

Educate a Woman and You Educate a Family

The **Linly Heflin** Newsletter

Focus on our

Scholars

Inside this issue:



Carol McCoy

Lawyer
Vice President
of Torchmark
Volunteer

Page 2



Janece Maze

Future lawyer
Volunteer
Tornado survivor

Page 8



Photo courtesy of Michelle Lepianka Carter of the Tuscaloosa News



Carole Borowski

Professor
Military wife
Mother
Volunteer

Page 4



Dr. Tracy Parks, M.D.

Physician
Wife
Mother
Volunteer

Page 6



*Jeff Pizitz, Ann Simmons, Herman Heinle, Megan LaRussa
and Nichole Cummins*

Gus Mayer sponsors the 53rd
Annual Linly Heflin Scholarship
Luncheon and Fashion Show
featuring Rene Ruiz *Page 12*

Carol McCoy

*Vice President,
Associate Counsel
and Corporate Secretary
of Torchmark*



In the small Colbert County town of Leighton, Alabama, college degrees were a rarity in the 1970s. For a young person to have both a mother and father with a college degree was practically unheard of. Linly Heflin scholarship recipient Carol Ann McCoy's father graduated from the University of Alabama in electrical engineering and worked with TVA and with NASA at Redstone Arsenal. Carol's mother

earned multiple degrees in education from Florence State College (now the University of North Alabama). It went without saying that Carol and her siblings would go to college, and as a very bright and motivated teenager, Carol had her sights set on Vanderbilt University. Carol is the eldest of four children, and her parents were saving money to send them all to college when, tragically, Carol's father died. Carol was 16 and her siblings were 13, 10 and 8 years old. This abrupt change in circumstances sent Carol's mother back to work teaching in the Colbert County schools, where over the course of a career totaling 27 years she would teach in almost every grade from 1st through 12th. College was still of the highest priority

Carol's family had to adapt to the new reality of a widow sending four children to college on a high school teacher's salary.

in this family. However, Carol's goals had to adapt to the new reality of a widow sending four children to college on a high school teacher's salary.

Carol turned her attention to the University of Alabama where her father had earned his degree. She received a partial Alumni Honors Scholarship to UA, but she knew that the more scholarship money she could secure, the more dollars of the family's savings could be kept for her siblings' college education. She learned about the Linly Heflin Scholarship during her freshman year, and quickly submitted her application. While she narrowly missed being selected at first, circumstances worked in her favor and she was chosen to receive a Linly Heflin scholarship at mid-year and for the remainder of her undergraduate education.

Carol excelled at UA, graduating summa cum laude and Phi Beta Kappa with a degree in political science and history in 1976. She went on to attend the University of Alabama School of Law, graduating with honors, including Order of the Coif, in 1979. After a clerkship with the late Associate Justice James H. Faulkner of the Alabama Supreme Court in Montgomery,

Carol moved to Birmingham in 1980, where she began her career practicing law for Liberty National Life Insurance Company and Torchmark Corporation. In her more than 30 years as an in-house counsel with Torchmark, Carol has worked in a variety of areas of corporate law, including mergers and acquisitions, securities, investments, stock-based employee benefits, executive compensation, stock exchange liaison, and insurance regulatory work. Carol currently wears three "corporate hats" at Torchmark where she serves as Vice President, Associate Counsel and Corporate Secretary. In her role as Corporate Secretary, she works with the Boards of Directors of Torchmark and its subsidiaries and their various committees where she is responsible for all areas of corporate governance. She also enjoys being able to give back to Linly Heflin through her involvement with Torchmark's corporate contributions committee, as well as through her personal contributions to the Linly Heflin Former Scholars Scholarship Fund.

In 1994, upon the 75th anniversary of the Linly Heflin Unit, Carol worked with other former scholarship recipients, Linly Heflin members and local educators, to develop a mentoring program. This program partnered former scholarship recipi-



Standing L-R are Carol's brother Jim McCoy and her sisters Marie Watts and Freida McCoy. Carol is seated next to her mother, Mary Ann McCoy

ents with current scholarship students to foster a mentoring relationship, and to provide encouragement for the young women as they pursued their college degree.

Carol has given back to her Birmingham home not just through work in the formation of the Linly Heflin mentoring program, however. An active civic volunteer, Carol has been involved with Camp Smile-a-Mile for a number of years, hav-

ing been on its Board of Directors, serving as its President, Secretary and a founding member of the Advisory Committee for the Legacy of Smiles endowment, and is currently a member of the Board of Directors of the Arthritis Foundation for Central Alabama.

The investment that Linly Heflin made in Carol Ann McCoy has borne fruit in many ways. She has encouraged young

Carol worked with other Linly Heflin scholarship alumni to develop a mentoring program.

women in their goal of achieving a college degree through her work with Linly Heflin's mentoring program. And remember those three siblings? Each of them followed their sister to earn college degrees as well as graduate degrees, and like Carol, have successful careers. Her brother Jim is Senior Vice President and Chief Technology Officer of InnerWireless, Inc. in Richardson, TX; her sister Marie is a Project Engineer with Siemens in Orlando, FL; and her sister Freida is Lead Multi-discipline Systems Engineer for MITRE Corporation in McLean, VA. Carol is a fond aunt to her nieces and nephew, and has enjoyed encouraging them in their pursuit of higher education. Even in her (limited!) spare time, Carol enjoys learning, whether through travel to faraway places, or cooking classes, as well as continuing education in her profession. Through Carol's

Linly Heflin Scholarship, her family was enabled to pursue the college education that Carol's parents valued so highly.

So, yes, when you educate a woman, you educate a family... and that family just might be a woman's siblings, or nieces or nephew, or even the young woman she mentors, who finishes college and goes on to raise a family with a high respect for the value of education. The impact of a Linly Heflin scholarship just might be in the role model provided for young women in the workplace who are inspired by a professional like Carol McCoy, who became a lawyer in the days when the field of corporate law was mostly a man's game. Carol says she is grateful for the amazing women she has met through her association with the Linly Heflin Unit, and she is honored to be referred to as a "Linly Heflin girl".



Carol at Camp Smile-A-Mile's Red Nose Ball

Remembering 9/11

Editor's note:

All of us have been deeply touched by the recent observances of the ten-year anniversary of 9/11. America was grievously wounded on that day, and the two wars that have ensued have exacted a heavy toll on our armed services and their families. In this issue we tell the story of one such family. Carole Borowski, a former scholarship recipient, and her husband, Lieutenant Colonel Len Borowski were among thousands of other military families that have been affected. Len is a prime example of the members of our armed forces who have served with courage and dedication in order that our country can remain strong and free. Every American owes a debt of gratitude to such men and women.

Ten years ago, our Scholarship Luncheon was scheduled to occur two days following the World Trade Center attacks. At that time, most Americans were in a state of shock and dismay. Our officers and committee members briefly considered canceling the event. However, they realized that some eighty girls were depending upon us to help fund their educations, and decided to proceed with plans for the luncheon. Kathryn Porter, this year's President, and Dalton Blankenship, were Luncheon Co-Chairmen that year. It was a particularly heart-breaking time for Kathryn, for she lost one of her dearest friends, Lynn Edwards Angell, in the attack. Lynn and her husband, David, were on American Airlines flight #11, which the terrorists crashed into the North Tower. Kathryn tells us that in spite of everything, she is glad that the luncheon was held. It was successful in every respect. Only eight ticket holders failed to show up that day, and the Linly Heflin Unit was able to continue with our mission of helping to educate young women.

About Our Cover

In keeping with the recent commemoration of 9/11, we decided to use one of the most beloved symbols of our nation on our cover. The Statue of Liberty that stands in Liberty Park is an exact replica (1/5 the size) of the original in New York City. It was commissioned by Mr. Frank P. Samford, a founder of Liberty National Life Insurance Co. in 1958. It stood on top of the home office in downtown Birmingham until 1989, when it was moved to its present position. Mr. Samford's wife, Mrs. Hattie Mae Samford, served as President of the Linly Heflin Unit in 1934-35, and was one of the earliest and most generous benefactors of our Scholarship Trust Fund. One of the scholars being featured in this issue is Carol McCoy, who has worked for Liberty National and its parent company, Torchmark Corporation for over thirty years.



Check out our website:
www.linlyheflin.org
Learn more about the Linly Heflin scholarship, print reply cards for the Scholarship Fashion Show and Luncheon, and much more! Many thanks to Eve London, our wonderful webmaster.

Carole Borowski

Professor, volunteer, military wife and mother

Carole Borowski, a 1989 graduate of Auburn University, tells us that there are two groups of people that she can thank for her education. First and foremost is her family. Although neither of her parents attended college, they shared a fervent belief that a college education was an essential ingredient toward success in life. They raised their two daughters to believe that not graduating from college was out of the question. Their mother, who worked a number of part time jobs when the girls were young, always made time for educational experiences such as regular trips to the library and the Birmingham Museum of Art. Unfortunately, the family's finances suffered a reversal when her father

“Without the scholarship, I don't think I would have ever graduated, even with part-time jobs and help from home. Saying 'I'm grateful' to the Linly-Heflin organization doesn't seem adequate to express how I feel.”

lost a business. Instead of declaring bankruptcy, he made the admirable decision to repay all that he owed. For the next ten years, Carole watched her father work two and even three jobs at a time to fulfill his obligations. Carole's mother took a job with the Jefferson County Tax Assessor's office, where she worked for fifteen years. During her high school years Carole helped the family's finances by babysitting and working in a clothing store. She also found time to study hard and to participate in various school activities such as cheerleading. She graduated from Corner High School as Salutatorian in 1985.



Len in Iraq beside his F-16 fighter jet

a college education helped Carole find meaningful work in each new location. At various times she taught in public schools, in colleges, wrote for newspapers, and published newsletters for non-profit organizations.

After about ten years of active duty, in 2000 Len resigned from the Air Force and took a job as a pilot with American Airlines. The couple settled down in Dallas, Texas with their two small children, Luke and Cara. Having lived in so many different locations, they were looking forward to a long stay in Texas. However, the events of September 11,



Len and Carole

During her senior year Carole realized that she might not be able to fulfill her dream of a college degree without financial help. She applied for aid from a number of sources, and was thrilled to receive a four-year scholarship from the Linly Heflin. Thus our organization became the second group to whom Carole is grateful for her education. Of course, one of the main factors in Carole's quest for higher education was her excellent work ethic. She held a number of jobs during her college years at Auburn. She worked as a grocery store cashier, did clerical work, and served as a studyhall monitor and as a tutor for athletic students. During the summers she spent some time doing inventory work at a coal mine, clerked in the shoe department at Parisian's, and worked at Southern Company Services as an assistant secretary. She also made excellent grades, and graduated in 1989 with a double major in English and Mass Communication. The next fall she enrolled in UAB and earned a Master's Degree in English Education, supporting herself all the while with a full-time teaching job at a local private school.

While at Auburn, Carole had become acquainted with an attractive Electrical Engineering student, Len Borowski. Len had joined the Air National Guard while he was a student, and after their marriage in 1991, the couple spent several years criss-crossing the country while he served on active duty as a F-16 pilot with the Air Force. During this time, the couple lived in seven different cities. Having

If it had not been for his dental appointment, Len could easily have been one of the pilots on the hijacked plane on 9/11. After a time of soul searching, Len and Carole decided that the best course for him would be to return to active duty.



Luke and Cara

times. He piloted his F-16 Fighter-Bomber Jet the first night of the war with Iraq, and has also led bombing missions over Afghanistan, among other duties. He has achieved the rank of Lieutenant Colonel, and at present is responsible for training future Air Force pilots.

Carole stays busy in her multiple roles as wife, mother of two active teenagers, college professor, and community and church volunteer. Carole teaches English Literature and composition at both Faulkner College and Troy University. She also serves as mission director of the Women's Ministry at Prattville First Baptist Church. Luke, their son, will be a high school senior this fall. He plays the keyboard and guitar in the praise band at their church, and has gone on two mission trips to Guatemala, sponsored by the church. His present goal in life is to attend medical school. Cara will be entering the ninth grade this fall. She loves math and science, along with sports and the arts, and is interested in doing research in the future. Both Luke and Cara, following their parents' example of striving for excellence, are straight-A students.

When we asked Carole to express what the Linly Heflin scholarship meant to her, she replied with the following story:

“Once a man was walking on a beach after a storm. The sand seemed covered with starfish; as far as the eye could see the creatures were ‘beached’—unable to get back into the life-sustaining water. As he walked, he noticed a young boy flinging the starfish, one by one, back into the ocean. He asked the boy: ‘Why are you even trying? It's useless! You'll never make a difference to these thousands of starfish!’ The boy picked up another starfish and threw it into the water. Calmly he looked at the man. ‘I made a difference to that one, he whispered.’ After a few seconds, there were two people at work making a difference on that beach.”

Carole compares herself to one of the “starfish who was saved”. Getting the Linly Heflin scholarship helped her to achieve a tremendously satisfying life and career that probably would have been impossible otherwise. To quote her again: “The Linly Heflin's motto is: ‘Educate a Woman and You Educate a Family’. For me, it goes even further. My degree has enabled me to help educate hundreds of young men and women. If I had time, I could detail for you many stories about students who are pictures of success; my impact on them was made possible by you. Your influence makes a difference—not just to the scholarship recipients, but to the countless lives we touch. As “a starfish that was saved” I can say that when you educate a woman, you educate a state, even a culture.”



Len has been deployed to the Middle East eight times.



Luke in Xelatju, Guatemala on a missions trip



Len, Cara, Carole and Luke in Wyoming

Tracy Parks

Tracy's clinic provides a safety net for an under-served segment of the population.

Physician wife, mother & volunteer

Dr. Tracy Parks M.D., a physician with the Jefferson County Department of Health, tells us that she is the first person in her family to earn a college degree. She is evidently a person of unusual ability and perseverance, for she did not receive a great deal of help in her quest for an education. When Tracy was two years old, her parents were divorced. Since her mother had little formal education or training, she struggled to support her two young daughters with a series of low-paying jobs. She remarried when Tracy was four, and had another daughter and a son by her second husband. For the next several years family finances were quite strained. At an early age Tracy learned to do without many of the privileges that her classmates enjoyed. She especially remembers having a deep desire to play in the Jr. High School band, but her mother sadly told her that the money was simply not available for the required fees. Although Tracy's mother was unable to provide her children with a lot of material benefits, she instilled in them a deep desire to be successful. Always an excellent student, Tracy was taken into the Honor society in Minor High School. She was also a staff member of the school newspaper. However, much of her time during high school years was spent working at various jobs to pay for her personal expenses.

During her senior year in high school, Tracy realized that she must have financial help in order to fulfill her ambition of going to college. After exploring various possibilities, she was given a full tuition scholarship to the University of Montevallo. She still needed funds for her room and board. Thankfully, this was provided when she was awarded a Linly Heflin scholarship. She tells us that getting the Linly Heflin scholarship enabled her to attend college without depending upon student loans. Always fascinated with science, Tracy decided upon a biology major, with a chemistry minor early in her career at Montevallo. She obtained work as a lab assistant in the biology and chemistry labs, and also did baby-sitting to cover extra living expenses. She excelled in her studies, and consistently made the Dean's list. She participated in the freshman Honors Program, and was inducted into Beta Beta Beta, an honorary society for biology students.

By the time of Tracy's graduation from Montevallo, in 1985, her family's finances were on a sounder basis. Her step-



Dr. Parks in front of her medical clinic

Although Tracy's mother was unable to provide her children with a lot of material benefits, she instilled in them a deep desire to be successful.

father's job situation had improved, and her mother had obtained work as an administrative secretary at UAB. Her mother's boss was in the research department at the university, and suggested that Tracy might want to apply for graduate work there. Tracy followed through on this advice, and was accepted as a PhD candidate in the Medical Genetics Department. The next three years were spent working under Drs. Wayne and Sara Finley, the well known chairmen of the department. One of her assignments during this time was a clinical rotation, where she worked with real patients. She enjoyed the experience greatly, and decided that instead of going into research, she would like to go to medical school. She had taken all of the course work necessary to obtain her PhD. However, instead of spending another year working on her dissertation, she decided to graduate with a Masters Degree in Medical Genetics. She then applied for, and was accepted into the UAB School of Medicine, entering in the fall of 1988.

The next four years were busy ones for Tracy. During graduate school she had married a fellow student from Montevallo. While completing her fourth year of medical school, her daughter, Rachel, was born. Balancing her roles as wife, homemaker, and medical student was not always easy. She decided to specialize in Family Practice. Although the course work was quite demanding, she particularly enjoyed being able to have contact with patients. After her graduation in 1992, Tracy was offered a residency at Carraway Hospital, which worked out beautifully for her. Not only was the hospital close to her home, but it offered an excellent day-care program for staff-members' children. This proved to be an invaluable benefit for Tracy. Sadly, she and her husband were divorced a few months after Rachel was born, leaving

Being a single mom during her medical residency was challenging.

Tracy in the role of a single parent. Her residency required Tracy to be at the hospital eighty or more hours a week. Because of Carraway's day care program Tracy was able her to fulfill all of her obligations, knowing that baby Rachel was near-by and was being well-cared for.

About midway through her residency, Tracy was introduced to Scott Parks on a blind date. Following a whirl-wind courtship, the couple was married in 1994. On completing her residency, Tracy found a job as a Family Practice physician at the Carraway Clinic in Warrior, where she worked for four years. Meanwhile, Carraway Hospital began having financial



Scott and Tracy flying over the Grand Canyon

problems, and Tracy transferred to the Jefferson County Department of Health. After two years with the Adult Health Care Clinic in Bessemer, she decided to switch to Pediatrics, and was assigned to the Morris Health Center. Since Tracy and Scott had already found a lovely home in the community, this has proved to be an ideal situation for their family. Tracy and Scott enjoy the small-town atmosphere, and Scott is not too far from his office at Buffalo Rock, where he serves as Vice President of Production. Tracy loves her position at the Morris Health Center, where she practices Pediatrics and Family Planning. The clinic primarily serves patients from lower-income families, and provides a safety net for an under-served segment of the population. Many of her patients are on Medicaid, and there is a shortage of physicians who will accept them. As the only doctor assigned to the clinic, Tracy has about twenty appointments each day. A warm and caring professional, Tracy is devoted to her patients and their families, and enjoys getting to know them personally through encounters at the church, at the ball park, or while shopping.

For Tracy and Scott, their sixteen years of married life have brought much happiness. Although they are heavily involved with their careers, their community, and their church, Gardendale-Mt. Vernon UMC, their children have been the true center of their existence. Both Scott and Tracy have proudly followed the careers of her daughter, and of his two children from a previous marriage. His daughter, Robin, graduated from Birmingham Southern, then received a Master's degree in English at Vanderbilt University. She is presently enrolled in a PhD program in the College of Georgia in Atlanta. His



Scott and his son, David, at his white coat ceremony

Robin Parks Ennis and her husband John Ennis on their wedding day

son, David, is currently in his second year at the UAB school of Medicine. During the past summer, he spent two weeks as a volunteer with a mission group in the Dominican Republic.

Tracy's daughter, Rachel Hall, was heavily involved in high school activities. A talented artist, she won numerous awards for her work. She also played in the band--which was particularly pleasing to Tracy, who had yearned to join her Jr. High School band so many years before. Rachel just completed her first year at the University of Alabama. The tragic tornadoes of April 27th were a time of extreme anxiety and tension for her family. As with other University students, Rachel and her dorm-mates were ordered to stay in the basement of their building that afternoon. For several hours, Tracy was unable to contact her daughter by cell phone. However, she found that her text messages were getting through, and she relayed to her the progress of the storms, as they were being reported on the TV. For a while, it appeared that a funnel was headed directly for Rachel's dorm. Thankfully, at the last minute it veered and hit



Scott, Tracy and Rachel at the beach a few weeks ago

other areas. At that time, all cell phone and even text-messaging service went out. It was not until the following morning that Tracy was finally able to contact Rachel, and learn that she was well. The event was a harrowing one for Rachel. She had considered going to work at her part-time job at the University Mall the day of the storm but had decided against

Tracy was the first person in her family to earn a college degree, but she was not the last.

it. Many stores in the area were badly damaged, and had Rachel not been safely sequestered in her dorm, she could well have been numbered among those injured that day.

As noted earlier, Tracy was the first person in her family to earn a college degree. However, she was not the last. While working at UAB, Tracy's mother attended classes, and earned a degree there in her fifties. Both of Tracy's sisters are college graduates. One works for a pharmaceutical company, and the other is in interior design. Tracy's daughter and two step-children are following in her footsteps, and pursuing successful college careers. Her story is an inspiring reminder of the Linly Heflin motto: "Educate a Woman and You Educate a Family." To quote Tracy: "I have always been very grateful for the financial assistance that the Linly Heflin provided me. I was in dire need at that time, and it provided me an invaluable opportunity I might not otherwise have had." The Linly Heflin, in turn, is grateful to Tracy for sharing her inspiring story with us.

Janece Maze

Future Lawyer Tornado Survivor

Janece Maze, a second year student at the University of Alabama Law School, impresses one as a person with boundless energy, ambition, and determination. While she was still in grade school she decided that she wanted to become a lawyer and be able to help people in need. During her high school years at Dallas County High in Plantersville, Alabama, she worked extremely hard to maintain high scholastic standards. She was consistently ranked in the top 10% of her class, and maintained a 3.8% GPA. At the same time, she was involved in many extra-curricular activities such as the Science Club, the Drama Club, FBLA, DECA Business Association (for which she won a regional and state title for Business Marketing competition), and the Start Something Community Service Organization. A talented musician, Janece began cello and bass lessons at the age of nine, and regularly performed with various groups. Throughout high school she also worked part-time as a business co-op student at Song Eye Center, where she served as a



Scholarship. She was overjoyed when she learned that her application had been granted, and that she would be able to pursue the education of her dreams.

In the fall of 2005, Janece entered the freshman class of Miles College, along with her twin sister, Janeka. In addition to maintaining a high GPA throughout her college career, Janece participated in a large number of extra-curricular activities. These included: the Political Science Club, Alabama Students for Constitutional Change, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., the Student Government Association, Gamma Beta Phi national Honor Society, and the United Negro College Fund Pre-Alumni Council. She participated in the 2009 Southeastern Undergraduate Sociology Symposium of Emory University and Morehouse College as a research presenter. She also served as a student panelist and presenter at the 2009 Birmingham Area Consortium of Higher Education Women's Conference. In 2008 she received a commendation from Governor Bob Riley for volunteer work that led to the adoption of an Alabama car tag to raise research funding for ovarian cancer.

In addition to all of Janece's scholastic and extracurricular endeavors, Janece has continually

worked part-time to help support herself. During each school year at Miles, she worked as a retail consultant with the Sprint/Nextel Corporation in Hoover. In the summer of 2007, she served as a research intern in the Laboratory for the Study of Social Interaction at the University of Georgia in Athens. The following summer, she worked as a governmental relations intern at the law firm of Waldrep Stewart & Kendrick, LLC in Birmingham.

Prior to graduating from college, Janece received a number of academic awards. These include: the 2009 University Presidential Inaugural Scholar Honor, the 2008 Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Outstanding Southeastern Scholar Award, and the 2009 Miles College Political Science Outstanding Scholar Award. In the spring of 2009, she graduated Summa Cum Laude from Miles College along with her sister, Janeka, who graduated with a B.S. in Elementary Education. Janece tells us that over the course of four years, the Linly Heflin scholarship was a great help in enabling her to successfully complete her undergraduate education.

With law school as her ultimate objective, Janece spent the next year working as a financial service advisor at Checksmart Financial LLC in Tuscaloosa, Alabama. Once again her hard work and perseverance paid off, and she was able to accumulate the necessary funds to cover her educational needs. In the fall of 2010 she entered the University of Alabama Law School as a first year student. She tells us that the academic schedule at the University has been quite demanding, yet at the same time tremendously rewarding. She has somehow found time to become involved in a number of meaningful activities. She serves as secretary of the Environmental Law Society, and is a member of the law week committee of the Student Bar Association. She volunteers with the Public Interest Institute, and serves as the trial advocacy team competition coordinator of the Black Law Students Association. She

is also a member of the Christian Legal Society, and a volunteer with the Community Soup Kitchen program. She has provided legal assistance to migrant workers through the Alabama Appleseed Center, and is a deeply committed member of the Freedom Baptist Church. Music also continues to be an important part of her life, and in her spare time (which must be rare, indeed!), she enjoys playing both cello and bass.

April 27, 2011 was a fateful day for Janece and for thousands of Alabamians. In mid-afternoon, she left her apartment in the Alberta City area in order to study with a friend for her upcoming spring final exams. She was aware that there was a possibility of storms in the area, yet didn't feel threatened personally. After all, she reasoned, the weather bureau often predicted tornado activity in the spring, and usually nothing happened. She and her friend chose the Starbucks at 15th Street and McFarland Avenue as the location for their study session. Later in the afternoon sirens started warning

If Janece had not left her apartment she might have lost her life.

of an approaching funnel cloud. Along with the other Starbucks customers and employees, Janece took refuge in the restroom just before the storm struck. Thankfully, the building they were in didn't buckle under the pressure of the tornado, but the ceiling did fall, and most of the buildings across the street were destroyed. Janece and her friends were thankful to have escaped injury, however they were shocked and dismayed by the destruction all around them. Because of the chaos in the city, Janece was unable to return to her apartment that night. When she arrived there the next day, she was horrified to discover a scene of total devastation. Her apartment building, her car, and all of her belongings had been completely destroyed. Even more tragically, four of her neighbors in the building had been killed by the storm. She realized that if she had not left her apartment that afternoon she might well have been numbered among the other casualties.

continued on next page



photos courtesy of Janeca Maze and Versie Maze-Ike



Janece found that her apartment building, her car, and all of her belongs had been completely destroyed.



Janece and Janeka viewing the remains of her apartment

Photo courtesy of Michelle Lepianka Carter of the Tuscaloosa News

receptionist. She was elected to the National Honor Society in her senior year, and graduated with top honors in 2005.

College was the next stepping-stone toward Janece's goal of becoming a lawyer. Her parents, Harold and Jacqueline Maze of Selma, wholeheartedly supported her



ambitions. However, there were three other children in the family (two brothers, and her twin sister, Janeka), and the family finances were already stretched too thin to pay for college. Janece explored a number of sources for scholarship aid. In the spring of 2005 she was awarded a full academic scholarship to attend Miles College in Birmingham. Still needing financial assistance with housing and books, she applied for a Linly Heflin

Janece Maze

continued from previous page

It has not been easy putting her life back together after losing virtually everything she owned



Seated: Janece's father, Harold and her sister Janeka standing: Janece's mother, Jacqueline, Janece and her brother William

The weeks and months following the storm have been difficult ones for Janece, as they have been for thousands of other victims all over Alabama. It has not been easy putting her life back together after having lost virtually everything that she owned. As a person of deep faith, Janece is thankful to God for protecting her and her friends. She knows that it is a blessing to be alive after such devastation. As horrible as her experience has been, it has made her realize that material things are replaceable, while life is not. She remains committed to her faith in God, her family, and community service. Never one to complain, Janece remains focused on making her career goals a reality. The summer months were spent working for her former employer, Checksmart Financial LLC and finding a new apartment in Tuscaloosa that she could share with her sister, Janeka. Just replacing necessities that had been lost in the storm took a considerable amount of time and effort.



Janece and Janeka

Now enrolled in her second year at the University School of Law, Janece is looking forward to graduating with her Juris Doctor degree in the spring of 2013. Her ultimate goal is to practice environmental law and to dedicate her time to community based efforts to assist people in need. And with Janece's proven abilities, work ethic, and determination, who could doubt that her future is indeed bright, and that she will succeed in all of her endeavors?

Linly Heflin Trust Fund Named Scholarships

Each year Linly Heflin receives a number of named scholarships. These are established by a gift of \$15,000 to the Linly Heflin Scholarship Trust Fund. Some donors choose to give a lump sum, and others spread out their giving over a number of years. The Linly Heflin is extremely grateful for the generosity of all of our donors. Here are the named scholarships established during the past year:

- Baldwin-Whitaker Scholarship
- Richard Spain Riley Scholarship
- Margaret Cameron and Frank Edward Spain Scholarship
- Henrietta R. Shook and Paschal G. Shook, Jr. Scholarship

Linly Heflin Officers 2011-2012

- | | |
|-------------------------|--|
| President | Mrs. James Porter II (Kathryn) |
| First Vice President | Mrs. Jon J. Blankenship (Dalton) |
| Second Vice President | Mrs. Gary M. London (Eve) |
| Recording Secretary | Mrs. Cynnie Sproull |
| Corresponding Secretary | Mrs. Franklin A. Pritchard (Pam) |
| Treasurer | Mrs. A. Philip Cook, Jr. (Deane) |
| Project Treasurer | Mrs. James W. Brunstad (Margaret) |
| Scholarship Chair | Mrs. Ben Ivey Jackson (Susan) |
| Scholarship Co-Chair | Mrs. James B. Chenoweth, Jr. (Suzanne) |
| Scholarship Trust Fund | Mrs. Frank Caley (Margaret) |

A Letter from the President of Linly Heflin

I am tremendously fortunate to be the President of Linly Heflin for the 2011-2012 year. While the current recession has us all watching our dollars and counting our blessings, the spirit of Linly-Heflin is all the more necessary. For the past forty-five years we have been committed to serving the community and granting academic scholarships to young women in need. Allowing them to achieve their dreams has been a priority in more comfortable economic times and is all the more important during these difficult times. Every member of Linly Heflin remains committed to this vital cause.

Kathryn Porter

Kathryn Porter

President of the Linly Heflin Unit



Grace Bentley Corporate Funding

Interesting facts:

All operating expenses for the Linly Heflin Unit are covered by membership dues. This allows all monies raised from the community to go into the Scholarship Trust Fund. There are no administrative salaries. All work is done by volunteers. Over 3,000 four-year scholarship have been awarded.

Newsletter Co-editors: Katy Terry and Anne Hicks
Writer and Assistant Editor: Shirley Elliott

Linly Heflin Scholarship Luncheon and Fashion Show 2010



The 52nd Annual Linly Heflin Scholarship Luncheon and Fashion Show was held on September 29th, 2010, featuring New York based Argentine designer Gustavo Cadile. Blending American style, Latin flavor, and European sensibility, Gustavo Cadile gives familiar, classic fashion forms new context through his elegant and understated designs. His sophisticated and elegant eveningwear collection is sold at more than 50 high-end boutiques internationally from Canada to Singapore. Cadile has designed clothing for celebrities such as Eva Longoria Parker, Catherine Zeta-Jones, Gloria Estefan and Reese Witherspoon. Cadile said his spring collection of coral, ivory, seafoam, blue, black and gold colors were inspired by actress Angelina Jolie. He saw pictures of her filming the movie "The Tourist" in Venice. He said he was struck by her beauty, grace and sophistication. "I try to do a collection that can be timeless, that will never go out of style so that (women) can always have it in the closet," he said. "Anytime they want to wear it, they can open the closet and wear the dress again."

A crowd of around 1000 attended the event, which was sponsored by long-time supporter, Gus Mayer. The show, which also showcased lovely fall fashions from Gus Mayer, was produced by Megan LaRussa and narrated by Audrey Lindquist. Congratulations to Co-chairs Happy Anthony and Murray Priester and their committees for an outstanding, glamorous and successful event.



photos by Anne Hicks

Linly Heflin Scholarship Luncheon and Fashion Show 2011 Preview



At the September 1 Linly Heflin meeting, Gus Mayer presented a sneak preview of some of the fashions from the 53rd Scholarship Luncheon. Left to right: Jeff Pizitz, Ann Simmons, Nichole Cummins, Patti Badham, Herman Heinle, Megan LaRussa and Kay Grisham



Modeling for Gus Mayer at the September Linly Heflin meeting are (L-R) Virginia Tucker, Margie Gray, Happy Anthony, Helen Drennen, Elizabeth Hubbard and Murray Priester

Photos by Anne Hicks

53rd Annual Linly Heflin Scholarship Luncheon



Ann Simmons, Herman Heinle, Kay Grisham, Rene Ruiz, Jeff Pizitz and Patti Badham

Miami-based designer Rene Ruiz will present his Spring 2012 Collection at the 53rd Annual Linly Heflin Scholarship Luncheon and Fashion Show at the Sheraton Birmingham Hotel Ballroom on Wednesday, September 28, 2011. Co-chairs Patti Badham and Kay Grisham and their hard-working committee members are coordinating with Gus Mayer to present an exciting show.

Cuban-born Ruiz immigrated to the United States in his late teens to study nuclear engineering and architecture. Once settled in Miami, he realized he needed to follow his heart, opting to construct clothing rather than buildings. He earned a degree from the International Fine Arts College in Miami. He honed his skills during apprenticeships throughout Europe. After opening his first atelier in Coral Gables in the 90's, Ruiz quickly became the go-to designer for celebrities and socialites. His eye for high-quality fabrics and personalized attention to the creation and tailoring of each garment has created an international following for his luxurious, original and sophisticated designs. Ruiz's designs fill a void in the luxury market with a collection that reflects not only his talent and standards for quality but also a city and culture that are gaining momentum as the next international fashion capital. Ruiz is also known for creating his own fabrics to accentuate the meticulous detailing which inspires sensuality for the modern woman.

Fashion Show producer Megan LaRussa is planning a new and exciting show sure to please a full house. Amie Beth Shaver, Miss Alabama 1994, will serve as emcee for the event. Linly Heflin wishes to express our deep appreciation to Jeff Pizitz and the Gus Mayer staff for once again making it all possible.

We wish to thank *Gus Mayer, Rene Ruiz,*
the many individuals who contributed generously,
and especially...

our 2011 Corporate Sponsors *

Valedictorians

Gus Mayer
Protective Life Corporation
The Thomas E. Jernigan Foundation

Salutatorians

Badham & Buck, LLC
Core Plastic Surgery
Independent Presbyterian Church, The Foundation
Sterling Capital Management
Sterne Agee Group, Inc.

Summa Cum Laude

Bradley Arant Boulton and Cummings LLP
Brookmont Realty Group
(in memory of Mrs. Henry E. Simpson)
Dunn Investment Company
Ebsco Media
The Peter W. and Peggy H. Field Foundation
Jemison Investment Company, Inc.
Joe Jolly Family Fund
Ladd Real Estate Management, Inc.
McConnell, White and Terry
Publix Super Market Charities
Schreiber LLC
Susan and Tom Curtain
Vulcan Materials Company

Magna Cum Laude

American Cast Iron Pipe Company
AT&T
Cobb Theatres
Blue Cross Blue Shield of Alabama
B. L. Harbert International
Eddleman Properties
Energen Corporation
McGriff, Seibels & Williams, Inc.
Ray & Poyner Properties
Red Diamond, Inc.
Regions Bank
Royal Cup Coffee
ServisFirst Bank
Southland Tube, Inc.
University of Alabama at Birmingham Administration

*Due to space constraints, we are unable to list all corporate donors in the Newsletter. A full list including all levels of giving is available in the "Look Book".



Photos by Anne Hicks



Megan LaRussa and Rene Ruiz Kathryn Porter and Rene Ruiz