

Kenston J. Griffin

Dream Builders Communication, Inc.

"If Better Is Possible Good Is No Longer An Option"



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NEWSLETTER

June 2008

Congratulations to All Educators and Graduates

Graduations are upon us! Transition is before us! And history has been bestowed within us. **Congratulations** to all educators across the country, and a **special congratulations** to the graduating classes of 2008! degrees or pre-kindergarten cer- Dream Builders Communication, Whether you are starting your from one school to another, take below.



Whether you received your doctoral tificate, this month's edition of the Inc. Newsletter is dedicated to you. professional career or transitioning a moment to read the powerful words

"Inside Out"

"How accurately does the person you are on the outside express the reality of the person you truly are on the inside? The more faithfully your outer life mirrors your inner dreams and values, the more fulfilling your whole life will be.

Success cannot be reached by pursuing someone else's concept of what it should be.

Success is reached by living true to your own visions and dreams for life.

So what are those visions? What are those dreams?

Imagine that you could snap your fingers and make life into everything you would like it to be.

Then challenge yourself to describe that ideal life in every beautiful, meaningful detail.

You have the opportunity, in this very moment, to begin expressing and fulfilling that ideal life.

You can start right now to make the outer world into a reflection of your most deeply held inner values.

Let the best of what is within you expand outward into the world around you, and your world will become a truly great place to be."

Until next month's edition, there is no need to fear. The Dream Builders Communication Newsletter is always NEAR!

Kenston J. Griffin
Chief Executive Officer

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Golden Apple Award - May 2008

Rita Maddux

Wayne Avenue Elementary School, Harnett County

AND

Gates County School District

In May, there were a tremendous amount of teachers who should have received the Dream Builders Communication Golden Apple Award. To all of our educators, we want to congratulate you. However, a special congratulation goes to **Ms. Rita Maddux**.



Pictured above are Mr. Kenston J. Griffin, Ms. Rita Maddux, and Ms. Jeana Clermont, Assistant Principal.



...Elementary has found a gem in Rita Maddux. Although she has previous experience in other counties, this is her first year as a fifth grade teacher in Harnett County. She has traveled across the nation, from the west coast to east, educating youth and has found a home at Wayne Avenue Elementary. She is the first to admit it has been a huge adjustment, yet she is up to the task. Her students state she “doesn’t play, but she can teach.”

Ms. Maddux also enjoys her cats while doing all she can to save the environment. She has been quite involved with the Harnett County Environment Task Force, and instrumental in getting the recycling bins across the county. Long story short, she continues to step up to the challenge, in and out of the classroom, and excels. Please join us in a round of applause for Rita.

In addition to presenting the Golden Apple Award to an educator, we are also presenting the DBC Golden Apple Award to a school.

Drum roll please!

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Congratulations to **Dr. Zenobia W. Smallwood**, Superintendent of Gates County School District and to **Mr. C. Don Gregory**, Principal of Buckland Elementary School.

This small but hardworking school district continues to close the educational achievement gap with its committed staff and most of all their “seasoned” principal for over 30 plus years, Mr. Gregory. Their mission is “to develop an education environment which prepares students for success in a changing world.”

Congratulations and continued success.



THE 7 KEYS TO LEADERSHIP

KEY #3 - TRAINING

By: Christopher Land

Previously, I shared the first and second keys of leadership. First be a good listener, and secondly become a good presenter. The third key is **good training**. That's right. Get it and give it, good training. There is an old saying, “The more you train, the less you have to.” Becoming better at a thing requires practicing; practicing is training. ‘They’ say practice makes perfect. I say, “Perfect practice make perfect,” training!

Leaders train other leaders; and as life has it, we train others who may not be leaders. It is a sorting process. They find creative ways to make others better. They raise the level of requirements and expectations. Leaders articulate, educate, and motivate. Each is vitally important in training. They duplicate themselves with the thought of making that duplication better than they are.

Seek training from others, books, videos, etc. There is always more to learn; therefore, continue your training. Take advantage of “AU” - Automobile University by listening to resources while riding in your vehicle. Attend classes and choose a mentor to assist you in growing. Have those you lead take classes. Continuing education is an incredible tool. Working retreats, staff meetings, and special guest events are always great opportunities to train.



Leaders get it and give it as much as possible. Getting good training is the key that unlocks the myths of the unknowns and makes them known. Giving good training reinforces what you have learned. With these first three keys in place, you are well on your way to becoming an excellent leader.

In July we will celebrate the Fourth and also enlighten you on the fourth key to leadership.

“Bridging the Great Divide”

By: Tonya R. Allen



“When you ponder the words “Bridging the Great Divide,” what comes to mind?” I realized the one simple way to begin the process of bridging the great divide is by developing PARTNERSHIPS.

Merriam-Webster’s Online Dictionary defines partnership as “a legal relation existing between two or more persons contractually associated as joint principals in a business; the persons joined together in a partnership.”

Evaluate those who are in partnership with you, your company, organization, school, or even your family. Have you ever thought about how these partnerships impact your life, company, organization, school, or even your family? Have you considered how these partnerships may have been impacted by you? If you have never given this any thought, the time has come for us to evaluate our partnerships.

“Bridging the Great Divide,” requires us to take time to evaluate the partnerships established, those that will be established, and even those we should establish. The ability to form effective and beneficial partnerships tends to lead to either success or failure. Can you honestly say whether your partnerships are creating positive growth or destruction?

Life is too short and the world is ever changing. What man or woman can make it in this world alone? Partnerships have become so important that multi-billion dollar companies

are developing partnerships; however, they classify them as “mergers.” Men and women are developing partnerships, but they classify them as “marriage.” With these two examples, I ask you this question, “Do either of the entities involved agree to the ‘merger’ or ‘marriage’ without evaluating the other extensively?” The answer to that question is No. In order to “Bridge the Great Divide” we must come together in partnership and we must evaluate each entity prior to establishing the partnership.

In your evaluation process, take a moment to read this excerpt from the poem “***The Company You Keep***” written by an anonymous author:

It is better to be alone, than in the wrong company.

*Tell me who your best friends are,
and I will tell you who you are.*

If you run with wolves, you will learn how to howl.

*But, if you associate with eagles,
you will learn how to soar to great heights.*

*“A mirror reflects a man’s face, but what he is
really*

like is shown by the kind of friends he chooses.”

*The simple but true fact of life is that you become
like those whom you closely associate -
for the good and the bad.*

*The less you associate with some people,
the more your life will improve.*

*Any time you tolerate mediocrity in others,
it increase your mediocrity.*

*An important attribute in successful people is
their impatience with negative thinking and
negative acting people.*

*As you grow, your associates will change.
Some of your friends will not want you to go on.*

*They will want you to stay where they are.
Friends that don’t help you climb*

will want you to crawl.

*Your friends will stretch your vision or
choke your dreams.*

*Those that don’t increase you
will eventually decrease you.*

*Wise is the person who fortifies his life
with the right friendships.*

WARNING: SOMETIMES THE TRUTH HURTS

By: Roderick Land



We have all heard it said, “What goes around comes around” and there is a statement in the book of Ecclesiastes of the Bible that states, “That there is nothing new under the sun.” I have also heard that “if we don’t learn from history, then we will repeat it.” As long as time progresses, the younger generation will have some things not very different from the previous ones, but with a twist. Actually they are the **same** things but taken to a different level, higher or lower. The question is, will you do something to effect things positively?

From the mid 1880’s until the 1930’s there were over 3,000 lynching incidents in this great country of ours. This terrible and brutal treatment was mainly used to keep “certain people” in their place. As cruel as it may be, these atrocious acts did not start magically in the 1880’s, and sadly, they go on today. Not physically, but psychologically, which makes it even worse than before.

As part of our nation’s history, slavery, for all practical purposes, began in 1619 and ended with the Emancipation Proclamation in 1865. However, Africans were not the first choice for slaves or the second. Indentured Europeans were the first choice, but this was not profitable because after the servant paid his time, he was free to move on. Native Americans were also tried as slaves but were quite susceptible to the diseases of the Europeans, plus they were connected well enough to plan and execute escape plans that were hugely successful. Africans were tried and worked with a great amount of “success” for a while. Soon they made connections with the Native Americans and began to escape. Slavery had been a “success” in the West Indies and the Americans wanted to find out why. There was a slave owner by the name of Willie Lynch, whose method of control was to “take the mind, but leave the body strong.”

The thought was, you would experience some loss, but the overall profit would be worth it. I have seen pictures where people, old and young, were present just walking about as if nothing was wrong.

Today, there are thousands upon thousands of our young men and women, black and white, who are being “lynched”, and some of us are standing idly by, noticing the sad state of affairs, but doing nothing to stop the madness. Children who do not know how to read or write nor add or subtract, want to make rap music and “count their dollars.” I have encountered children as young as seven with the ability to rap about the ‘hood, but with no ability to say their ABC’s. Guys are working on their crossover dribbling, but don’t know how to cross multiply, perfecting their behind the back pass and don’t know that “behind” is a preposition. Young girls having babies while in high school and, even more sadly, sometimes before. We have children raising themselves, and now children raising children.



Lynched! Taking the mind, but leaving the body strong. We cannot count this generation lost, just as the previous generations did not consider ours as such.

Sure, it is a challenge, but we have to be proactive and take the bull by the horns. You may not reach thousands a day, or even hundreds, but reach **some!!** Do not stand idly by watching children lose sight, or worse, never gaining sight of some worthy goal. Do something. Affect a change. I really believe in my heart of hearts, “you cannot succeed, if you do not try.”



TEEN SCENE



GRADUATION

By: Robert Johnson

Congratulations!!! to the graduates of 2008. I am currently an incumbent senior at the North Carolina Agricultural & Technical State University, majoring in Sports Science and Fitness Management with a concentration of Human Performance and Leisure. During my years at A&T, I have maintained a cumulative grade point average (GPA) of 3.77.

It brings me great joy to have this opportunity to congratulate you, the Graduating Class of 2008, on taking the first steps toward your successful future. I would also like to provide you some words of encouragement while you further your education or begin your professional careers.

With that being stated, I present to you **Five Key Points** that may enhance your abilities to becoming a successful college student or successful in any endeavor embarked upon.

- * Go to class/work
- * Know your friends/environment
- * Stay determined
- * Always read
- * Make school/life fun, but appreciate it

Promotion

By: Jordan Caldwell

To move up a year is to move up a step
On the ladder of life.

You may not be exactly sure
Of what may lie ahead
But that doesn't mean it's
frightening.

You're growing up that's true
But don't think you're grown up,
To mature a tad each year is just
enough.

Think of this promotion
As a chance to start over and
Learn from your mistakes.

This new year...

Work even harder in school
Be smart, don't act a fool
Never let others bring you down
Be happy don't sport a frown.



Financial Corner

By: Yolanda Polk

Your financial life is all about preparation.



I have been asked, "How do you predict the future." My response was, "I didn't. I prepared for it." Sometimes keeping up with the latest trends and trying to make money on exciting unpredictable investments is one of the surest ways to lose it.

Most of us have heard that people who write down their goals are more successful than those who do not. It's true.

Life is all about preparation.

No matter what type of success you desire in life (spiritual, financial, health, social, or mental) the rules must change. Embrace the journey, understand it takes time, and allow yourself time to grow. No more life as usual. We must read books with proper financial guidance, listen to audio tapes/CD's, watch DVD's providing positive productive attributes, and sit down and talk with financial advisors to ensure we are moving in the right direction.

Life is all about preparation.

Stay focused on the bottom line and remember, *"Now when a man works, his wages are not credited to him as a gift, but as an obligation. However, to the man who does not work but trusts God who justifies the wicked, his faith is credited as righteousness."* (Romans 4:4-5 NIV).

Once again, your life is all about preparation.

There should be no compromise on your principles when preparing for your family's future security. No matter what you desire always remember, ***"Success Is A Journey Not A Sprint"***

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"Your Turning Point Starts Now"

"New Days, New Ideas"

"Stages of Womanhood"

and

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