

# Meet The Presenters



## Jennifer Arsenian, J.D.

Jennifer Arsenian, J.D. received a BA in political science from Auburn University in 1995, a M.S. in Justice and Public Safety from Auburn University at Montgomery in 2000, and her Juris Doctor degree from Cumberland School of Law, May 2006. She was admitted to the Alabama State Bar in September 2006. Mrs. Arsenian has worked in the field of

domestic violence for over twelve years and is currently the Legal Director for the Alabama Coalition Against Domestic Violence.



## Chaplain Henry Beaulieu

Henry is ordained in the Presbyterian Church of America. He graduated from Wheaton College and served for ten years as an active duty Army officer. As a graduate of Reformed Seminary with a masters in divinity, Henry serves as Assistant Pastor of Counseling at Eastwood Presbyterian Church in Montgomery, AL. He has been certified as a

Biblical Counselor with the National Association of Nouthetic Counselors for over 12 years. He also serves as a Chaplain in the Alabama National Guard and has deployed with units in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.



## Java Bennett

Java Bennett served as Program Director for United Cerebral Palsy of Huntsville and Tennessee Valley in Huntsville, AL, for the past 14 years and now serves as Program Director for the Alabama Lifespan Respite Resource Network. She is a graduate of Mississippi State University in Special Education and holds a license in the

State of Alabama in Social Work. Mrs. Bennett has worked with children who have disabilities and their families in a variety of roles for over 30 years. She has been involved since the inception of UCP's H.E.A.R.T.'s respite care project and assisted other UCP affiliates in Alabama to successfully replicate the project statewide. Ms. Bennett served as lead for Alabama's Lifespan Respite Resource Network project when it began in 2000.



## Dr. Brian L. Bourdeau

Brian L. Bourdeau, PhD, is an Assistant Professor of Marketing at Auburn University. His research interests include services marketing, sustainability, survey research methodologies, and service branding. Dr. Bourdeau's research has appeared or is forthcoming in the Strategic Management Journal, Journal of Services Research,

Journal of Business Research, Journal of Services Marketing, Journal of Non-Profit & Public Sector Marketing, International Journal of Sports Marketing and Sponsorship, International Review of Business Research Papers, and Forum Empresarial.



## Christopher A. Brown, M.A.

Chris Brown served as a social marketing specialist and health communications consultant with the Texas Department of Health before joining National Fatherhood Initiative. Chris manages programming for National Fatherhood Initiative, which includes curricula and workshop development and evaluation, National

Fatherhood Initiative's Master Trainer program, and other products and services. Chris trains individuals and organizations in how to create father-friendly organizations and programs, and in how to develop, manage, market, and evaluate services and programs for dads. He is the creator of National Fatherhood Initiative's Father Friendly Check-Up, Best Practices in Fatherhood Programs, and Social Marketing for Fatherhood Programs. He earned his M.A. in Applied Anthropology from the University of South Florida. He lives in the Austin, TX, area with his wife and two daughters, ages eight and eleven.



## Ed Brown

Ed Brown is a prior Air Force commander, an instructor of Business and Economics, and a doctoral student at Alabama State University, soon to complete his dissertation in Education, Leadership, Policy and Law. He is the Chair of the 100 Black Men of America National Educational Committee, an active Board member of Partners In

Education, the current President of the 100 Black Men of Montgomery and a National Evaluator for the 100 and other non-profit organizations. He is the 2006 recipient of the National 100 Black Men Mentor of the Year award

and a 2007 recipient of The Emancipation Association Exemplary Service award, Chairman of the Parent, Youth, Couples, and Family Training Institute, a certified family and parent educator, member of the National Effective Parenting Initiative, a grandfather of 6, the father of two young ladies and two young men, and the husband of one beautiful wife.



## Ed and Xenia Brown

Mr. and Mrs. Brown have a varied and unique background. They are a prior Air Force family with four professional children and six lovely grandchildren. They have traveled around the world and conducted educational and training sessions for Parents, Youths, Couples, and Families. Xenia is a self taught nutritionist, and home designer, a home

educator, a public and private school tutor, fluent in Spanish and basic education. She is a volunteer with the International Family Officer Program, an Alabama Goodwill Ambassador, a K-6 tutor with our Partners In Education team, and a Marriage Educator. Ed and Xenia are actively involved in the community with programs that impact the lives of families. They have facilitated Black Parenting classes, Marriage Enrichment seminars, Teen and Youth development training, and a variety of Character Enrichment programs. Ed spends much of his time reading, writing and mentoring with non-profit organizations. Xenia spends her time teaching nutritional cooking classes to international wives, and working with a variety of non-profit programs and schools. They have been married for 32 years and currently live in Montgomery, Alabama.



## Lisa Castaldo

Lisa Castaldo received her Bachelor Degree in Psychology and Art and her Masters of Science Degree in Rehabilitation Counseling from the University of South Alabama. Her professional experience includes many years in Public Health, first at the Mobile County Health Department in pediatric clinical services, maternal and child health, high

risk infant tracking, perinatal coordination, and teen support services and at the State Health Department as a Research Analyst in Immunizations. Ms. Castaldo serves as the Deputy Director for the Governor's Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives (GFBCI). The GFBCI provides education and outreach to faith-based and community organizations, promotes volunteerism and service and builds citizen preparedness for disasters.



## Teresa J. Chappell

Teresa J. Chappell was appointed to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development by Secretary Mel Martinez in May 2001. Ms. Chappell serves as Special Assistant to the Regional Director for Region IV which covers eight states as well as Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands. She also serves as Regional Coordinator for

Community and Faith-Based Initiatives, as well as Regional Coordinator for the Interagency Council on Homelessness in Region IV. Ms. Chappell was appointed to the Regional Commission on Homelessness for the United Way of Metropolitan Atlanta and serves on their State Disaster Preparedness Advisory Board. She also serves as an Advisor to the Atlanta Housing Authority's Subcommittee on the Affordable Housing Initiative for Seniors and Persons with Disabilities, and represents the Regional Director on the Foreclosure Prevention Task Force for the Atlanta Region.



## Julia Collins, M.A.

Ms. Collins is the CWLA's Project Director for the FRIENDS NRC for Community Based Child Abuse Prevention (a service of the Children's Bureau) which provides T/TA to the State Lead Agencies that obtain CAPTA Title II funding for prevention of child abuse and neglect. She also provides T/TA around effective collaborations for

integrating prevention services more closely with the rest of the child welfare system. She is the co-lead for the FRIENDS Cultural Competence Work Group and provides T/TA on cultural competence. Ms. Collins is also the Director, Practice Excellence CWLA where she is responsible for overseeing the development and updating of the CWLA Standards of Excellence. Prior to this she was the Director of Mental Health and has over 25 years of experience in the fields of child welfare and mental health. She has experience in managed behavioral healthcare conducting mental health and substance abuse assessments and reviews of care as well as designing, developing and implementing culturally responsive clinical programs

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and models of care delivery for mental health/substance abuse and child welfare. She also has experience in child welfare working in residential care, conducting CPS investigations and providing services to children and families. She has developed and provided clinical training to foster parents, child care and social work staff. She has a Masters in Social Work, is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker and is author or co-author of a Family's Guide to Child Welfare, 5 monographs/issue briefs, and numerous articles.



## Chaplain Wyly Collins

Wyly is an Ordained Minister in the Presbyterian Church of America. He received his Bachelor's Degree from Covenant College in Lookout Mountain, Georgia, and his Master of Divinity with Counseling Emphasis from The Reformed Theological Seminary in Jackson, Mississippi. Wyly is currently employed by the Alabama National Guard at the

Joint Force Headquarters in Montgomery, Alabama, as a Full-Time Support Chaplain.



## James Colvin

Mr. Colvin has served in many capacities within the government for the past 39 years. Currently he serves as the Regional Program Manager, (communally known as the "Grants Officer"), for the Office of Grants Management (OGM), one of five divisions in the Administration for Children and Families (ACF). OGM serve as the principal office within ACF for ensuring that the business and financial responsibilities of grants administration are carried out effectively and efficiently. As Grants Officer, he is responsible for the coordinating management initiatives to improve the efficiency of both financial administration and awarding of ACF discretionary grants and monitoring the expenditure of formula and entitlement grants. Mr. Colvin oversee audit resolutions by approving or disallowing claims to increase the efficiencies and effectiveness of ACF programs. Mr. Colvin has served in many capacities within the government involving the caring for the nation's at risk population.



## Rebecca Curtis

Rebecca S. Curtis, Ph.D. currently is a member of the Department of Special Education, Rehabilitation, Counseling/School Psychology at Auburn University. She has a myriad of experiences working within a variety of rehabilitation settings and maintains the credentials of a Certified Rehabilitation Counselor (CRC). Prior to working

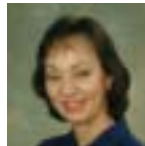
at Auburn University, she served as an Assistant Director in the Andrew Young School of Policy Studies at Georgia State University, the Rehabilitation Continuing Education Program for Community Rehabilitation Providers for Rehabilitation Services Administration's Region IV. Additionally, Dr. Curtis served with the Rehabilitation Research & Training Center in Learning Disabilities and has worked with consumers as a Behavior Specialist and Psychiatric Specialty Counselor.



## R. Michael (Mike) Easterwood

Mike Easterwood is currently a Senior Outreach Associate with the Economic & Community Development Institute (ECDI). He conducts research related to state and local economic development activities in Alabama, prepares and administers grant proposals on behalf of ECDI, Auburn faculty and departments, and other organizations

outside the university, conducts workshops on grant writing, and works with communities in developing strategic plans for economic development. He served as Interim Executive Director for the Alabama Communities of Excellence (ACE) program for the calendar year 2004. Prior to his employment with ECDI Mr. Easterwood served as Development Director with the Center for Governmental Services (CGS) at Auburn University (1985-1994). He served as a Research Specialist with the Bureau of Governmental Research and Service at the University of South Carolina from 1981 through 1985. Mr. Easterwood was Development Director with the East Alabama Regional Planning and Development Commission in Anniston, Alabama from 1971 through 1981. He received his BA degree from Auburn University in 1971 and earned graduate degrees from Jacksonville State University (MPA) and the University of Alabama in Birmingham (MA/Urban Studies). He is married to the former Patsy Wilbanks of Goodwater, Alabama and the proud parent of two daughters, Casey and Kristen.



## Dr. Margaret Fitch-hauser

Margaret Fitch-hauser has 30 years experience as a consultant, trainer and coach. She has worked with people from a variety of organizations ranging from large multinational firms to small businesses. Margaret specializes in helping clients discover and develop their own communication and relationship styles and strengths.

She does this by listening, diagnosing, and working with the client to problem solve and strategically map a path to improvement. Margaret's education includes a BA and MA in Speech Communication from Stephen F. Austin State University in Texas. Her Ph.D. is in Interpersonal Communication from the University of Oklahoma. For eight years, she served on the faculty of the College of Business at the University of Oklahoma working with their consulting services and teaching Business Communication. Margaret has also served as a Department Chair at Auburn University and is a past president and life member of the International Listening Association. She is a published scholar in the field of listening and information processing and has served as an expert witness in several fraud litigations. Her current research efforts focus on cultural differences in listening related measures and situations.



## Robert French

Robert French teaches public relations at Auburn University. He has over 25 years of experience in public relations, broadcasting and university administration. Robert became interested in social media for the benefit of his students. He saw the change in PR coming and got in early. Social media has proven to be a powerful

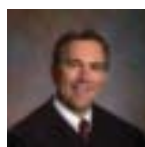
educational, networking and mentoring path for Auburn students. They have landed interviews and jobs with the top public relations, marketing and advertising firms in the world, in part, because of their class social media experiences. Auburn graduates are now actively weaving social media into PR practice for governors, state agencies, PR/marketing agencies, corporations, non-profits and churches. Robert is a Founding Fellow of SNCR, the Society for New Communication Research. Recently honored with inclusion in PR Week's 2008 Editors' Choice list (PDF), Robert has been interviewed by the New York Times, the Wall Street Journal, Inc. magazine and many other news organizations. Robert is also featured in the Ted Demopoulos book, What No One Ever Tells You About Blogging and Podcasting: Real-Life Advice from 101 People who Successfully Leverage the Power of the Blogosphere. Robert writes at inOpinions.org about public relations, marketing communications, multimedia/social media and how they fit into a traditional liberal arts / business public relations curriculum.



## Miriam (Mim) J Gaines, MACT, RD, LD

Miriam Gaines has been a registered dietitian for public health for over 22 years and has been the director of the Nutrition and Physical Activity Division at the Alabama Department of Public Health for the last 14 years. Miriam serves on several national and state organizations that have an emphasis on nutrition and healthy lifestyles. As the

State Obesity Task Force chair and a member of the Scale Back Alabama program she promotes healthy lifestyles as natural and easy choices. Miriam teaches each person has a responsibility in making lifestyle choices, but that choices are not made in a vacuum and are the result of interactions with family, the environment, and policies. She stresses the importance of being a good role model for family members and co workers! She lives in Millbrook, Alabama with her husband: both their children are students at the University of Alabama.



## Judge Howard Hawk

The Honorable Howard Hawk currently serves as Presiding Circuit Judge in Marshall County, Alabama, and is the county's Presiding Family Court Judge. He received his J.D. from the University of Alabama in 1983. In 1994, he was elected to the Alabama House of Representatives and re-elected in 1998, and was appointed Chairman of the House

Ways and Means Education Fund Committee. He strives to continuously promote collaboration and enhancement of community programs in order to strengthen the families in Marshall County. He and his wife and son make their home in Arab, Alabama.

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## Dr. Stacy Higgins

After graduating from Dartmouth College, Dr. Stacy Higgins received her medical degree from Cornell University Medical College in New York in 1995. She completed residency training in Internal Medicine at Columbia University's Presbyterian Hospital, also in New York City, followed by a year as Chief Medical Resident there. She

joined the faculty of Emory University's School of Medicine in 1999, and is clinically based at Grady Hospital. Within the medical school, she holds the title of Associate Program Director for Ambulatory Education, and the Director of the Primary Care Track Internal Medicine Residency Program. Her clinical area of expertise is women's health, in particular, menopause, hormone replacement therapy, and contraception. Dr. Higgins is married to Devon Walker, and they have two daughters, Zoe (9) and Sydney (6).



## Sydney Hoffman

As a member of Governor Bob Riley's Senior Staff, Sydney Hoffman serves as Director of the Governor's Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives (GFBCI). She has been tasked with continued implementation of the Faith-Based Initiative for the State of Alabama within an office that combines the Faith-Based Initiative and existing citizen

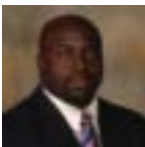
service programs such as AmeriCorps and Citizen Corps. Currently Sydney serves as Chair of the Governor's Faith-Based Advisory Board, Chair of the Governor's Interagency Council on Homelessness, Vice Chair of the Alabama Citizen Corps Council, and member of the Alabama Homeland Security Task Force.



## Betsy Houser, LCSW

Betsy is employed as a Military Family Life Consultant (MFLC) and member of Alabama's Joint Family Support Assistance Program (JFSAP). She received her master's degree in social work at the University of Georgia in 1998, and completed clinical fellowships at the Yale Child Study Center. She later served as a member of the clinical

faculty in the Child Study Center's Early Childhood Unit until 2007. Prior to accepting her current position, Betsy was a consultant for the Coaching Young Families Program, providing short-term clinical services to National Guard families throughout the state of Vermont. She now resides in Huntsville.



## Charles Jackson

Charles Jackson is a Public Relations Coordinator for the Alabama Community Healthy Marriage Initiative (ACHMI) at Auburn University with the responsibility for coalition building and community awareness. He has conducted awareness presentations to various state agencies and numerous community partners. Prior to

joining the ACHMI team, Charles served as a program coordinator for the Greater Montgomery Chapter of 100 Black Men of America, Inc. which is an international organization of professional men dedicated to empowering their communities through mentoring, education, economic development, and health and wellness. He currently and proudly serves on their Board of Directors as the Chapter Secretary. Charles has also served seven years with the United State Air Force and is currently serving in the Reserves.



## Robert D. Johnson

Robert D. Johnson is a nationally known and respected subject matter expert in the area of fatherhood and family formation. He has served as a subject matter resource to numerous states as well as national and regional organizations. Additionally, he has guided the development of fatherhood initiatives in numerous jurisdictions around

the country. A resident of Georgia, Mr. Johnson attained national recognition as the architect of the GEORGIA FATHERHOOD INITIATIVE and has led its transformation into a national model partnering with numerous agencies and organizations to develop a strategic plan and service delivery infrastructure. Currently, he serves as President of Systems for Human Services Management Inc. a management consulting firm, specializing in development of business and technology solutions to government, national regional and community-based non-profits. Mr. Johnson is a graduate of the City University of New York.



## Sam J. Jones

Sam J. Jones is the former program director and organizer of the University of Alabama Birmingham (UAB)TASC Birmingham Fatherhood Initiative. During his tenure at UAB over 325 fathers attended class each week in 17 Birmingham fatherhood sites. Jones is the co-founder

and president of Families in Focus Institute. He is a master trainer for the National Center for Fathering. He has trained over 100 certified fatherhood facilitators with this research-based curriculum entitled "Quenching the Father's Thirst" Developing a Dad. Jones is the host of a national television show called, Families in Focus" From a Christian Perspective. He is a bishop of the Good News Fellowship of Churches of the Birmingham District and pastor of Ambassadors for Christ Church. Jones is the founder and president of Highways & Hedges Outreach Training Center where he develop materials and books for people who are struggling with addictions.



## Jamie Keith

Jamie Keith is Executive Director of the Alabama Campaign to Prevent Teen pregnancy. As Executive Director she travels extensively throughout Alabama promoting awareness of teen pregnancy and assisting communities in the development and implementation of community prevention efforts, thereby improving the physical,

mental, emotional, and socioeconomic well-being of children, families, and communities in Alabama. Ms. Keith has fifteen years of experience in the non-profit sector and has served in a variety of organizations with a primary focus on the needs of children, youth and low-income families.



## Dr. Scott Ketring

Scott A. Ketring, Ph. D. is an associate professor of marriage and family therapy at Auburn University. He is a licensed MFT, a Clinical Member and Approved Supervisor of the AAMFT. He has presented at the state, national, and international levels. He maintains a private practice working with couples and families.



## Dr. Jennifer Kerpelman

Jennifer Kerpelman, Ph.D. is a Professor and State Extension Specialist in the Human Development and Family Studies department at Auburn University. During the past 14 years she has conducted numerous research studies examining adolescent identity formation and adolescents' relationships with parents and peers. She

also has created multiple resources designed to promote positive youth development. Most recently, she has been directing the Healthy Couples, Healthy Children: Targeting Youth Project, a 5-year evaluation study of a relationships education curriculum for high school students.



## Linda Lamberth

Linda Lamberth has worked with non-profits for over 25 years, first in women's health care. She has served as Program Manager for the Alabama Lifespan Respite Resource Network for over 9 years, since it's beginning in 2000. Ms. Lamberth presents to organizations and state agencies and works statewide to increase respite

resources to those involved in care giving. As well, she is involved with many state groups including the Governor's Black Belt Commission, Vocational Rehab Consumer Advisory Committees and the Alabama Medicaid Long Term Care Choices Subcommittee. She is currently working on a degree in Communications/Public Relations.



## Stan Landers

Stan Landers is a Division Director at the Alabama Department of Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention (Children's Trust Fund). He oversees the TANF funded Fatherhood Programs and the federally funded Mentoring Children of Prisoners Programs. His most challenging, yet rewarding, experience to date has been blending his family

with his wife Ami and their five children.



## Mallory Lucier, M.S.

Mallory Lucier, M.S. is a doctoral student in the Department of Human Development and Family Studies at Auburn University and a therapist at East Alabama Mental Health

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Center – Family & Children’s Services. Her research interests include stepfamily functioning, marital roles, and decision making processes in marriage. Mallory received her Bachelor of Science in Psychology and Speech Communication from The University of Georgia and her Master’s degree in Marriage & Family Therapy at Auburn University. She resides in Auburn, Alabama with her one year old Chihuahua, Cookie Monster.



## Kirk Martin

Kirk Martin is Director of Education of Washington, D.C.-based Celebrate! Calm, a world-renowned educational organization that provides science-based training for educators, parents and children. Martin is the author of four books, numerous articles and a newsletter that reaches 7,000 parents and teachers in 18 countries. He has helped equip over 45,000 teachers, parents and students with unrivaled insight and interventions through the organization’s Brain Boosters™, Calm Kids™ and Calm Couples™ Workshops. Martin is highly regarded for his partnerships with educators, forged during experience in over 600 classrooms. He has worked directly with over 1,500 children with special needs. Martin has been featured in The Washington Post, USA TODAY and dozens of newspapers; on WGN-TV and Good Morning, New York; on National Public Radio.



## Christina Morgan

Christina Morgan is the Executive Director of the Marshall County Visitation and Family Center, located in Guntersville, Alabama. Christina’s passion for fatherhood stems from working with fathers through her supervised visitation program, where she served as Board President for four years before accepting the Executive Director position in 2006. Christina played an active role in the establishing, developing and continuing implementation of the Marshall County Fatherhood Initiative Program, which is a program of the Marshall County Visitation and Family Center. She and her husband and two teenage children live in Arab, Alabama.



## Danny Osburn

Danny Osburn is a Program Analyst in the Administration for Children and Families (ACF), within the United States Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS). ACF provides federal oversight for a wide variety of programs impacting children and families, including Head Start, TANF, Child Welfare, and Child Support Enforcement.

Within ACF’s Southeast Regional Office in Atlanta, Mr. Osburn writes speeches and prepares presentations for senior ACF officials, has the lead for the President’s Faith and Community-Based Initiative, and has responsibilities for other major DHHS/ACF initiatives including Healthy Marriages and Fatherhood.



## Elana Parker, M.A.

Elana Parker was recently appointed to the Alabama Department of Corrections (ADOC) by Commissioner Richard Allen to serve in the capacity of ReEntry Coordinator. Ms. Parker is responsible for developing and implementing a statewide comprehensive re-entry model aimed towards decreasing recidivism rates in the correctional system. The comprehensive reentry model will target twenty one major institutions and eleven work release centers throughout the State of Alabama. Elana maintains her employment with the Alabama Department of Public Health in the Bureau of Professional and Support Services as Public Health Liaison. As a Liaison to the ADOC, Elana assists with coordination of preventative health education and information programs for inmates at various institutions. Elana previously served in the capacity of Director of Program Collaboration and Special Projects. Elana has a Master’s of Education Degree in Community Counseling and a Bachelors of Business Administration Degree in Marketing from the University of Montevallo. Elana also acquired a Bachelor of General Studies Degree from Samford University. She is a member of the Alabama Alcohol and Drug Abuse Association, American Counseling Association, American Correctional Association, and Birmingham Comprehensive Counseling Center.



## Dr. DaShaunda Patterson

DaShaunda Patterson, Ph.D. is a faculty member within the Department of Special Education, Rehabilitation, Counseling/School Psychology at Auburn University. She earned a doctorate in Education of Exceptional Children in the area of behavior disorders and a master’s degree in interrelated behavior and learning disabilities from Georgia

State University. Her previous experiences include teaching general and special education in the public school system in Norcross, Georgia. Dr. Patterson works closely with parents of children with disabilities. Her current research includes evaluating parents’ perceptions of their child’s disability and levels of satisfaction with service providers.



## Sandy Powell, R.N.

Ms. Powell is the State Adolescent Health Coordinator and Director of the Adolescent and School Health Program for Alabama Public Health. She is also the Program Director for the Alabama Abstinence Education Program. A 1989 graduate of the Troy School of Nursing, Ms. Powell served as the Assistant Director of Nursing for Father Walters Center for Exceptional Children prior to becoming a school nurse for Montgomery Public Schools in 1990. In 2002, Ms. Powell became the Director of School Nurses for the Montgomery Public Schools. She was the AL Association of School Nurses 1998 School Nurse of the Year. In addition, Ms. Powell is a certified childbirth instructor and has taught for Baptist Health since 1995.



## Dr. Hart Ramsey

Dr. Ramsey is first and foremost a family man. He is the father of five, grandfather of four, and husband of one – his wife, Dr. Alethia Ramsey, his companion in life and ministry for the past two decades. Dr. Ramsey received his Doctorate in Pastoral Ministry from the Minnesota Graduate School of Theology. Among his numerous undertakings, Dr. Ramsey is also an accomplished musician, published songwriter, certified recording engineer, and an up and coming author. Dr. Ramsey is the founder and Senior Pastor of two thriving congregations in Dothan and Montgomery, Alabama. Northview Christian Church (affectionately called “NCC Family”) and Northview Christian Church Safe Harbor with a collective membership of close to 3,000, are the fruit of Dr. Ramsey’s obedience to God and his enthusiastic labor of love. With a compassionate spirit, these congregations reflect the love of God and the spirit of excellence modeled by their pastor.



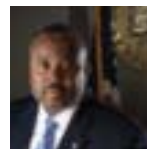
## Patricia Randich-Dumas, LCSW

Patricia is the Child & Youth Military Family Life Consultant for the Alabama Joint Family Support Assistance Program (JFSAP). She proudly provides outreach to all Military Families to offer parenting and child development education, non-medical counseling and referral, and raising family and community awareness about the effects of deployment and reunification on children and youth. She has been a clinical social worker for 15 years and currently serves as the Vice-President of the Alabama Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers. She resides in Montgomery with her husband, Royal, their two sons and dog, Luna.



## Dr. AmySue Reilly

AmySue Reilly, Ph.D. is an associate professor of early childhood special education at Auburn University in the Department of Special Education, Rehabilitation, and Counseling/School Psychology. She has a wealth of experiences working with families and infants and toddlers with disabilities. Dr. Reilly is the co-director of Project AIM, the Auburn Intervention Model. She is also the coordinator for and facilitator of Friends for Life, a community support group for families and friends of children and adults with disabilities. Dr. Reilly has worked as an assistant professor at Bemidji State University in Bemidji, Minnesota and as a child development specialist. Her current areas of research include evaluation and assessment with young children with severe disabilities and families’ involvement in assessment.



## Senator Quinton T. Ross, Jr.

Quinton T. Ross Jr., who was reared in Pontiac, Michigan, is a native of Mobile, Alabama and has been a resident of Montgomery, Alabama for 21 years. He received his B.S. and Master’s degrees from Alabama State University (ASU). He is currently pursuing a doctorate in Educational Leadership, Policy and Law at ASU. Anticipated completion Spring 2009. Ross is the Director of Adult Education at H. Council Trenholm State Technical College. He has made it his mission to be a community advocate for education and to help children grasp the light of knowledge through embracing diversity. Ross held the positions of Principal and Assistant Principal at Booker T. Washington Magnet High School (1998-2003). Prior to this, he was the Administrative Assistant at Goodwyn Junior High School, (1997-1998) and was an English teacher at McIntyre Junior

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High School, (1995-1996). Ross was elected to the Alabama State Senate in 2002 and elected to a 2nd term in 2006. Before pursuing a career in education, Ross was a Statewide Field Representative for the Alabama Democratic Party and the Alabama Democratic Conference. He has held key positions in many political campaigns. He was a member of the State Advisory Committee for President-Elect Barack Obama. More important than any of these accomplishments, he is a loving husband, father, son and brother.



### Dr. Wilma Ruffin

Dr. Ruffin began her Extension career in 1973. Her entire professional career has been with Cooperative Extension. She has worked at every level within the organization and held several positions, county agent, district coordinator, Assistant Director for 4-H, and her current position, Extension Family & Human Development Specialist. She

provides core leadership for parenting programs with a focus on building strengths in special needs families as divorced parents, single parents, and grandparents parenting grandchildren. Additionally, since 1999 she has served as the program coordinator of Extension's Family Life Center that was created through a partnership and primarily serves families in Huntsville's public housing communities. Wilma received her B.S. degree in Home Economics Education from Alabama A&M University, her M.S. degree in Human Development and Family Studies from the University of Alabama and her Ph.D. from the University of Minnesota in Family Social Science. Dr. Ruffin is married to Mr. Paul Bracy; they have one son and two grandchildren.



### Jim Sacco

Jim Sacco, M.S.W. is the Director of Training for the Center for Capacity Development/Cicatelli Associates Incorporated. His social work practice centered on patients with mental health and addictive disease challenges in hospital, outpatient, and community-based settings. As a trainer, he has trained on issues related to teen pregnancy,

addictions, STD and HIV prevention throughout the Southeast. Jim's clients include the World Health Organization, the Centers for Disease Control, Duke University, Emory University, and health departments throughout the Southeastern U.S. Jim has trained more than 10,000 health care workers throughout the U.S. He has trained more than 25,000 health care workers since 1986.



### Dr. William I. Sauser, Jr.

William I. Sauser, Jr., PhD is Associate Dean for Business and Engineering Outreach and Professor of Management at Auburn University. He earned his BS in Management and his MS and PhD in Industrial/Organizational Psychology at the Georgia Institute of Technology. He is licensed to practice psychology in Alabama and holds specialty

diplomas in Industrial/Organizational Psychology and Organizational and Business Consulting Psychology from the American Board of Professional Psychology. Dr. Sauser's interests include organizational development, strategic planning, human relations in the workplace, business ethics, and continuing professional education. He is a Fellow of the American Council on Education and the Society for Advancement of Management, a former president of the Alabama Psychological Association and the Society for Advancement of Management (International), and a former chair of the Alabama Board of Examiners in Psychology.



### J. Wayne Sellers, M.S.W.

J. Wayne Sellers is a Certified Social Worker who earned his MSW from The University of Alabama in 1974. After working with the State Department of Human Resources and serving briefly as a child welfare supervisor, he accepted his current position as Marshall County Department of Human Resources County Director in December 1978.

Since his appointment he has been very involved in community and civic affairs. In 1996 he was elected to the Guntersville City Council and is now serving in his third term. He and his wife Pamela have three grown children.



### Dr. Rozario Slack

Dr. Slack is a much sought-after speaker who travels across the country to conduct seminars in the areas of marriage, fathering and other issues that profoundly impact children and families. Along with his wife, Chattanooga pediatrician, Dr. Angela Smith-Slack, he has developed

a ten session guide to building better relationships called 10 Great Dates for Black Couples based on the award-winning program, 10 Great Dates, by David and Claudia Arp. Dr. Slack works with a cross section of people, challenging them to develop healthy, wholesome family, marital, and dating relationships. He received his master's and doctorate degrees from Interdenominational Theological Center at the Atlanta University Center. He is the pastor of Temple of Faith Deliverance Church of God in Christ, volunteers for various community organizations, and serves on several organizational boards. The Slacks are the parents of three children, Will, Pamela and Taylor.



### Ric Smith, M.E.

As Director of Experiential Learning for the Auburn University Department of Communication & Journalism, Ric Smith coordinates media and public relations practicum experiences and supervises undergraduate internships. His primary teaching areas are broadcasting, organizational communications and public relations. Ric earned his

B.A. at the University of South Carolina and his Master of Communication and Master of Education degrees at Auburn University. His professional background is in broadcasting and corporate communications. Ric began his career as communications director for Farmers National Bank. While in that position, he served as president of the Deep South Chapter of the Bank Marketing Association and as chairman of the Alabama Bankers Association marketing committee. He is currently a member of the Alabama Banking School faculty at the University of South Alabama. In addition, he works as a consultant with a variety of organizations, including Commercial National Bank, the Nike Golf Championship and Southeastern Electric Development Company.



### Dr. Thomas Smith

Thomas Smith, Ph.D. is the Director of the Marriage and Family Therapy Program and an Associate Professor of Human Development and Family Studies at Auburn University. Dr. Smith joined the Auburn faculty in 1985. He is currently serving as the President of the Alabama

Association for Marriage and Family Therapy. He is a Co-Principal Investigator for the Alabama Community Healthy Marriage Initiative. He has extensive experience with several research initiatives, has published a variety of book chapters, peer-reviewed articles and papers as well as presented at numerous international, national, state, and local conferences and workshops.



### Quésha S. Starks, M.Ed.

Quésha S. Starks is a graduate of Huntingdon College where she received her Bachelor of Arts in English with minors in music and communication studies. She has a Master's in Education with an endorsement in school administration from Auburn University Montgomery.

In addition, she has an Education Specialist Degree from Samford University. Starks is pursuing her Doctorate in Educational Leadership, Policy, and Law at Alabama State University. In 2005, Ms. Starks received a five-year commission to serve on the Governor's Task Force for Teacher Quality in Alabama. She is a National Board Certified Teacher with a specialization in Adolescence and Young Adulthood/English Language Arts. In addition to Starks' professional responsibilities, she has conducted extensive research on Multiple Intelligences Theory and Brain Research and presented workshops focusing on arts integration across the curriculum.



### Melanie Steilen, R.N.

First and foremost, Melanie Steilen is the proud parent of a 14 year old daughter, Maeve. She has had over 26 years of experience as a nurse in AIDS Care, specializing in Palliative Care/EOL and women's health issues. She was the first nurse hired by Columbia School of Public Health and the NY Blood Center in 1985 to notify all HIV

positive blood donors in NYC. She worked as a HIV Pre/Post counselor for many private physicians and facilitated support groups for people affected and/or infected with HIV/AIDS. She was thrown into EOL Care due to the poor prognosis of HIV infection at the time. After leaving clinical work she was hired by Cicatelli Associates Inc. as a Senior Clinical Trainer, Director of Nursing Education and Co-Director of the Clinical Division where she remains to this day. She is a senior faculty for the NY/NJ AETC and Title X Region 2 Training Center. She is presently focusing her work in the International HIV/AIDS arena and is working in Guyana, South America, assisting in the development of a Home Based Care Program for People living with HIV/AIDS and other debilitating illnesses. She is certified in End of

## Meet The Presenters

Life Nursing Education (ELNEC), and Holistic Stress Management. She has held her ACRN (AIDS Certified RN) since 1997.



### Hope Stockton

Hope Stockton is Executive Director of the Blue Ridge Conference on Leadership and Learning Institute at Auburn University, a leadership development and education organization dedicated to teaching the principles of good human relation skills in the workplace and communities.

The Blue Ridge Conference on Leadership is the cornerstone program of the Institute. Held annually in Black Mountain, North Carolina, the conference has been in existence for 88 years and draws from top employers throughout the nation including Eastman Chemical Company, American Cast Iron Pipe Company, Baptist Health System, King Pharmaceuticals, Alabama Power, Michelin North America, Coats North America, and Synovus Financial Corporation to name a few.



### Dr. Page Walley

Dr. Page B. Walley serves as Managing Director of Strategic Consulting for Casey Family Programs, a multi-billion dollar private operating foundation based in Seattle whose mission is to provide, improve - and ultimately prevent the need for - foster care in the United States. In this role he works with states to reduce the number of children in out-of-home care. Dr. Walley previously served as the Commissioner of the Alabama Department of Human Resources for nearly five years. Prior to that he served as Commissioner of the Alabama Department of Children's Affairs. Prior to serving as the Commissioner of the Alabama Department of Human Resources, Dr. Walley was Commissioner of the Tennessee Department of Children's Services. In this position he helped lead the department to national recognition as a model of keeping children out of custody and serving them in or near their family. Dr. Walley is a licensed clinical psychologist with over 20 years experience in the field. He is also a licensed minister and was elected to and served in the Tennessee House of Representatives from 1990 to 2000. Dr. Walley received his bachelor's degree in psychology from Davidson College and he received his master's and doctorate degrees in clinical psychology from the University of Georgia. He was the recipient of the American Psychological Association's 1994 Karl F. Heiser Award for Advocacy, the Tennessee Juvenile Court Services Association's 1997 President's Award, and the Friends of Children Award from the Tennessee Association of Child Care in 2000. Dr. Walley and his wife Terry have three children, Blake, Jordan, and Annelise.



### Sandy Williams

Sandy Williams has over 16 years of media/marketing experience and currently serves as the State Public Awareness Coordinator for the Alabama Community Healthy Marriage Initiative (ACHMI). She joined the ACHMI team from the Materials Engineering Department of Auburn University. Prior to this position she was employed by the

Jule Collins Smith Museum of Fine Art at Auburn University. Additionally, she has served as the Marketing and Logistics Manager for CV Holdings, LLC, responsible for the marketing and distribution of the Mars M & M product line, Director of Marketing and Public Relations for Surf Side Water Park and Public Relations Specialist for the City of Auburn Parks and Recreation Department.



### Ole Pete Key and the DYD Crew

The team consists of Ole Pete Key, visionary, Juanica Reynolds, three time Teacher of the Year recipient for the Talladega School System, John Reynolds, consultant and counselor for the Alabama School of the Deaf and Blind, Anthony Brooks, Social Worker and Counselor for the C.I.T.Y. Skills Consortium for potentially at-risk youth,

Chante'lle' Robinson, 2008 Miss Talladega, Krysta Robinson, Talladega Teen Idol winner, and Krysteena Robinson, High School Drama Student.



### ACHMI Teen Advisory Board

This board is comprised of select students from both Auburn and Opelika High Schools. They are busy promoting healthy teen relationships across Alabama while gaining hands-on experience producing a media campaign which includes billboards, a web site, and public service announcements. For more information visit [www.realteenrelationships.org](http://www.realteenrelationships.org).

## Alabama Department of Public Health



[www.adph.org](http://www.adph.org)

*Working Together to Create  
Healthy Families*

## Alabama Department of Human Resources

*A Proud Tradition of Caring  
for Alabama's People*



*The Alabama Department of Human Resources will help families receive the least disruptive services they need, when they need them, and for only as long as they need them in order to maintain children in, or return them to, a safe, stable home.*

# Regional Healthy Marriages, Healthy Families, and Responsible Fatherhood Conference on Best Practices

Tuesday, February 03, 2009

**11:30 - 2:15 p.m. (plated luncheon)**

## **Opening Plenary**

- Presentation of Colors by Maxwell Air Force Honor Guard
- Marian Loftin, *Former Director, Alabama Department of Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention, MC*
- Adjunct General Abner Blalock
- Commissioner Nancy Buckner, *Alabama Department of Human Resources*
- Carlis Williams, *Regional Administrator for the Administration of Children and Families - Region IV*
- Remarks by Alabama First Lady Patsy Riley
  - Reading of "Healthy Marriage Month" Proclamation
  - Recognition of "Best Marriage I Know" eighth grade essay contest winners, teachers, and featured couples
- Keynote Speaker - Dr. Wade Horn, *Director, Deloitte Consulting LLP*

**2:30 - 4:00 p.m. - Workshops**



## **Keynote Speaker: Dr. Wade F. Horn**

*Director, Deloitte Consulting LLP*

Wade F. Horn, Ph.D., is a director in Deloitte Consulting LLP's Public Sector Practice, focusing on helping state governments provide effective and efficient health and human services that are client-focused and compliant with federal laws, regulations, and reporting requirements. Prior to coming to Deloitte, Dr. Horn served from 2001 to 2007 as the Assistant Secretary for Children and Families within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) where he oversaw over 60 federal programs with a total budget of \$47 billion aimed at improving the well-being of children and helping families achieve self-sufficiency, including welfare, child welfare, adoption, child support, Head Start, child care, and refugee resettlement.

From 1994-2001, Dr. Horn was President of the National Fatherhood Initiative (NFI) whose mission is to improve the well-being of children by increasing the number of children growing up with involved, committed and responsible fathers. From 1989-1993, Dr. Horn was the Commissioner for Children, Youth and Families, and Chief of the Children's Bureau within the United States Department of Health and Human Services. Dr. Horn also served as a Presidential appointee to the National Commission on Children from 1990-1993, a member of the National Commission on Childhood Disability from 1994-1995, a member of the U.S. Advisory Board on Welfare Indicators from 1996-1997, and a member of the U.S. Advisory Board on Kinship Care from 1998-1999. Prior to these appointments, Dr. Horn was the Director of Outpatient Psychological Services at the Children's Hospital National Medical Center in Washington, D.C., and an Associate Professor of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences at George Washington University. Dr. Horn also has served as a member of the U.S. Advisory Committee on Head Start Research and Evaluation, an adjunct faculty at Georgetown University's Public Policy Institute, and an affiliate scholar with the Hudson Institute.

Dr. Horn has written numerous articles relevant to children and family issues, including a weekly newspaper column entitled *Fatherly Advice*, and is the co-author of several books including *The Better Homes and Gardens New Father Book* (Meredith Books, 1998) and the *Better Homes and Gardens New Teen Book* (Meredith Books, 1999). He is also the lead editor of *The Fatherhood Movement: a Call to Action* (Lexington Books, 1998).

Dr. Horn received his Ph.D. in clinical child psychology from Southern Illinois University in 1981. He lives in Gaithersburg, Maryland, with his wife and two daughters.

## Workshops 2:30 - 4:00 p.m.

### **Ten Great Dates for Black Couples** - *Dr. Rozario Slack*

This guide to building better relationships called 10 Great Dates for Black Couples is based on the award-winning program 10 Great Dates, by David and Claudia Arp and adapted for black couples by Dr. Slack and his wife, pediatrician Dr. Angela Smith-Slack. It combines fun dates and marriage skills, and appeals to men! Offer it in your church or community organization.

### **Brian's Brain: Understanding the Adolescent Brain** - *Sandy Powell, RN*

Understanding adolescent behavior is complicated. Many parents fail to recognize their child as they become adolescents. This program examines historical perspectives on adolescence, adolescent growth and development, brain development and reviews recent research into what is going on inside the adolescent brain. Today's imaging techniques provide researchers with many answers into how the adolescent brain works. This new information along with understanding the basic developmental needs of our adolescents help us help them as they navigate these transitional years and prepare for adulthood.

### **Covered Bridges to Swinging Bridges: Grandparents Raising Grandchildren** - *Dr. Wilma Ruffin*

While Grandparents and relatives serving as the primary parent is not a new phenomenon, it is a rapidly growing trend that transcends all socioeconomic groups, geographic areas, and ethnicities. The major contributing factors to this growing trend are: drugs and alcohol abuse, teen pregnancy, divorce, abandonment, incarceration, AIDS and death. Many of these issues are addressed through the Alabama Relatives As Parents Program (RAPP). This session will give an overview of Alabama RAPP and their goals to help grandparents and relatives with care issues.

### **Basic Best Practices on Fatherhood** - *Panel Discussion by Wayne Sellers, Christina Morgan, and Judge Howard Hawk. Stan Landers to moderate.*

In this workshop, participants will learn how to successfully implement, maintain and sustain a Fatherhood Program in conjunction with Department of Human Resources (DHR) and Children Trust Fund (CTF) guidelines. This workshop is designed to provide helpful information to those wishing to implement and/or improve an existing fatherhood program in their community. DHR and CTF have been working together to fund and provide technical assistance to Fatherhood Programs in the State of Alabama for nine (9) years. CTF, in partnership with DHR, currently funds twenty-three (23) programs statewide. State TANF dollars are used to fund these programs.

### **Grant Writing Tips and Funding Sources** - *R. Michael Easterwood*

This session provides an overview of the grant development process for federal, state and private foundations, including funding source information, writing tips, and sources of assistance and information.

### **Healthier Families May Start at the Dinner Table** - *Miriam J. Gaines, MACT, RD, LD*

There is a clear connection between some chronic diseases, such as certain cancers, diabetes, heart disease, and obesity. The diseases are linked to lifestyle choices as well. The healthy choices are not new concepts, but it is interesting to see new research supporting the habits that we learned from our mothers; she said to eat your fruit and vegetables, go play (be physically active every day), and don't smoke. We all know this; however, it is very different to know something and to do something. There are many theories and ideas of how to get someone to want to change enough that they make realistic goals with doable plans. This session will provide an overview of Alabama's current health status and things families can do together – including a family meal time- to help change the trends.

### **Keeping Families Safe Within the Healthy Marriage Initiative** - *Jennifer Arsenian, J.D.*

This workshop will provide participants with an overview of the causes and effects of domestic violence and effective responses to victims, children and perpetrators. At the end of this session participants will be able to: identify the red flags for domestic violence; identify power and control tactics used by perpetrators; assess for risk; prepare safety plans for victims; develop effective responses to victims, children and perpetrators; and identify local and state domestic violence resources.

### **Stressors on Caretakers of Special Needs Kids** - *Panel Discussion by Dr. Rebecca Curtis, Dr. DaShaunda Patterson, and Dr. AmySue Reilly*

Serving as the primary caretaker for individuals with disabilities is a considerable responsibility. Further, the nature of this care may have an impact on the structure of families. The purpose of this workshop is to explore factors that may be impactful for families who care for individuals with disabilities. First, the facilitators will briefly review professional research that addresses this issue. Then, we will discuss strategies in which families can work collectively to support the unique needs that emerge during these circumstances. Finally, we will facilitate a solutions-based discussion on barriers that arise during the caretaking process and methods to overcome them through advocacy. This discussion will be presented from a lifespan perspective (i.e., infants and toddlers to adults).

# Regional Healthy Marriages, Healthy Families, and Responsible Fatherhood Conference on Best Practices

## Wednesday Morning February 04, 2009

**7:30 - 8:30 a.m.** - Continental Breakfast

**8:30 - 10:00 a.m. Morning Plenary**

- Marian Loftin, *Former Director, Alabama Department of Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention, MC*
- Charles Jackson, *ACHMI Community Public Relations Coordinator*, Recognition of representatives from the ACHMI Teen Advisory Board
- Welcome/Opening remarks by Dr. Jay Gogue, *Auburn University President*
- Sydney Hoffman, *Director, The Governor's Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives (GFBCI)*
- Dr. Francesca Adler-Baeder, *Associate Professor, Auburn University, Department of Human Development and Family Studies*, to present:
  - "Alabama Child Champion Lifetime Achievement Award" to Marian Loftin, *Former Director, Alabama Department of Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention*
  - "Alabama Community Impact Award" to Ed Brown, *CEO, Montgomery Chapter of the 100 Black Men of America*
- Kelley Parris-Barnes, *Director, Alabama Department of Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention*
- Keynote Speaker - Chief Justice Sue Bell Cobb of the Alabama Supreme Court

**10:00 - 10:15 a.m.** - Beverage Break

**10:15 - 11:45 a.m.** - Workshops



### Keynote Speaker: Sue Bell Cobb, Chief Justice of the Alabama Supreme Court

Sue Bell Cobb, formerly a resident of Evergreen, now resides in Montgomery, Alabama, where she sits on the Supreme Court of Alabama. She graduated from The University of Alabama, where she obtained a degree in History, receiving the highest scholastic award in that field of study, the Phi Alpha Theta Scholarship Key. In 1981, she earned her Juris Doctor Degree from The University of Alabama School of Law and was a member of the Bench and Bar Honor Society, Farrah Law Society and the Moot Court Board.

Immediately following her admission to the Bar, Justice Cobb was appointed as District Judge of Conecuh County, becoming one of the State's youngest judges. She was elected to that position in 1982 and re-elected in 1988. During her tenure on the bench, Judge Cobb accepted trial court assignments in approximately forty counties. In 1997, she was appointed by the Alabama Supreme Court to serve as the Alternate Chief Judge of the Court of the Judiciary. Justice Cobb is also a faculty member in the Alabama Judicial College. She was elected to the Alabama Court of Criminal Appeals in 1994, where she served until she took office as Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Alabama in 2007.

Justice Cobb served as President of the Alabama Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges. She is Chair of the Children First Foundation, which is dedicated to helping make the lives and conditions of Alabama's children a top priority in our state through advocacy, awareness, and accountability. As a result of her efforts in the field of juvenile justice, she received the Distinguished Service Award from the National Juvenile Detention Association, the Juvenile Probation Officer Institute Outstanding Service Award, and the Children's Voice Award.

She is married to William J. Cobb. They have three children, Bill, Andy and Caitlin.

## Workshops 10:15 - 11:45 a.m.

### **10 Keys to a Healthy Marriage** - *Kirk Martin*

Society has created false expectations that have lead couples down paths that lead to separation. If we don't understand the true purpose of marriage, it is difficult to create healthy relationships. In this presentation, we will discover ten bedrock principles upon which healthy marriages are built.

### **DYD (Determine Your Destiny) Breakout Session** - *Ole Pete Key and the DYD Crew*

Ole Pete Key and the DYD Crew is a group of students, educators, motivators, Social Workers, Counselors, actors, and musicians. This group of dynamic individuals collectively reaches people from all walks of life. With years of experience in the areas of Character Education, HIV/AIDS Education, Grief Counseling, drama, music and theater, this team has become a conference favorite. They are most noted for educating, motivating, and inspiring people to overcome their obstacles to determine their destiny. With the use of music, drama, and motivational teaching they are known to leave their audience laughing, crying, enlightened, educated, entertained and most of all empowered.

### **Give Me A Break: Respite Relief for Parents of Special Needs Children**

- *Linda Lamberth and Java Bennett*

While families of special needs children want to take care of their children at home, it is well documented that family caregivers experience unique circumstances and concerns while raising their child. Full time care giving responsibilities often bring with it, physical, economic and emotional problems and stress. However, research studies show that parents caring for a special needs child, who utilize respite care services, are more likely to experience better family functioning and life satisfaction.

### **The First National Study on Fathers' Attitudes about Fathering: Implications for Practice**

- *Christopher A. Brown, M.A.*

Have you ever wondered what fathers really think about fathering? Have you ever wished you had good data from fathers that would help you to design more effective fatherhood programs and services? Your search is over! The presenter will share findings from the first national study of father's attitudes about fathering and the implications of the findings for attendees' efforts to help fathers to be the "best dads" they can be.

### **What is the Role of the Faith Based Initiative?** - *Panel Discussion by Danny Osburn and Teresa Chappell. Lisa Castaldo to moderate.*

This presentation will highlight the history of the Faith-Based and Community Initiatives and current trends at the Federal, Regional and State level. It will provide practical information on how faith-based organizations can compete for public funding and how to determine if public funding is right for your organization. Do's and don'ts for faith based organizations will be discussed. This presentation is targeted toward smaller faith-based and community organizations and others interested in learning more about the Initiative. The session will also provide time for participant Q & A.

### **Comfort When Discussing Human Sexuality** - *Melanie Steilen, R.N.*

This interactive workshop will primarily focus on increasing knowledge about human sexuality as well as exploring personal values and attitudes that may influence communication about the topic. Participants will be able to identify effective communication strategies that promote awareness and comfort when discussing sexuality and other sensitive subjects.

### **Navigating the Federal Grant System** - *James Colvin*

A federal grant is an award of financial assistance from a federal agency to a recipient to carry out a public purpose of support or stimulation authorized by a law of the United States. Federal grants are not federal assistance or loans to individuals. This workshop is designed to assist participants in using available resources to find and apply for federal government grants. The participants will learn more about the official Web site [www.grants.gov](http://www.grants.gov) to determine their organization's eligibility for grant opportunities offered on this site.

### **Making Marriage Work After Combat: Keeping the Military Family Connected in Every Phase of Deployment (Will be repeated)** - *Panel Discussion by Patricia Dumas, Betsy Houser, Chaplin Wylly Collins, and Chaplin Henry Beaulieu.*

This workshop will explore the diverse Military components in Alabama, the deployment cycle and the emotional tasks that the Military Family faces. We will highlight specific strains that confront a military marriage and share best practices to assist in every aspect of deployment and reintegration.

# Regional Healthy Marriages, Healthy Families, and Responsible Fatherhood Conference on Best Practices

Wednesday Afternoon  
February 04, 2009

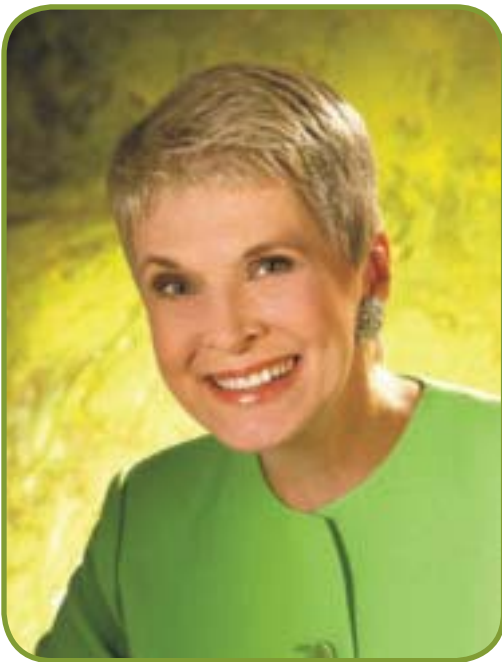
**12:00 Noon - 1:30 p.m. Midday Plenary  
(plated luncheon)**

- Marian Loftin, *Former Director, Alabama Department of Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention, MC*
- Troy King, *State of Alabama Attorney General*
- Dr. Joe Morton, *Alabama State Superintendent of Education*
- Dr. Thomas Miller, *Assistant State Health Officer for Personal and Community Health, Alabama Department of Public Health*
- Keynote Speaker - Jeanne Robertson, *Humorist*

**1:45 - 3:15 p.m. - Workshops**

**3:15 - 3:30 p.m. - Beverage Break**

**3:30 - 5:00 p.m. - Workshops**



## Keynote Speaker: Jeanne Robertson

Jeanne Robertson reached her 6'2" stature at age thirteen. Perhaps it was an indication of a future speaking career that would soar to great heights.

Professional speaking might not have been predicted when Jeanne was in the seventh grade in Graham, North Carolina, when and where she would have been voted most likely to make the basketball team and least likely to be a contestant in the Miss America Pageant. She did make the team—averaging more than thirty points per game in her junior and senior years—but as Miss North Carolina 1963 she also competed in the Miss America Pageant where she was named Miss Congeniality. It was her participation in and perhaps even losing the Miss America title that turned Jeanne's life into a succession of events which led her to be one of the funniest, busiest and most popular professional speakers in America today.

Jeanne has produced five humor DVDs and CDs and written three books on humor - *Humor: The Magic of Genie*, *Mayberry Humor Across the USA* and *Don't Let the Funny Stuff Get Away*. These books are filled with reality-based stories, which illustrate her humor philosophy. While she enjoys making people laugh, Jeanne views the role of a humorist as more than eliciting laughter. As audiences are holding their sides and wiping tears from their faces, she makes her point clear.

## Workshops 1:45 - 3:15 p.m.

### **(REPEAT) Making Marriage Work After Combat: Keeping the Military Family Connected in Every Phase of Deployment** - Panel Discussion by Patricia Dumas, Betsy Houser, Chaplin Wylly Collins, and Chaplin Henry Beaulieu.

This workshop will explore the diverse Military components in Alabama, the deployment cycle and the emotional tasks that the Military Family faces. We will highlight specific strains that confront a military marriage and share best practices to assist in every aspect of deployment and reintegration.

### **Educating Youth to be Relationship Smart** - Dr. Jennifer Kerpelman

Adolescence is a key time to offer relationships/marriage education, as it is during adolescence that youth begin to actively explore romantic relationships. Providing effective relationships education can support positive youth development and help reduce impulsive and health-compromising behaviors. Relationships education also can facilitate movement toward well-functioning committed relationships and marriages in adulthood. This presentation addresses the value of romantic relationships education for adolescents, and offers examples from a youth-focused relationships education curriculum, Relationship Smarts (RS).

### **10 Keys to a Stress-Free Home** - Kirk Martin

The proliferation of video game playing and anxiety disorders is symptomatic of inordinate stress faced by our children. Fortunately, parents can create the consistency and security children crave by parenting with integrity. By modeling self-control and learning practical calming tools, parents will foster greater responsibility in their children.

### **Ways To Ensure A Successful Fatherhood Program** - Sam J. Jones

This session will provide an overview of key elements in developing strong community fatherhood programs even in times of economic short fall. This session will assist service providers to identify resources available in the community, community based agencies and churches. This session will also provide insights about successful national fatherhood initiatives and their efforts to maintain their funding and programs.

### **Marriage in the African American Community** - Panel Discussion by Dr. Hart Ramsey, Senator Quinton T. Ross, Jr., Dr. Rozario Slack, and Quésha S. Starks, M.Ed. Ed Brown to moderate.

Panel members will discuss how focusing on relationships in the faith based, educational, social and political environments could curtail the Black marriage crisis and actually make healthier African American Communities. In June 2007 the Center for Marriage and Families published research in response to the Black marriage crisis. The study indicated that Black marriages in the U.S. were in serious trouble and that since the 1950s the percentage of Black families headed by married couples declined from 78% to 34% and the percentage of Black children living with both parents dropped from 76% to 33% largely because of the increase in never married Black mothers. African American couples also reported more spousal abuse and singles and couples reported less connection to relatives. Since that study the statistics have not gotten any better. Several researchers believe that the solution lies within the major institutions that shape our daily environment.

### **STD Update for Clinicians and Counselors** - Dr. Stacy Higgins

This workshop for health care workers offers latest information on the diagnosis and treatment of sexually transmitted diseases. Content will focus on the latest epidemiology of STDs and include updates on clinical care and research activity. Information about treatment options will be highlighted.

### **The Journey Towards Cultural Competence** - Julie Collins, M.A.

The challenges for human service agencies and programs that support children and families are more complex than ever. Communities are more diverse and dynamic which requires agencies and providers to examine how they are responding to ensure they are providing culturally competent services and programs. Come to this interactive session where participants will be provided with an understanding of the benefits of and a practical way that agencies and programs can assess their current level of cultural competence. Participants will have opportunity to examine what they are currently doing and how they can use the self-assessment tool to guide their steps on the journey towards becoming more cultural competent and responsive for improved outcomes for the children and families they serve.

### **Hot Marital Sex (Will be repeated)** - Dr. Scott Ketring

While sex is a "hot" topic in society, there is actually very little education offered to married couples concerning sex. It is important to dispel myths about male and female sexuality and provide skills to enhance sexuality throughout the entire marriage. It is also important to move out of some common traps which "kill" sex. Finally, the goal of this presentation is to bridge intimacy and sexuality.

## Workshops 3:30 - 5:00 p.m.

### **Make a Bad Marriage Good, Make a Good Marriage Better, Make a Great Marriage "Blow Your Mind!"** - *Dr. Scott Ketring*

Men and women deserve to have successful marriages with happiness, friendship, and sexual compatibility. However, life does not always make it possible to create the correct conditions for a satisfying relationship. Learn what traits, attitudes, and conditions make it easier to have a successful marriage. Also, discover what individual and relationship aspects stifle marital unity. Most of these negative conditions are like a silent killer lurking for years preparing and conditioning the victims. By the time the marital partners discover what has happened the venom of passivity and loneliness are so entrenched that most let the marriage die. We will discuss the research on the links between couple interactions, parenting practices, and marital happiness at the different stages of life. How do we love and live smart to maintain a healthy marriage.

### **Engaging Teens in Your Community Healthy Marriage Initiative** - *ACHMI Teen Advisory Board from Auburn and Opelika High Schools. Charles Jackson to moderate.*

The ACHMI Teen Advisory Board, in collaboration with a Auburn High School Theater class, brings you a performance entitled "YOU'VE GOTTA HEAR THIS...It's Good and Juicy!" This production depicts three couples navigating through the complications of teen dating relationships. After the play, the ACHMI Teen Advisory Board will conduct a panel discussion addressing the couples in the portrayal. They will also discuss and share how their ideas and conceptual framework have become finished products promoting healthy teen relationships across the State of Alabama and what others can do to promote healthy teen relationships in their communities. This workshop should be attended by all teenagers and individuals interested in working with teens or starting a teen advisory board.

### **Healthy Co-Parenting and Blended Family Strategies** - *Dr. Thomas Smith and Mallory Lucier, M.S.*

Learn key strategies for healthy stepfamily couples. Supplement any relationship/marriage education program or offer a stand-alone class. Information from new research for work with Latino and African American stepfamilies will be discussed.

### **Integrating Fatherhood and Marriage Programs: A Best Practice Model** - *Christopher A. Brown, M.A.*

As marriage-strengthening efforts grow across the country, it seems intuitive that fatherhood-strengthening initiatives and programs should compliment marriage-strengthening initiatives and programs. Consequently, marriage-strengthening practitioners should find ways to integrate fatherhood strengthening into their work. The presenter will share practices and case studies on efforts to integrate fatherhood-strengthening with marriage-strengthening initiatives and programs.

### **Five Key Leadership Factors for Addressing 21st Century Organizational Challenges** - *Hope Stockton and Dr. Bill Sauser*

Considering today's rapidly changing, global environment, our society is in need of "leaderful" organizations in order to meet the vast needs of our constituents. We need organizations that have flexibility, foresight and the ability to adapt rapidly. In this interactive session, participants will learn and explore five key leadership factors useful in addressing these challenges.

### **Mood Killers: Pre- Post- Menopause and Erectile Dysfunction** - *Dr. Stacy Higgins*

Menopause: How is menopause defined, and what are the common symptoms? What options are there for the relief of symptoms related to the menopause? Erectile Dysfunction: What are the risk factors for ED, and is it an inevitable complication of age? Are medications the only treatment?

### **Alabama Prisoner Re-entry Initiative and Family Re-integration** - *Elana Parker, M.A.*

This session will provide information on prisoner re-entry initiatives occurring in the State of Alabama. Information will also be provided on the family re-integration process, in-prison pre-release programs, transitional planning, and community re-entry services for families of prisoners.

### **The Link Between Fatherhood and the Healthy Marriage Initiative** - *Dr. Rozario Slack*

For more than four decades the link between fatherhood and marriage has been compromised and a few generations have been deeply affected.

# Regional Healthy Marriages, Healthy Families, and Responsible Fatherhood Conference on Best Practices

Thursday, February 05, 2009

**8:30 - 10:00 a.m.** - Workshops

**10:00 - 10:30 a.m.** - Continental Breakfast

**10:30 a.m. - 12:00 noon, Closing Plenary**

- Marian Loftin, *Former Director, Alabama Department of Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention, MC*
- Commissioner John Houston, *Alabama Department of Mental Health and Mental Retardation*
- Dr. Page B. Walley, *Managing Director of Strategic Consulting for Casey Family Programs, Seattle, WA.*
- Commissioner Marquita Davis, *Alabama Department of Children's Affairs*
- Ed Brown, *CEO, Montgomery Chapter of 100 Black Men of America*
- Keynote Speaker - Dr. Gene Griessman performing "Abraham Lincoln the CEO! Leadership and Communication." Book signing immediately following his performance. Books will be available for purchase.



## Keynote Speaker: Dr. Gene Griessman

Our closing speaker is Dr. Gene Griessman, who will appear before us as Abraham Lincoln. Dr. Griessman is an internationally known speaker whose specializes in "what makes people successful in their careers." He has interviewed hundreds of high achievers, including David Rockefeller, Sandra Day O'Connor, Ray Charles, Mary Kay, Jack Nicklaus, Hank Aaron, Julie Andrews, Aaron Copland, Ronald Reagan, Jack Lemmon, Jimmy Carter, Billy Joel, and Tennessee Williams.

He often appears on television and radio, and his award-winning programs have aired on WCNN and TBS. For years he was host of "Up Close" on TBS.

Dr. Griessman has written and co-authored seven books in addition to his one-man play on Abraham Lincoln. He has performed twice at historic Ford's Theatre, at the Lincoln Memorial, and before over 20,000 at the Georgia Dome and the Ice Palace.

His book *Time Tactics of Very Successful People* was featured in Reader's Digest and is now in its 24th printing. He is also author of *The Words Lincoln Lived By*, *The Inspirational Words of Abraham Lincoln*, *99 Ways to Get More Out of Every Day*, and *Lincoln on Communication*.

Dr. Griessman has taught at the College of William and Mary, North Carolina State University, Auburn University, and Georgia Tech. He has served as a Fulbright professor at the National Graduate University of Pakistan and as a visiting researcher at the Agrarian University of Peru and the University of New South Wales in Australia.

He has won the Benjamin Franklin Award. He is a voting member of the Television Academy of Arts and Sciences. For years he has been listed in *Who's Who in American* and *Who's Who in the World*. Please visit his Web site at <http://www.presidentlincoln.com/1.html> to view streaming video of some of his performances. You will be amazed!

## Workshops 8:30 - 10:00 a.m.

### **(REPEAT) Hot Marital Sex** - *Dr. Scott Ketring*

While sex is a “hot” topic in society, there is actually very little education offered to married couples concerning sex. It is important to dispel myths about male and female sexuality and provide skills to enhance sexuality throughout the entire marriage. It is also important to move out of some common traps which “kill” sex. Finally, the goal of this presentation is to bridge intimacy and sexuality.

### **Unwed/Unplanned Pregnancy** - *Jamie Keith*

This workshop will provide an overview of pregnancy and childbearing statistics in Alabama. We will also review national trends and consequences of teenage motherhood and marriage and the relationship of unwed/unplanned pregnancy and childbearing to social issues.

### **Parenting for Success Requires Skill and Cultural Awareness** - *Ed and Xenia Brown*

This session is ideal for parents, practitioners, policy makers, business leaders, and trainers interested in ensuring that we produce successful healthy families. It addresses why individuals should embrace culturally sensitive parenting as a valuable tool in enhancing relationships and developing effective parenting skills. Presenters will demonstrate several techniques that are easily employed to bring about positive changes in children and their families. Presenters will introduce three culturally specific parenting curriculums with specific concentration on the Effective Black Parenting Program. Presenters will demonstrate how to use African proverbs to teach basic child management skills. In addition, they will share valuable information on developing Rules; examining Traditional and Modern Discipline; the concept of Black Pride; Family Values; and Single Parenting. The program is appropriate for all socioeconomic status levels but especially for parents of children aged 2-18 years old.

### **Fatherhood as an Asset: Building Strong Families and Communities** - *Robert Johnson*

Currently millions of children live absent their biological father. The long term tax payer investments required to support these fragile families is estimated in the billions of dollars. In addition significant investments are being directed towards programs that support responsible fatherhood. Yet, despite the good intentions, significant investment and the array of services directed towards these fathers and their families, far too many fathers remain a liability in their families' economic success and play no significant role in accumulating the assets required to secure their children and families' future. This interactive workshop will explore the key strategies necessary to build fathers as an asset and describe how a structured service delivery approach can support the long term outcomes of building strong families and communities.

### **Communications and Marketing—Blending Current Trends with Yesterday's Classics!**

- *Panel Discussion by Ric Smith, M.E., Dr. Brian Bourdeau, Dr. Margaret Fitch-hauser and Robert French. Sandy Williams to Moderate.*

There are currently a number of paradigm shifts taking place in the field of marketing that are changing the ways in which marketers target their messages to consumers. This presentation discusses the transformations taking place in various domains of marketing and communications. Specifically, the discussion identifies the changing scope of how marketing messages are developed and framed to consumers, the emergence of relationship marketing, and the use of new technologies to create positive word-of-mouth.

### **De-Stress Your Life** - *Jim Sacco*

This workshop will focus on identifying predictable sources of stress and understanding stress as a normal response in situations. The training will identify key stress reducing strategies and explore holistic models for stress reduction. Participants will be encouraged to develop a personal self-care plan.

### **“Yes We Will: From Placement to Permanency - The 2020 Vision”** - *Dr. Page B. Walley*

Participants will be introduced to the work of Casey Family Programs (CFP) and its 2020 mission to safely reduce the number of children in out-of-home/foster care by 50% by the year 2020.

### **You've Got to Reach Them to Teach Them** - *Ole Pete Key*

This session consist of a dramatization using music and motivational teachings. We will discover how meeting your audience the way they are and where they are in life is “key” to helping them get to where they are going. It will deal with stereotyping, discrimination, and prejudging people. We will also share tools on how to motivate your audience by identifying their strengths and using their natural gifts to advance.

The participants will see how this method can be used to engage its audience. Attendees will see themselves through the characters portrayed during the dramatization and see the impact this style of deliverance makes on its audience. The participants will not only be educated and motivated but will be encouraged to make a difference in the lives of others regardless of the obstacles.