

SOCIAL AND COMMUNITY NEWS

Executives Present Visions at the Hungry Club



Speakers Robert E. James (left) and Joseph R. Hudson (center) network with Tom Campbell.

Carver State Bank President Robert E. James and the President of Hudson Strategic Group of Atlanta, GA, Joseph R. Hudson received rave reviews following their presentations during the Hungry Club Forum of Savannah (HCFS) on Saturday August 2, 2008. The Forum's 2008 Fall Series theme is: "We Can Raise Our Community's Economic Status in Savannah-Chatham County."

James and Hudson are longtime acquaintances who came together at the regularly scheduled HCFS monthly breakfast which was held in the Multipurpose Annex of the May Street YMCA. The Co-sponsors of the August forum were Pinnacle Communications Corporation and Professional Presence.

Keynote speaker James

addressed three major points. First, he did what he said he has enjoyed doing for the past 37 years. He told the group about Carver State Bank.

Carver is the oldest, locally-owned bank in Savannah, and one of the oldest African-American-owned commercial banks in America.

According to James, "almost all of Carver's loans are made to people and institutions in Savannah, and all of the bank's executive decisions are made by the bank's management team right here in Savannah." The veteran banker, who is the African-American with the longest tenure of service as President of a bank in America, invited the audience at the Forum to open accounts at the bank and become members of the Carver family. "Remember,

you need to establish your relationship before you need the relationship," he continued.

James discussed the economic environment that we are in today. "These are certainly some trying economic times. I know that the downturn is led by the housing market, but I want to assure you that our economic situation is far greater than a problem in any one sector," he said. James emphasized the impact that the global economy is having on America.

In his conclusion, James told the Hungry Club Forum that we are facing a crisis with many of our young people, especially young, African-American men. "We need to try to stop the drug use and crime, and help many of our young people get on the right path," he said.

"So I came here to tell some of our most talented community leaders that you must rededicate yourselves to providing leadership and helping these young men," he concluded.

Joe Hudson's company, the Hudson Strategic Group, Inc. of Atlanta, has been collaborating with a number of businesses and organizations in the local community over

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Women Making Great Strides in Leadership and Business in Savannah and Nationally



L-r: Sarahlyn Argrow, CEO and founder of AWWIN, Inc. and Celia Dunn, president of Celia Dunn Sotheby's International Realty.

Celia Dunn Sotheby's International Realty sponsors AWWIN, Inc. banquet to give more women opportunity for independence and advancement

(SAVANNAH, GA) - Women are really coming into their own as leaders in Savannah. Major organizations in town have women in leadership positions, ranging from the Chair-Elect of Savannah Area Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors to the incoming chair of Buy Local Savannah to the chair of the chamber's Small Business Council.

Women have been making impressive strides in business as well according to national and state figures.

The Center for Women's Business Research analyzes data provided by the U.S. Bureau of the Census. It issues projected numbers based on economic census data about women in business, including businesses that have majority

ownership by women (51 percent or more of the business is owned by women).

Businesses with a majority ownership by women accounted for 29.7 percent of all businesses in the U.S. as of 2006, generating \$1.1 trillion in annual sales and employing 7.2 million people nationwide. Between 1997 and 2006, the percent growth in those firms was nearly twice that of all U.S. firms (42.3 percent vs. 23.3 percent).

Georgia ranked second in the growth in the number of privately-held, majority women-owned firms between 1997 and 2006. The state ranked ninth in the number of privately-held, majority women-owned firms in 2006, eleventh in employment and eighth in sales.

The figures are even more impressive when you consider it's been less than 100 years since women were given the right to vote --

national women's suffrage was granted in 1920 with the passage of the 19th Amendment to the Constitution.

"We've come a long way," said "I think it's amazing." Organizations like Rotary, offering always-crucial networking opportunities, have gone from being all-male to having female officers.

"I can remember being the token woman, and now every organization has a broad representation of women, not only in membership but in leadership positions as well," Dunn said. "I think women are being given many opportunities they were not allowed in earlier times, in my lifetime. So much of the thinking about women has changed over the last 50 years."

Despite gains in the work world, there weren't many women corporate leaders in Savannah, Dunn said, but now several high-powered positions are held by women, including two local leaders of major banks-- Kay Ford with SunTrust and Jenny Gentry with Wachovia.

"All of a sudden it seems these opportunities came about for women to use their talent and skills and intelligence and ability to work with people," Dunn said.

"What is interesting is that women often approach a challenge from a different perspective than a man," Dunn said. "It's always interesting to see those ideas brought forward."

Diana Morrison is Chair-Elect of Savannah Area Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors. Madeleine Warren is the Chair of the Small Business Council for the Savannah Area Chamber of Commerce and is the president of Buy Local Savannah. Helen Downing is chairman of the board of SunTrust Bank in Savannah.

Paula Kreissler, the incoming president of Buy Local Savannah, says the mayor and many leaders in Savannah realize the importance of diversity and collab-

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Committee to Re-Elect Gloria Wilson Edwards
Savannah Chatham County School Board, Eighth District

Dear Constituents:

I bring you greetings from the eighth district of the Chatham County School Board as I embark upon the re-election campaign trail for the November election.

I have been honored to serve as the representative for the eighth district and have enjoyed working tirelessly to help improve the schools in Chatham County for our children. Upon re-election, I would like to continue to expand and develop new and innovative ideas to implement for the benefit of our students. We are all a part of educating students and equipping them with the right tools to achieve success as they are learning in Savannah's schools.

As a member of the School Board, some of my major accomplishments are:

- Helped to pass the EPLOST referendum
- Approved to build several new schools in the eighth district and open a new Woodville-Tompkins Technical and Career Institute and Early College Program in the eighth district.
- 2007 - Elected vice President Pro Tempore of the Savannah Chatham County School Board.

Additionally, I also serve or have served in the following capacities:

- Youth Futures Advisory Council Board of Directors
- EOA Board of Directors
- Groves High School Business Career Technologies Advisory Board
- West Savannah Neighborhood Association
- Advisory Board - Summer Bonanza
- Hungry Club of Savannah
- Member, National School Board Association
- Member, Georgia School Board Association
- Member, Council of Urban Board of Education - A Component of the National Affiliate Program
- Certificate of Merit - Georgia Department of Education
- Executive Leadership Program for Education at the University of Virginia
- 2006 - selected to travel to London, England by Promethean, Inc.

I have highlighted my many duties and accomplishments which demonstrates my work ethic and commitment to our community. I know you are committed to educating our children as well. Having said that, I am requesting your financial assistance for my re-election efforts. No gift is too small, for your support will help us achieve our goal. Whatever your decision, please feel free to call on me to answer any questions you may have about my education beliefs or my stance on the issues that affect our students.

Please make checks payable to: Gloria Wilson Edwards - 1710 Chester Street - Savannah, GA 31415.

Thank you very much for your consideration.

Gloria Wilson Edwards

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