

# SOCIAL AND COMMUNITY NEWS

## Superintendent's Student of the Month



**Joseff Kolman**

The Superintendent's Student of the Month is Joseff Kolman, an eighth grader at Oglethorpe Charter School.

Joseff was selected because he is an extraordinary student who excels academical-

ly, musically and as a school leader.

Joseff is currently taking three courses for high school credit.

He has also received several awards including: highest GPA in Science in 6th grade, most improved 7th grade Language Arts student and the President's Award for Outstanding Academic Excellence in 7th grade.

Joseff devotes the majority of his free-time to extra-curricular activities at Oglethorpe Charter School.

He is a member of the National Junior Beta Club, National Junior

Honor Society, and is President of the Oglethorpe Charter School chapter of the National Association of Student Councils.

He has also been selected for the district honor band for three years and was selected first chair for both district and all-state bands. Joseff is also the first OCS student to receive all-state honors in the school history.

An outgoing student and role model for both his school and our entire community, SCCPSS is proud to name Joseff Kolman Superintendent's Student

See **Student**, page 14

## Black in America



**Taqwaa Saleem**  
*The Savannah Tribune* announces the latest in a series of articles written by guest columnist Taqwaa Falaq Saleem. Taqwaa is a 2008 honor graduate with the B.A. in English Language and Literature from

Savannah State University where she was also awarded the coveted President's Second Mile Award at the commencement ceremonies. She is currently a graduate student and teaching assistant at Georgia Southern University. She is a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority.

The six weeks before Easter is a time when many Christians observe the Lent season and concentrate on fasting, praying, renewal, and awakening. One of my personal prayers each day is that I remove myself from all situations and from contact

with all people that may be toxic or that may hinder my learning and growth. If I am trying to be the best that I can be in order to achieve personal goals and be of utmost service to mankind, I must be as enlightened as possible about my best self. Being Black in America is to recognize that some forms of self-centeredness are necessary in order to grow and prosper. If the self is not in order, how can one relate with, teach and learn from, or serve another? As the renowned public intellectual, Dr. Cornel West, reminds us, "the problem is we need

See **Black**, page 14

## Business Awards Honor Workplace Innovation and Flexibility

Retaining workers is not just a concern during good economic times. Employee turnover not only costs money, directly and indirectly, but affects a business's ability to satisfy its customers.

Businesses that truly rely on team work; those that listen and act on employee input; companies that understand that community and family commitments, when balanced with work, increase productivity; are all invited to apply now for the Sloan awards.

It takes less than an hour to apply. In exchange, companies receive an individual benchmarking report, comparison benchmarking among Savannah companies and applicants from their industry from around the country, and a directory of past national winners' best practices and contacts. Winners' names are published in "USA Today" and the "Congressional Record."

Savannah is one of just

30 communities around the nation where employers are being offered the chance to apply for this national award. In the last two years, two Savannah businesses have been Business Excellence award winners.

Last year, the Savannah office of Environmental Services Inc. was a national winner. ESI offers opportunities for its employees to work from home and to set up offices in their homes to accomplish their goals and support company clients, according to Robin Bullock, national human resources director.

In 2007, Lazard Dana, now Deemer Dana & Froehle, LLP, a public accounting firm, was recognized. John Matthews, managing partner of Deemer Dana & Froehle, said he is extremely proud to be recognized by and associated with the Alfred P. Sloan Awards for Business Excellence in Workplace Flexibility.

Matthews sees the line

that can be drawn between team member satisfaction and customer service. "We know that team members who feel they are valued provide better service to our customers, who in turn feel valued," Matthews said.

"This is an integral part of our firm's mission and culture. It is what makes us all winners."

This year, for the first time, When Work Works, the project that administers the Sloan awards, has integrated questions regarding flexibility practices for low-wage workers into its employer questionnaire. This effort focuses on increasing the spending power of low-wage workers and is funded by the Ford Foundation, and administered by the Families and Work Institute.

Companies can find out more information and apply online today. Go to [www.whenworkworks.org](http://www.whenworkworks.org) 966-2044. The deadline to apply is April 6.

## ~Words of Thanks~

The family of Mrs. Georgia Branch Dillard of Tampa, Florida, will forever be grateful for the many friends who looked after our mother and grandmother throughout the many years she lived in Tampa. You were there for her and for us. You made her life and her final days in Tampa a wonderful experience, and may God bless each of you. Also, a special thanks to Bishop Eddie Newkirk and the St. John Cathedral Church of Tampa for your love, care and concern over the years and for coming to Savannah to share in her Homegoing Celebration. To our friends in Savannah, your constant support and encouragement, the telephone calls, visits, flowers, food and other acts of kindness will never be forgotten. Your kind and thoughtful expressions of sympathy are deeply appreciated and gratefully acknowledged. May God continue to bless each of you is our prayer.



Thank you,  
**Edna Branch Jackson**  
**Kevan L. Jackson**

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