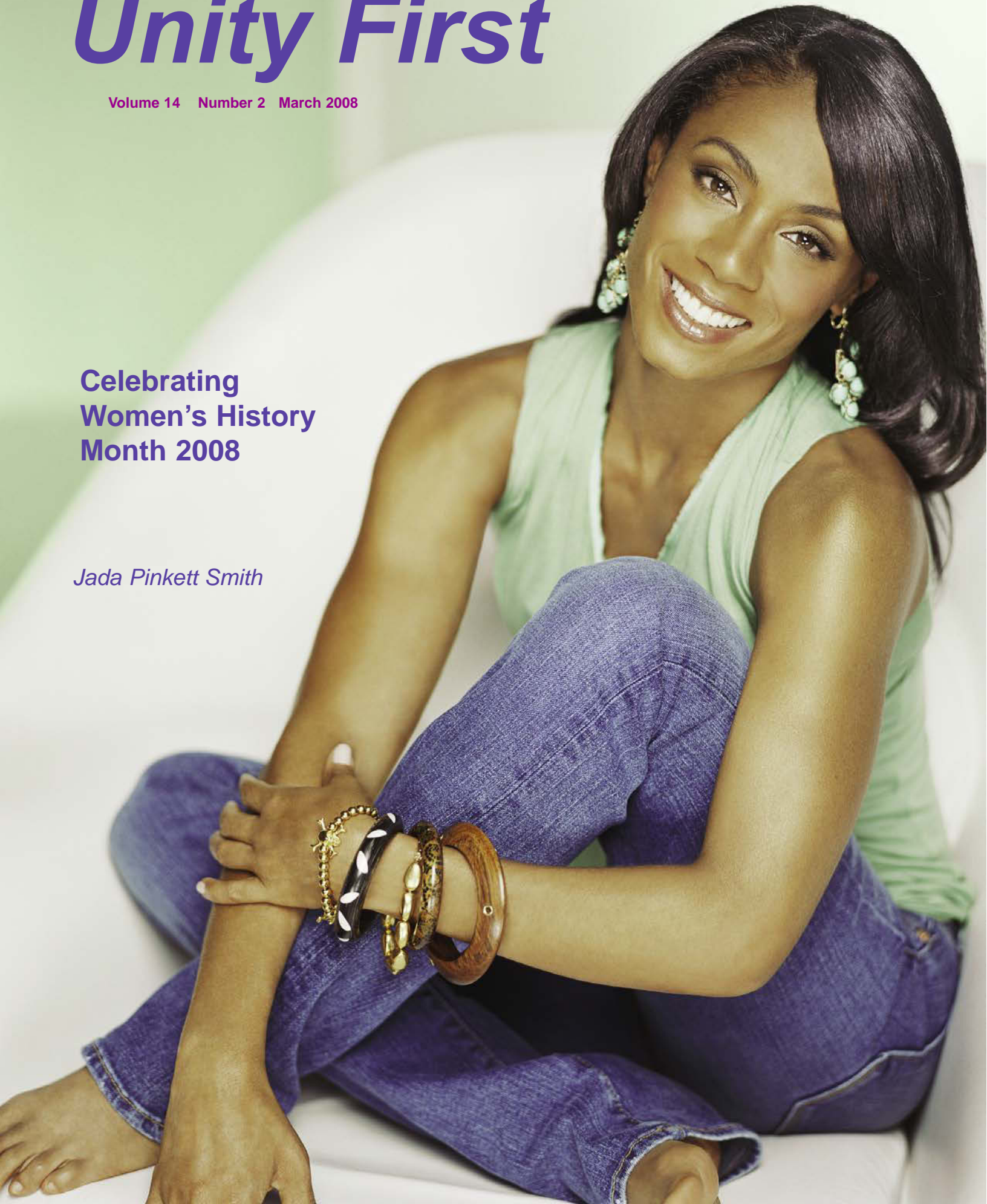


# *Unity First*

Volume 14 Number 2 March 2008

**Celebrating  
Women's History  
Month 2008**

*Jada Pinkett Smith*







## "CHOOSING BAYSTATE FOR MY CANCER TREATMENT GAVE ME THE BEST CARE, CLOSE TO HOME."

*Janet R., East Longmeadow, breast cancer patient*

If you have cancer, you want easy access to the best possible care. Radiation therapy plays a major role in the treatment of cancer. Through the Baystate Regional Cancer Program, you will benefit from the very best radiation therapy technology and expertise, provided by a team of board certified radiation oncologists in the patient-friendly D'Amour Center for Cancer Care. You'll have access to a wide range of nationally recognized specialists and multidisciplinary services in developing a program that is personalized for you, and where you're a vital part of the team in determining your course of treatment. Best of all, this advanced level of care is available close to your home and family. You'll also benefit from:

- The latest radiation therapies, including stereotactic radiosurgery, intensity modulated radiotherapy (IMRT), high dose rate (HDR) brachytherapy, and prostate seed implants.
- Close coordination of care across multiple cancer specialties and support services.
- Comprehensive prostate cancer care including daVinci® robotic surgery.
- Free daily shuttle service for our patients at Baystate Franklin Medical Center in Greenfield and Baystate Mary Lane Hospital in Ware.

For more information about radiation therapy services or a referral to a physician, please call 413-794-9338 or visit [baystatehealth.com/brcp](http://baystatehealth.com/brcp). The Baystate Regional Cancer Program. Experts in cancer, every step of the way.

*Janet (center) with Baystate Regional Cancer Program radiation therapists Cheryl Quintero (left) and Christine Duprat (right).*

## **Baystate Regional Cancer Program**

Baystate Medical Center - Springfield  
Baystate Franklin Medical Center - Greenfield  
Baystate Mary Lane Hospital - Ware



# contents

- Page 4 Recognizing Women:  
Jada Pinkett Smith,  
Susan Taylor and others
- Page 5 Legacy Awards and  
Olympian Gail Marquis
- Page 6 "Blues in Our Blood"
- Page 7- 18 Salute to Visionary  
Women of Excellence
- Page 19 Go Red
- Page 20 Another Voice-  
Parent to Parent
- Page 21 Job Opportunities/Careers
- Page 22-23 Events
- Page 24 Business



Juliette Mayers, page 9



Sheila Goodwin, page 13



A special welcome was given to Olympian Gail Marquis. See page 5.

## Next Issues of Unity First:

We look forward to your participation in the upcoming issues of Unity First. The April/May issue (deadline is April 11) focused on "2008 Students of Excellence" as well as a "2008 Salute to Educators." The June issue (deadline is May 20) focuses on honoring "Men Making a Difference."

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# 2008

## Recognizing Jada Pinkett Smith

The lovely and talented actress, director, producer and screenwriter, Jada Pinkett Smith, was one of the three extraordinary African-American women honored during the ESSENCE Black Women in Hollywood luncheon. Pinkett Smith is one of Hollywood's most versatile and gifted actresses, as well as a talented screenwriter, producer and director.

She is developing several projects for her own production company as well as for Overbrook Entertainment. An upcoming film, "The Human Contract," marks the debut of Pinkett Smith as a writer and director. She also created and executive produced the television sitcom "All of Us" on the CW Network with her husband and fellow actor Will Smith.

Her work as an actress can be seen in a number of feature films, including *The Matrix Reloaded*, *Matrix Revolutions*, *Ali*, *The Nutty Professor*, *Set It Off*, *Menace II Society* and the upcoming film, "The Women."

## Susan L. Taylor's new book, "All About Love"

"All About Love" draws from the breadth of writings Susan Taylor has shared with her millions of readers since her column first appeared in Essence magazine. In this collection, she has gathered some of her personal favorites.

The book is about relationships, active caring and our commitment to personal transformation and social change in hopes of strengthening our families and communities.

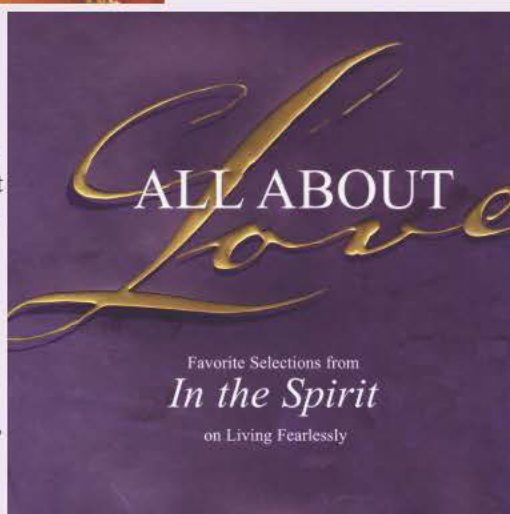
"All About Love" is truly inspiring with quotes and inspirations that will fill your soul and empower your spirit.

One of the book's many

quotes inspire readers to enjoy life: "Ask God for the vision and wisdom that matches the light of your soul and they will be given to you --- along with everything else you need to live a joyful and meaningful life."

Taylor addresses the real issues in our lives, like stress. She says, "The stress level for Black people rise high in our world of work. For too many of us -- no matter how talented, educated or far along in our careers - the workplace is a painful place."

To address this, she offers



the following quote: "When you are on a mission of value, God gives you a special blessing. You are divinely guided. You're surrounded at the highest spiritual level with an aura of protection that disarms any enemy and attracts all you need to succeed." ■



## Legacy Awards

Simmons College alumna Ann Fudge has been named a “corporate trailblazer” by Black Enterprise, the nation’s premier business, investing, and wealth-building resource for African Americans.

Fudge and three other legendary African American women were recently honored at the 2008 Women of Power Summit Legacy Awards dinner. Also recognized were acclaimed actress and activist Ruby Dee, best-selling poet Nikki Giovanni, and civil rights legend Dorothy Height.

Fudge, a 1971 Simmons College graduate, is former chair & CEO of Young & Rubicam Brands and the first Black woman to lead a multi-million-dollar advertising



agency. Her rise through the ranks of corporate America established her as one of the most influential decision-making women in American busi-

ness. The Women of Power Summit Legacy Awards recognize African American women whose achievements, influence, and power have

helped to open doors of opportunity and success for women of color. ■

## On the move: Olympian Gail Marquis

Gail A. Marquis, a member of the U.S. silver medal basketball team, recently spoke at Springfield Technical Community College, as part of the institution’s Black History Month programs.

Marquis also suited up and went on the court for a basketball clinic for youth.

When the Olympics first included women’s basketball in 1976, Marquis, then a player for Queen’s College in New York, helped the U.S. to win a silver medal. She subsequently played for the New York Stars and the New Jersey Gems, in the Women’s Basketball



League, the forerunner of today’s Women’s National Basketball Association.

Marquis has been a broadcast color commentator for women’s basketball games at Rutgers and Penn State, and has covered WNBA and New York Liberty games on



SportsDesk for the Madison Square Garden Network. She has also been a featured analyst for the WNBA on the NBA Entertainment Network.

Marquis now maintains a successful career in brokerage, finance, and banking.

This event was sponsored by the STCC Diversity Council and other local supporters. ■





## Springfield Museums opens its new exhibit

### "Blues in Our Blood: The Artistic Evolution of Taj Mahal and Carole Fredericks"



A special thanks to all who contributed to making the opening of the "Blues in Our Blood: The Artistic Evolution of Taj Mahal and Carole Fredericks" a real success. We are so proud of all the families linked to this exhibit and honor their historic contributions as a family. The exhibit is breathtaking and one that should not be missed. Also, special thanks to all of the exhibit and event collaborators including the American Heart Association/American Stroke Association, Rugged Intellectual, Unity First and the Springfield Museums. As part of the celebration, the American Heart Association acknowledged several local, diverse businesses who promoted 'heart health' in the windows during Black History Month -- making a statement that we need to stay healthy so that we can create a legacy and living history for our children. ■







# 2008

*In honor of International Women's History Month 2008 and to mark the appreciation for your leadership, Unity First News offers this special salute to the "Visionary Woman of Excellence" featured in this section. We salute you in the spirit of the many great women -- from Harriet Tubman to Oprah Winfrey, who inspire us on a daily basis.*

*As publishers, we want you to know that as a "Visionary Woman of Excellence" your leadership is truly appreciated, not only by us, but by many of our readers and communities across the*

## *Salute to Visionary Women of Excellence*



*Commonwealth and beyond. Also, your stories will inspire others, including many young women, students and professionals to reach their full potential and achieve their goals.*

*With this issue, we recognize that women of color are powerful consumers, influencers in families, business entrepreneurs, executive level professionals, educators, spiritual and community leaders.*

*Thanks to all the women who are positive role models, not only for our Commonwealth, but the communities in which you live and work. We appreciate your work to advance our communities, corporations and businesses in the Commonwealth and beyond.*

*Also, let us know about other women who are leading by example and let's highlight their successes in future issues. ■*

## The voices of Black women are heard in the National Urban League's 2008 State of Black America Report

The National Urban League's 2008 State of Black America (SOBA) report offers a blueprint for economic equality aimed at closing the persistent gaps between Blacks and Whites.

This year's report pays particular attention to the African-American female, exploring the challenges they face, particularly as a higher percentage of Black women are the heads of households struggling to maintain family homes.

With 45.8 percent of African-American households headed by women vs. 13.6 percent of White households,

Black women are particularly hard hit when considering issues such as subprime lending.

The National Urban League's Equality Index provides a statistical measurement of the equality gap between Blacks and Whites across five categories: economics, education, health, civic engagement and social justice.

This year's index noted a slight reduction in the gap with the overall economic status of African Americans at 73 percent of White Americans, slightly up from last year's

*Throughout the report, African-American women leaders shed light on the equality challenges faced by Black women.*

equality index of 72.6 percent.

Urban League President and CEO Marc Morial, said "Last year's report concluded that our nation stood at a tip-



ping point. That magic moment has unfortunately led us to troubling times."

Throughout the report, African-American women leaders shed light on the equality challenges faced by Black women. They pen their thoughts and feelings on the status and plight of black women in areas such as political disenfranchisement, the glass ceiling in career advancement, the importance of early childhood education, love and family relationships, negative images in the media, health and civil rights.

Essayists include Dr. Julianne Malveaux, president of Bennett College; Susan Taylor, editorial director, Essence magazine; Alexis Herman, former U.S. Secretary of Labor; Dr. Johnetta Cole, former president of Spellman College and Maudine Cooper, president of the Greater Washington Urban League.

## Congratulations.

Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts salutes Juliette Mayers as the 2008 Visionary Woman of Excellence.



MASSACHUSETTS

Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts is an Independent Licensee of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association



# Juliette Mayers

Juliette Mayers is Executive Director of Multicultural Marketing for BlueCross BlueShield (BCBSMA) and a member of BCBSMA's Senior Leadership Council.

She is an inspiring corporate leader who is passionate about her work to engage both companies and communities. Whether in an official capacity as Director of Multicultural Marketing or through personal commitment, inclusion is a fundamental part of her approach to business and life itself.

Juliette draws her strength from her devout belief in God, her love for her family, including husband Darryl and two daughters, D'Anna and Danielle as well as her Barbadian heritage.

Juliette came to this country from Barbados while in grade school and looked forward to the opportunities and possibilities here in the U.S. Her passion for learning later became her journey to

works diligently to pave the road for inclusive approaches to business. She is a seasoned executive with a diverse background in Strategic Planning, Marketing, Finance and Diversity Leadership. Also, she has received several professional and leadership awards.

Overall, her breadth of experience spans 20 years with leading organizations such as GE Capital, Bank of Boston, The Ad Club Foundation and BlueCross BlueShield of



Shown (l-r) Mary Jane England, M.D., President, Regis College; Juliette Mayers; Boston Celtics Head Coach Doc Rivers at a recent ABCD Community Awards Dinner.

Massachusetts.

At every point in her career, her goals have been clear -- not only to support the corporate goals, but also to empower communities and advance diversity initiatives.

During her tenure as

Executive Director of the Ad Club Foundation (ACF), Juliette worked closely with the Greater Boston Chamber of Commerce to develop and implement programs and



forums to advance diversity in the business community and in the advertising and communications industry.

As former Senior Vice President and Director of Work/Life for FleetBoston, Juliette was called upon to leverage her passion for women's issues to advance FleetBoston's Work/Life agenda. She successfully led the project team that secured FleetBoston's recognition as Working Mother's Magazine's "100 Best Company" honor - the first award of distinction for the merged entity of Fleet and BankBoston.

## Community leadership

While Juliette has taken the lead with corporate efforts, she has not forgotten the challenges faced by urban youth, and especially families of color.

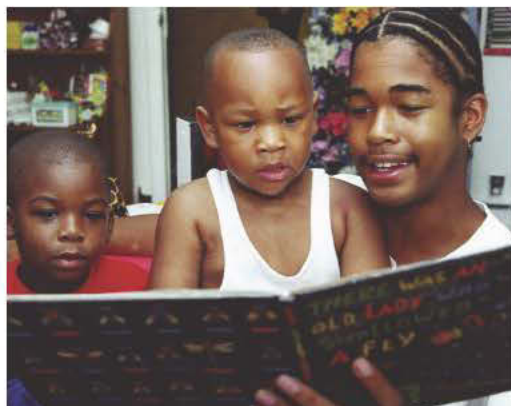
In 2006, Juliette was elected Vice Chair of the Action for Boston Community Development, Inc. (ABCD) Board of Directors and in this position she advocates for

many youngsters and families in need.

ABCD is a \$115 million anti-poverty agency serving the neediest of our community. It serves more than 100,000 low-income Greater Boston residents through its city-wide network of neighborhood-based organizations.

ABCD President/CEO Robert Coard said, "We are thrilled to have Juliette Mayers serving as Vice Chair of the ABCD Board of Directors. Her extensive background in health-care and administration combined with a deep and long-term commitment to the community we serve and the ABCD mission of combating poverty, make her extremely valuable to our organization.

"It is board members like Juliette that truly enable ABCD to provide the programs and services that give children, youth, working families and older residents opportunities to build better lives. We are very grateful for her outstanding support!" ■



A young man reads to Head Start children at an ABCD Dorchester Head Start site.

Northeastern University and Simmons Graduate School of Management where she received her MBA.

Today, she has turned her passion and pride into practice as a corporate leader who



# Monne Williams

Monne Williams serves as Multicultural Marketing Manager for the Boston Red Sox. In this position, Monne works to develop strategic partnerships between the Red Sox and diverse professional organizations throughout the region. She is also responsible for managing the Red Sox Fellowship Program and overseeing the organization's supplier diversity initiatives. Monne joined the organization in 2006 as an intern in the Corporate Partnerships Department and at the conclusion of her internship was named Coordinator of Diversity Initiatives.

Monne is from Newport News, Virginia and graduated with distinction from Duke University in 2006. While attending Duke, Monne worked in the university's athletic offices and also completed an internship in the Licensing

Department with Roush Racing through the NASCAR Diversity Internship Program.

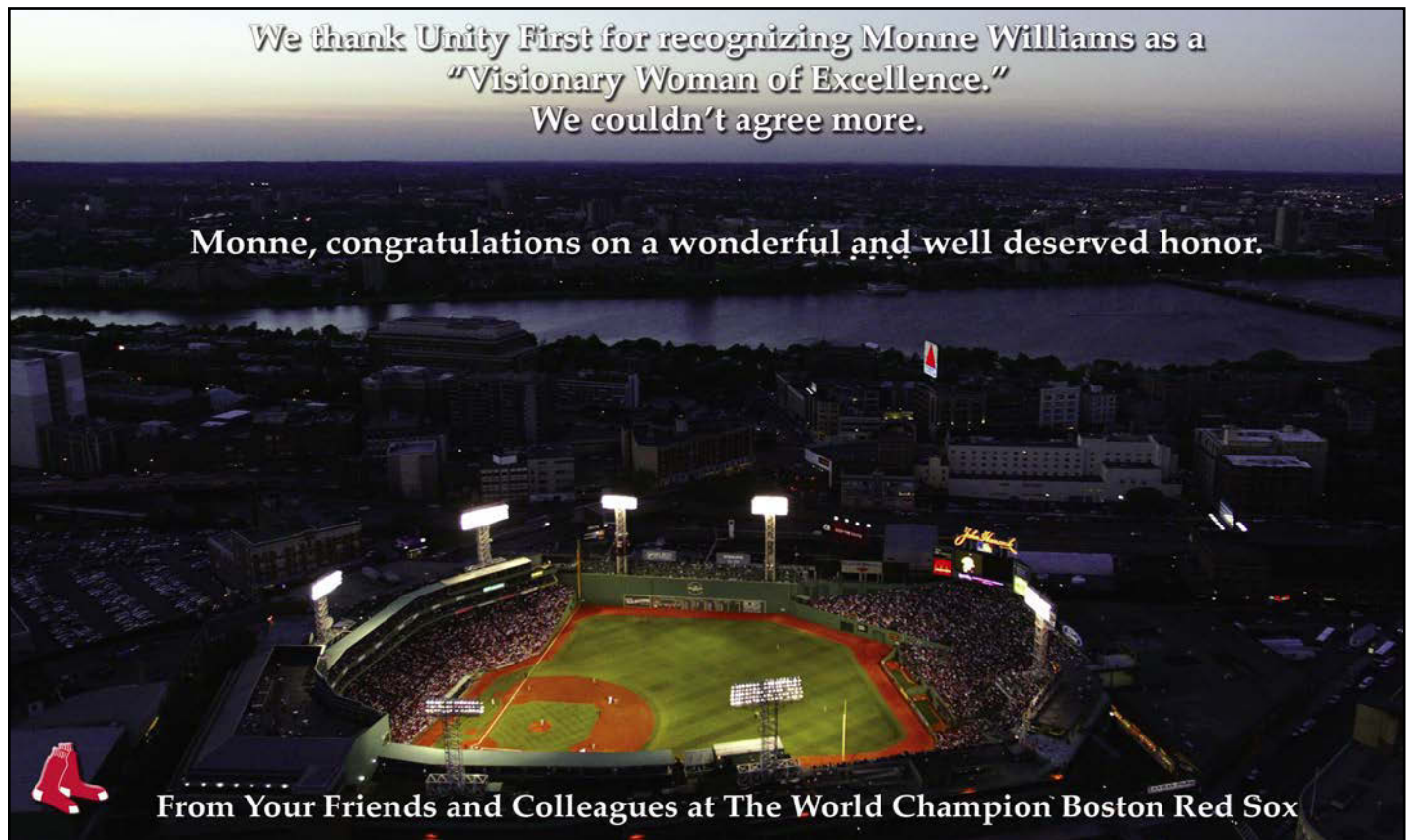
In addition to her position with the Red Sox, Monne is also a tutor at the Boston Arts Academy and serves on the board for CityKicks, a local nonprofit

committed to providing after school soccer and education programming for middle school girls in Boston. Recently, she became a mentor for a Fenway High School student and she is enjoying that experience as well. ■



We thank Unity First for recognizing Monne Williams as a  
"Visionary Woman of Excellence."  
We couldn't agree more.

Monne, congratulations on a wonderful and well deserved honor.



From Your Friends and Colleagues at The World Champion Boston Red Sox



# Ayanna Pressley

A native Chicagoan, Ayanna Pressley arrived in Massachusetts in the Fall of 1992 to attend Boston University. Early in her college career, the former high school debate champion and class president was recognized as a leader, and elected Student Government



President of the College of General Studies (CGS).

Ayanna's political activism on campus soon led her to the office of Congressman Joseph P. Kennedy II where she served four years as the Social Security Liaison for the 8th Congressional District. While working for Kennedy, Ayanna took personal leave to work as a staffer for three campaigns: 1994 Massachusetts Democratic nominee for Lieutenant Governor, Bob Massie, Boston At-Large City Council Candidate, Frank Jones, and U.S. Senator John Kerry's 1996 re-election campaign.

Ayanna played an integral grassroots organizing role in Kerry's 1996 re-election campaign as his Statewide Volunteer Coordinator. After Kerry defeated Governor Weld, she joined Kerry's Washington DC staff in a senior administrative position as his Scheduler.

During the summer of 2002, Ayanna worked as a Boot Camp Trainer for the

Citizen Solider Fund PAC. She facilitated workshops in the campaign disciplines of volunteer coordinating and scheduling. During the 2002 mid-term elections, Ayanna took personal leave from the Senate to serve as Regional G.O.T.V. Director for the Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee (DSCC) in South Carolina.

In 2003 she left her scheduling post in Washington and returned to Boston to work as the Massachusetts Constituency Director for the John Kerry for President Campaign.

Prior to Kerry's formal acceptance of the 2004 Democratic nomination, Ayanna was hired as a Consultant by the Democratic National Convention Committee (DNCC) to produce four podium segments for primetime television.

In 2005, after Kerry's hard fought Presidential run, Ayanna joined his Massachusetts Senate staff as his Political Director.

In addition to her profes-

---

*"Ayanna is as good as they come. From the day she joined my political family ten years ago, her passion, her hard work, her integrity, and her commitment to getting up every day and trying to make life better for other people has been a constant. Her strength and her character are a tribute to her incredible mother and the values she has carried with her from Chicago to Boston. She's a star, but she's something even more important: she's genuine."*

---

## U.S. Senator John Kerry

sional commitments, Ayanna is an active member of the Massachusetts Women's Political Caucus (MWPC) Board of Directors, and a Founding Board Member for Emerge Massachusetts. Further, she enthusiastically serves on the Advisory Boards

rallies throughout the Commonwealth. Ayanna's compelling personal story, message of civic engagement and girls/women empowerment continues to resonate deeply with audiences.

Ayanna works daily to improve political access and



for the Commonwealth Seminar and the UMASS Boston McCormack Graduate School, Center for Women in Politics and Public Policy, (CWPPP) and she is a Mentor with the Young Black Women's Society (YBWS).

Ayanna is a popular public speaker. She participates in panels, career day seminars, campaign trainings and youth

power for disenfranchised constituencies, by recruiting and training more women and persons of color in the essential disciplines, specifically in non traditional roles. She remains steadfast in her commitment to diversify the political pipeline, politics and government, and to make a meaningful difference in the lives of others. ■



# Audra Bohannon

Audra M. Bohannon is Vice President of Diversity & Inclusion Consulting for Novations Group, Inc.

Her responsibilities include: leading and supervising individuals and teams with strategic responsibilities throughout the business, growing the company through personalized sales and marketing, consulting with top-tier executives in client organizations, providing exposure for and leadership through frequent publications, lectures, seminars, and performing executive coaching, for key personnel, on an organizational basis.

She is well respected by peers and colleagues, across client businesses among the Fortune 500, as expertly skilled in creating innovative and effective approaches to enhance the individual's work-

place performance and productivity.

Bohannon well understands the retail industry, her roots prior to joining J. Howard & Associates (now Novations Diversity & Inclusion Consulting Group) in 1983. During her tenure, and as a result of working within Fortune 500 companies, she broadened her knowledge of professional and industrial work environments. Her sphere of reference includes the airline, banking, financial, health, and technology industries.

These experiences have significantly informed her vision and shaped her skills enabling her to provide guidance and solutions toward capacity building for all individuals within client businesses.



Bohannon is a frequent guest speaker on the topic of leveraging diversity and inclusion to achieve business success. She is clear that while diversity is the question, development is the answer. Her passion and commitment to the development of all inform her enthusiastic delivery for the subject matter. Her

style and technique are to work with organizations as a business partner recognizing that mastering diversity and inclusion in their organizations will directly impact their business results. This approach is evident in her publications, role modeling and operational issues in her own business. ■



Audra Bohannon, co-authored the book, "Illuminating the Spirit" with Verna Ford.



## Audra Bohannon

### Visionary Woman of Excellence

Inspiring Diversity, Leadership, Excellence, and Success

*L*Leader, daughter, friend. Businesswoman, diversity and inclusion champion, coach and mentor. Passionate advocate for personal and professional development. Audra's impact is extraordinary and her commitment to excellence is unflagging.

From her local community to global Fortune 500 companies, Audra has taught thousands of us to "live life by design, not by default." Her work ethic, passion, and generosity of spirit have helped thousands of people identify and attain life and career goals.

We salute Audra and all of the Unity First Visionary Women of Excellence for their exceptional contribution.



## Sheila Goodwin

Sheila Goodwin is the Vice President of Sales at PeoplesBank located in Holyoke, MA and has been responsible for Retail Sales and Service strategies since 2005. During her 18 year banking career, she has also served as Regional Coordinator of Consumer Sales for Fleet Bank and as Vice President and Regional Manager at Citizens Bank. A former member of the Worcester Regional Chamber of Commerce, Ms. Goodwin was selected as one of forty recipients of the Chamber's "Forty Under Forty," recognizing leadership in the community and in business.

Ms. Goodwin also serves on the Board of Directors at the River Valley Counseling Center, is a Corporator for the Worcester Ecotarium, and is a Board of Trustees member for the Belmont Street A.M.E. Zion Church where she also serves on the Building Committee, Debutante Ball Committee and Chancel Choir. Along with her family, she is an annual sponsor of the Ruby Hawkins West Scholarship Golf Tournament, which has awarded over 80 scholarships to high school seniors over the past ten years.

Ms. Goodwin, a resident of Worcester, holds a BA from the University of South Carolina and is currently working on her Masters of Business Administration degree at Assumption College in Worcester. She is married and is the mother of two boys.

PeoplesBank, the largest community bank in Hampden and Hampshire counties, offers a full range of personal and commercial financial products and services. Locally based since 1885, the Bank has offices and ATM locations in Amherst, Chicopee, East Longmeadow, Granby, Hadley, Holyoke, Longmeadow, Northampton, South Hadley, Springfield, and Westfield. PeoplesBank will open its newest office at 1240 Sumner Avenue in Springfield in the summer of 2008. ■



Sheila Goodwin,  
Vice President, Sales

# Congratulations, Sheila.

We're proud to have you on the PeoplesBank team.



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# Frederica M. Williams

As President & CEO of Whittier Street Health Center, Frederica Williams has transformed a basic community health center into a neighborhood centerpiece, celebrating diverse populations and increasing their access to life-saving health care.

Her keen vision has positioned Whittier as a leader in urban health care with a crucial focus on the importance of culturally competent primary care and social services.

Under Williams' direction, Whittier has embarked upon an ambitious community outreach campaign, taking quality health care to patients rather than waiting for patients to arrive at their door. Whether hosting New England's largest men's health summit or making health care practitioners available at schools, community events or local houses of worship, Whittier relentlessly engages its neighborhood, encouraging good health. This fervor to better the community's health is cultivated from the top, beginning with Williams.

Williams joined Whittier in February 2002 and since that time the center has doubled the number of people served, increased revenues by almost 60% and expanded the range of services provided to the community regardless of their ability to pay for services. Williams has more than 20 years of experience in health care administration, finance and operations management as well as a wealth of knowledge concerning community-based health care, international public health, strategic planning,

revenue control, physician practice management and technology.

Williams serves as a Board of Trustee for the Dana Farber Cancer Institute and the Massachusetts League of Community Health Centers. She is a Board member of the Boston Health Net, and serves on the Advisory Boards of the Community Oriented Correctional Health Services, Global Health/ International Women's Health Initiative, African Health Foundation (AHF) and the African Community Health Initiative (ACHI).

She also participates on several community initiatives focused on providing high quality, reliable and accessible health care and support services to the elderly, disabled, immigrants, children and the uninsured and underinsured.

Williams has a bachelor's degree in business administration from the London School of Accountancy, a graduate certificate in administration and management (CSS) from the Harvard University Extension School, and an MBA from Anna Maria College. She is also a Fellow of the Institute of Chartered Financial Administrator in the United Kingdom and Wales. Williams has participated in two executive training programs at the Harvard

Business School's Hauser Center for Non Profit organizations, is a NCCJ Lead Boston graduate 2003 and is an associate member of the American College of HealthCare Executives.

Williams was born in Freetown, Sierra Leone and is the proud mother of three sons, Dennis, Dun-stant and Devin.



**Whittier Street Health Center salutes  
our President and CEO Frederica M. Williams**  
for helping women of color achieve our full potential by  
promoting wellness and eliminating health and social disparities.

Whittier Street Health Center provides  
Women's Health Services including:

- Obstetrics & Gynecology
- Prenatal Care
- Nutrition
- Mammography Services Coordination
- Family Planning
- Domestic Violence Counseling
- Legal Aid Services
- Women Infants & Children Services (WIC)

and a full range of other Health and Social Services



1125 Tremont Street, Roxbury, MA 02120  
617.427.1000 [www.wshc.org](http://www.wshc.org)



# Yvonne Bogle



Yvonne S. Bogle has been employed as the Director of Diversity Programs & Services at Western New England College, for almost 17 years. She serves as a facilitator, of issues of Diversity and Empowerment, and also as an adjunct faculty in the School of Business, and in the School of social work where she teaches, "Dynamics of Oppression and Empowerment." She is also the international student advisor for the campus.

In her role, Yvonne provides leadership to both students and the campus community through various programs and activities, but mostly by her example. As a key member of the Diversity Task Force, she serves the college community in diversity education initiatives, including the development of workshops, and by coordinating programs that heighten cultural awareness. Some of these programs have helped to forge an important partnership with the Springfield community as well as with the other colleges in

the area.

As the advisor for historically underrepresented students, she is devoted to their cultural enrichment and enjoys engaging them in social justice issues. Guided by her Christian values, Yvonne believes it is a gift to be able to help young people find their purpose and maximize their potential, and she treasures this opportunity. While her focus is the underrepresented population she advises, she makes herself available to any student who has a need.

Her most treasured

roles are that of wife, mother and grandmother.

Yvonne is a graduate of Western New England College. ■

*Yvonne is shown above with students at the college.*

## INSPIRING TOMORROW'S LEADERS

Western New England College proudly salutes



**Yvonne S. Bogle '83/G'91**

Director, Diversity Programs  
and Services  
Western New England College

for being named a  
*Unity First News*  
"Visionary Woman  
of Excellence"

# Visionary



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## Dr. Greer Clarke

Dr. Greer Clarke, M.D is a dedicated board certified pediatrician who enjoys her work helping children and families. Her most important responsibility is the primary health care of infants, children and adolescents.

Currently, she is a pediatrician at Redwood Pediatrics in East Longmeadow, MA. Prior to this position, she was a pediatric physician at Sumner Pediatrics in Springfield, MA. She has also been a Traveling Physician for Comphealth/Kron Locum Tenums Company in Salt Lake City, Utah and a Pediatric Physician for the Baystate Medical Center in Springfield, MA.



"I totally enjoy what I do," says Clarke, who was raised in New York to Trinidadian parents.

"I want to see my patients grow from infants to childhood to adulthood and most importantly, stay healthy at all phases of their lives."

Clarke, who went to New York's Brooklyn Technical High School, says, "I enjoyed science and I was good at it. Today, I encourage young people to stay focused on their success and to do well in school."

Clarke majored in chemistry at Wheaton College and later graduated from State University of New York - Health Science Center School of Medicine located in Syracuse, New York. She received honors in anatomy, pediatrics as well as in her pediatric sub-internship. Also, she received a resident teaching award while a pediatric resident at Baystate Medical Center.

## Kelley Chunn

Kelley Chunn leads Kelley Chunn & Associates (KCA), a Boston-based 17 year old state certified (SOMWBA)\* consultancy which specializes in multicultural and cause-related public relations and marketing.

The focus is on strategic communications planning, media relations, community outreach, audience development, event management and training.

The Chunn team has received an award from the Global Diversity Group for contributions to urban and minority entrepreneurship and received recognition from the Clinton-Gore Administration for excellence in health marketing for the "Sisters Together, Move More, Eat Better" obesity prevention campaign.

Over the years, KCA has worked with a broad range of non-profit, government and corporate clients including the Rose Kennedy Greenway Project for the City of Boston, the Harvard School of Public Health, The Arts & Civic Dialogue Project at Harvard University, Staples, Inc., The Gillette Company, the FleetBank Women's Entrepreneurial Connection, the Democratic National Convention 2004, The Commonwealth Institute, Boston Neighborhood Network Television, Urban Edge, the Museum of African American History, the Boston Empowerment Zone, and WGBH-TV.

As principal, Chunn speaks widely and has appeared on C-SPAN, and been quoted in a variety of publications including BusinessWeek, the Boston Globe, Boston Business Journal, Boston Banner, the Wall Street Journal, PR Week and Boston Women's Business magazine. In addition, she has served as an Assistant Professor of public relations and marketing at Northeastern University; and worked as a news and public affairs writer and producer at TV network affiliates 4, 5, and 7 in Boston. Chunn also served as media consultant to the Nigerian government's National Television Authority in West Africa.



### KELLEY CHUNN & ASSOCIATES



**Kelley Chunn & Associates**  
Providing Culturally Smart Strategies  
to Promote Social Change!  
Multicultural Marketing &  
Public Relations

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## Crystal Senter Brown

Crystal (Senter) Brown wears many hats in the Springfield community: Community Health Activist, Poet, Author, Singer, Justice of the Peace and Songwriter. Crystal has worked as a



Community Executive for Cancer Control for the American Cancer Society's New England Division since 2001.

Crystal believes that everyone who receives a cancer diagnosis should have equal access to services and programs. For the past seven years, her successful community outreach programs "Men's Night Out", "Paint the Town Pink" and "Models of Life", have educated thousands of residents in Western Massachusetts with the message of early detection, cancer prevention and survivorship. She is also actively involved in the Greater Springfield Relay For Life. She has received two divisional Staff Values Awards from the American Cancer Society, "Diversity" in 2002, and "Stewardship" in 2006.

Crystal's "other" hats include hosting the monthly open mic series for the Springfield Library (Spoken Word Saturdays), and also working as a Justice of the Peace, a position she has held since 2000. She is the president for the local chapter of NABFEME (National Association of Black Female Executives in Music and Entertainment.) Her songs/ poetry have been recognized by the Urban Music Awards, Billboard Music, VIBE Magazine and the Valley Advocate. She has also published two books and has released three music cds. ■



The American Cancer Society's New England Division is proud to congratulate our own

**Crystal D. Brown**

as a "Visionary Woman of Excellence"

For cancer information 24 hours a day, 7 days a week  
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## Dr. Esther Pearson

Dr. Esther Pearson is an educator, technologist and mathematician. In the early 1980's, Esther Pearson completed her first formal degree in a technical field. This start in technology was followed by the achievement of 3 additional formal degrees including Electrical Engineering Technology, Engineering Management and a doctoral degree in Mathematics and Science Education. The attainment of formal education in the areas of technology, mathematics and education demonstrates the strong commitment Dr. Pearson has to utilizing technology to solve real world problems.



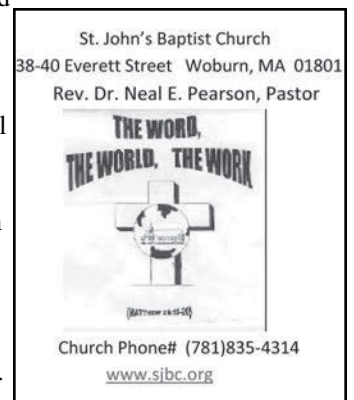
Dr. Pearson has made significant contributions over the past 25 years through corporate industry positions from engineer to engineering director. She has authored books, developed curriculum, designed industry programs and advocated for technology policy both nationally and internationally.

Throughout her life, Dr. Pearson has focused on women's involvement in technical areas. To this end, in 1991, she founded a school for African American, Latino and Native American young women. This school concentrates on establishing sound academic foundations, which provides preparation for all fields of study. The school Dr. Pearson founded, the Mary McLeod Bethune Institute, has serviced thousands of young women in the Boston, Massachusetts area.

Dr. Pearson holds a Doctorate of Education in Mathematics and Science from University of Massachusetts, a Masters in Engineering Management from Western New England College, and a Bachelor of Applied Electrical Engineering Technology from Youngstown State University.

Dr. Pearson has been featured for her work in Ebony Magazine, Black Enterprise, Black Issues in Higher Education and the Negro Journal of Education. She has published several books to include 'Invisible Mathematics', 'Women in High Tech Vision of Change', and 'Building Self-Esteem In Young Women'.

Dr. Pearson is married to Rev. Dr. Neal E. Pearson, Pastor St. John's Baptist Church, Woburn, MA., and has one daughter, Tiffini Nicole Pearson, a Research Chemist for Esai Research in Andover, MA. ■





## Dr. Annie B. Watson

Dr. Annie B. Watson is a native of Springfield who has been blessed by God to become a strong lady of faith, a highly trained oral health professional, and First Lady of the Canaan Baptist Church of Christ.

Dr. Watson was inspired by God at an early age to become a health professional. She went on to earn her Bachelor of Science and Master of Science degrees in Biology from Hampton University, in Hampton, VA.

She also earned a Doctor of Dental Surgery Degree from the Medical College of Virginia, in Richmond, VA. Upon earning her dental degree, she pursued advance training at the University of Connecticut Health Center where she completed the General Dentistry Residency Program.

Dr. Watson is the owner of Gentle Smiles Family Dentistry in Springfield. Beyond her dental work, she aspires to promote a healthy families community ministry emphasizing wholeness and wellness in mind, body and spirit. For this reason, she is currently studying at Andover Newton Theological School, where she is focusing on a program for health, healing and wellness.

She is first in many of her achievements and is notable in her community service. She was the pioneer dentist at the City's No Tooth Left Behind School Clinic at the Gerena School, and she was recently honored with a community service award on International Women's Day of this year by the Springfield Women's Commission.

First Lady Watson is married to the Rev. W.C. Watson Jr., who is Senior Pastor of the Canaan Baptist Church of Christ. She is a covenant partner with her husband and also serves as Director General of the Women's Ministry and as Director of the Spiritual Women of Purpose (SWOP) at Canaan. She is a woman with a warm spirit who loves the Lord and loves to smile. She is dedicated to being a faithful witness in the work that God has ordained for her life. ■



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## Dr. Pamela Henderson



Pamela R. Henderson, M.D. is a native of Columbus, Ohio. She graduated from Princeton University and the University of Michigan Medical School. She completed her residency in ophthalmology at the Eye and Ear Institute at the University of Pittsburgh. She then completed fellowship training in glaucoma at the Kellogg Eye Center. She is certified by the American Board of Ophthalmology.

She opened Henderson Eye Center, a state of the art facility in Springfield, Massachusetts at Mercy Medical Center in 2004. She stepped out on faith, with no patient base, as she sensed the community's need for high level glaucoma services.

With hard work and dedication she has nurtured a thriving practice.

Dr. Henderson is passionate about her effort to prevent blindness from the treatable and preventable causes, both here and around the world.

To this end, she travels to Haiti every year to perform glaucoma and cataract surgery. She cares deeply about each and every patient and endeavors to make sure each one receives the highest quality treatment available. ■

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Unity First proudly joined the American Heart Association/ American Stroke Association as part of this year's "Go Red" campaign in Springfield to promote heart health. We teamed up with Myra Smith of Springfield Technical Community College to present our first "Red Velvet" dinner and reception and also inaugurated our "Go Red Windows" initiative with five area businesses. Thanks to all! Let's stay healthy.



# Go Red

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Unity First



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Beaute Within



Dream Studios



# Another Voice

## Parent to Parent

*Empowering parents to help prevent their children from drugs or substance misuse.*

As parents, it is your responsibility to teach your child the difference between acceptable and unacceptable behavior. For beginners, let your child know that he or she can depend on you from the time of birth by responding to your baby's cries. The baby will notice that you are dependable and that you can be trusted. As your child grows older, begin to establish eating, sleeping and playing patterns to teach your child discipline. You have now begun to lay the groundwork for good behavior from the time of your child's



birth.

Children learn best by observing parents. As parents you must lead by example. Children learn a lot about self-control, temper, attitudes and other behaviors by watching parents and other adults' interaction. If children see adults behaving positive to each other this will teach the child that the

behavior is acceptable. You have now begun to teach your child how to behave in a respectfully manner.

One of the most disrespectful behaviors a mother can demonstrate to her children is to allow herself to be disrespected. Your behavior will send the message to your child that it is okay to allow people to disrespect her. Your behavior just might teach your child to become disrespectful to others.

For many reasons, there are women raising their children without the help of their children's father. This situation often is challenging, especially if the mother works outside of the home. You may not have as much time needed to spend with

your children. So you must set limits, guidelines and be creative in ways of keeping your children involved in positive productive activities until you get home.

Mothers you must put the welfare of your children first. From the moment you conceive a child your life no longer belongs just to you. So to make all of your lives easier praise your children. Encourage your children and let them know that you care about them and value their thoughts. When children cherish their relationship with their parents, they most likely will want to please their parents and listen to the message you are trying to get across to them.

Mable Lene Sharif

## A Day of Reading



Dr. Bobbie Rennix recently held a "Read Aloud" event at the Mt. Carmel School in Springfield in honor of Black History Month. A special thanks to all of the readers who made the day a memorable one for the students. Thanks to Bobbie for organizing an event focused on reading and literacy.



20 Unity First March 2008

## Dream Studios is on the move



Dream Studios recently held its Black History Month performance, "Dance of the Jubilation" at Springfield College. Congrats to all of the performers. For more information on classes at Dream Studios, call (413) 739-1500.





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## JOB FAIR Educators of Color

Affirmative Action Recruitment  
Consortium of Eastern Massachusetts

**Saturday March 29, 2008  
11 a.m. - 1 p.m.**

**Resume Writing Workshop  
10:30 a.m. - 11 a.m.**

Wheelock College, 43 Hawes St., Brookline, MA

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Wellesley College is an EOE/AA institution and employer. The College is committed to increasing the diversity of the college community and the curriculum. Candidates who believe they will contribute to that goal are encouraged to apply.

Visit our website at [www.wellesley.edu/HR/](http://www.wellesley.edu/HR/)





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# Events

## Educational Options Series

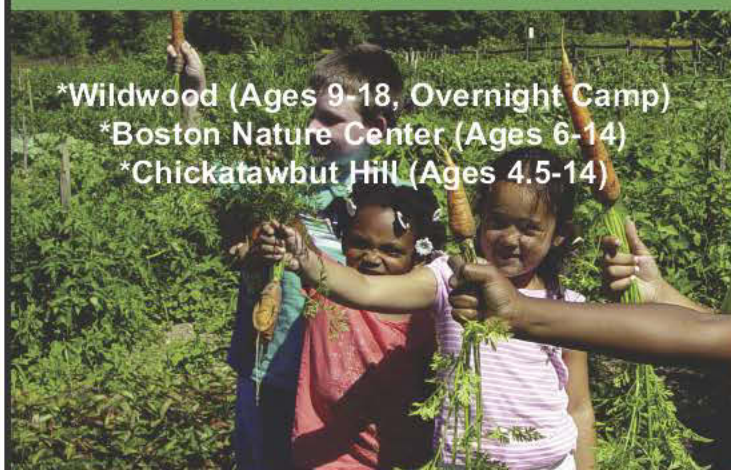
Summer Nature Camp Options

Learn about 3 of Mass. Audubon's exciting camp opportunities. Mass. Audubon is a great way to expose your child to the wonders of nature.

Saturday, March 22, 2008 (1-4pm)

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\*Boston Nature Center (Ages 6-14)

\*Chickatawbut Hill (Ages 4.5-14)

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The second annual **How-To Entrepreneurship Institute** is a daylong business seminar hosted by the Western New England College Law and Business Center for Advancing Entrepreneurship. The Institute will feature seminars on everything from starting a business to protecting intellectual property. The event features a two path structure designed to help entrepreneurs at every stage of the business cycle, whether you're just starting out or a seasoned pro.

Glenn S. Henderson, President of AFC Worldwide Express, will give the keynote luncheon address at 12:30 p.m.

To register or for more info, call 413-736-8462 or email  
amunnings@law.wnec.edu

**March 28, 2008**  
**8:30am-4:30pm**

Location: Scibelli Enterprise Center  
Room A & B of the Law School  
One Federal Street, Springfield, MA 01105



# Events

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF NEGRO WOMEN



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## Women of 1<sup>st</sup> Courage & Conviction

### Awards Banquet

SATURDAY, MARCH 29, 2008

5:30pm Reception & Silent Auction  
7:00pm Banquet

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## Dunbar Community Center presents its 6th Annual Success Showcase: An Exposition of Black Businesses on Saturday, March 29, 2008 (10 A.M. TO 3 P.M.)

The Success Showcase: An Exposition of Black Businesses was the brainchild of a few local entrepreneurs who were propelled into action to help the development and education of our community's youth, particularly the disadvantaged. The natural venue to host the event was the Dunbar Community Center, a youth development agency that has been serving the needs of disadvantaged youth for 94 years.

As the Dunbar approaches its 95th anniversary, it is proud to present the 6th Annual Black Business Expo on Saturday, March 29, 2008 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. in conjunction with Springboard Technology Corporation, the New England Black Chamber of Commerce, WEIB 106.3 Smooth FM, Unity First Magazine, and Eastern General Contractors.

This unique Western Massachusetts showcase highlights the accomplishments of Blacks in the entrepreneurial arena and serves as a vehicle for exposing our youth to various career options and fosters mentorship.

"Youth are empowered when they see reflections of themselves in a positive light," stated Cherylyn Hatchett, Executive Director of the Dunbar. "The Expo affords them an opportunity to network with black business professionals and entrepreneurs. "They learn what it takes to create, own and operate their own business and the educational requirements to be well prepared to compete in the 21st Century"

Since its inception, over 100 Black Businesses have participated in the exposition. The Expo has drawn crowds upwards to 500 people and participating businesses have enjoyed the opportunity to network, sell their products, and most important, motivate and inspire our youth to have dreams and plans for their future success.

This year's Black Expo will feature a "Teen Job Fair" and will offer Free Health and Dental Screenings including but not limited to Blood Pressure, Cholesterol, Blood Glucose, HIV Testing and Counseling, and Oral Examinations provided by Caring Health Center. It promises to be the best yet! For more information please contact Kimothy Jones at (413) 788-6143 x 103.



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16th Annual

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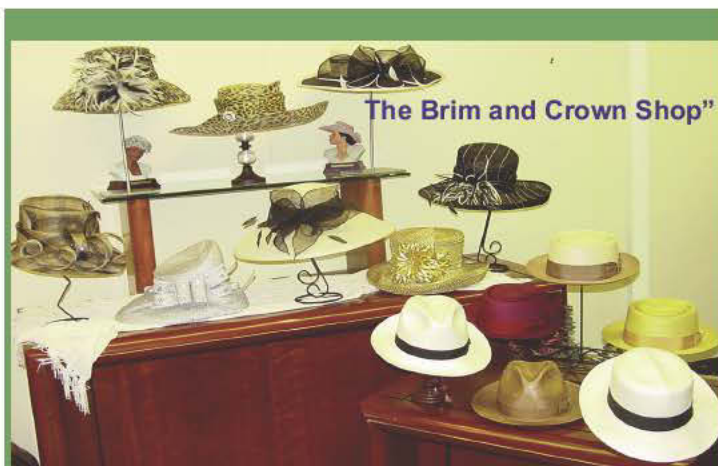
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