



# Headlines @ the Met

Winter/Spring, 2009  
Volume 12, Issue 1

## Atlanta Metropolitan College Hosts Ribbon Cutting Ceremony at New 34 Peachtree Site

College Expands Its Presence with New Downtown Atlanta Location

Atlanta Metropolitan College officially introduced its new 34 Peachtree location to the community on Thursday, March 26, 2009 at a ribbon cutting ceremony. The ceremony took place on the 5th floor entrance of the AMC new suite. The suite is comprised of 11,042 square feet of space in the 48-year-old, 30 story building. Details of the suite include: 6 classrooms, 1 student lounge, staff and faculty offices, a conference room, and four computer kiosks for student use. The celebration included a brief program, tours and a reception.

With the opening of AMC's new center in the 34 Peachtree Building, in the heart of downtown Atlanta and just blocks from the Five Points Marta Station, the College reaffirms a 35-year commitment to academic excellence and seeks to fulfill a vital role within the University System of Georgia and the Metro Atlanta Community.

"The AMC Division of Business, Mathematics and Computer Science (BMCS) Downtown Center at 34 Peachtree will help to create opportunities and facilitate lifelong learning for all Georgians, especially those who live and work in Downtown," said AMC President McGaha.

AMC began classes at the 34 Peachtree site in January 2009 and offers programs that are accessible, affordable and available five days a week.

University System of Georgia officials, along with political and civic leaders offered congratulatory remarks at the celebration. Thirty-five (35%) of the courses offered by the college can be completed at the new downtown site. ([www.atlm.peachtree.edu](http://www.atlm.peachtree.edu)).



From left to right: AMC President McGaha; Miss AMC, Nina Pressley; COO, Board of Regents, Rob Watts; Student Commission President; Richelle Issac; Regent Elridge McMillan and Dr. Morgan, Interim Vice President of Academic Affairs.

## AMC Student Receives 2009 Regents' Excellence Award

The 2009 Regents' Awards for Excellence in Education were held recently at the Atlanta Marriott Marquis in downtown Atlanta.

The highlight of the evening was AMC student Nicole Williams being selected as the Regents' President's Choice Scholarship winner.

The evening Awards program included a silent auction and a reception, in which AMC Nicole Williams welcomed the guest.

The evening concluded with closing remarks by James A. Bishop, with the University of Georgia Foundation.

## Congratulations Nicole!



Nicole Williams, President McGaha, Nicole's Mother

**Believe • Begin • Become**

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## Atlanta Metropolitan College and Maynard H. Jackson High School Engineering Early College Academy

Atlanta Metropolitan College (AMC) is blazing new trails as a two-year college to form a partnership with a local high school in meeting the initiatives of the Early College and small schools model set forth by the Department of Pre-School to College of the Board of Regents. This is an important endeavor and partnership with Atlanta Public Schools--Maynard Holbrook Jackson High School, formally Southside High School.

This partnership brings forth the Engineering Early College initiative whereby students can earn a high school diploma along with college credits. This is accomplished by offering students a rigorous math and science high school curriculum along with college courses at their junior and senior years of high school.

An advisory team consisting of representatives from both schools and the Atlanta Public School System created a Memorandum of Understanding for three years that will support the educational endeavors of students attending the Engineering Early College Academy at Maynard H. Jackson High School. These efforts culminated in August 2008 with the incoming freshman class of approximately 100 students known as the Legacy Class 2012. This number will repeat each academic year.

Just recently, December 5, 2008, U.S. News and World Report magazine named Maynard H. Jackson High School as one of the best high schools in the nation. Out of 21,000 U.S. high schools analyzed using 2006-2007 school data, Maynard H. Jackson was one of 26 in Georgia and the only Atlanta public school to make the list.

## Cunningham Promoted to Associate Vice President of Institutional Research, Planning, and Assessment of Atlanta Metropolitan College

Dr. Mark Cunningham has been promoted to Associate Vice President of Institutional Research, Planning, and Assessment at Atlanta Metropolitan College. In this role, he leads all areas of internal/external planning and assessment, as well as the preparation of data reports for the Intergrated Post Secondary Education Data System (IPEDS) and Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS). Dr. Cunningham formerly held the title of Director of Institutional Planning, and Assessment.

According to AMC President, Dr. Gary McGaha, in this role, he will continue to ensure compliance with all federal, state and local agency accreditation requirements.

"I am pleased to work with the stellar faculty, staff and students at Atlanta Metropolitan College," said Cunningham. "The College is clearly at a unique juncture in its history, full of potential

and possibilities, and I am excited to be part of the process as we work at growing AMC and moving it to the next level."

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Dr. Cunningham has received numerous awards and honors such as the RSEC Fellow sponsored by the National Science Foundation (NSF) and the Science Grant Writing Training Certificate, also sponsored by NSF. Dr. Cunningham received his B.S. in Chemistry from Claflin University in 1984, his M.S. in Chemistry from Clark Atlanta University in 1991, and his Ph.D. from Georgia State University in 1998. He joined the AMC faculty in 1992.

## AMC's Phi Theta Kappa Hosts Convention – Wins Regional Awards

Atlanta Metropolitan College's Phi Theta Kappa Chapter, Beta Beta Tau served as the 2008 Presidential Chapter for the Georgia Region of the Phi Theta Kappa International Honor Society. In addition to taking the leadership role among Georgia's 34 Phi Theta Kappa Chapters, another major responsibility is to host the Annual Georgia Regional Convention, which was held February 27th and 28th. Over 70 Phi Theta Kappa members and advisors were welcomed to the AMC campus for two days of leadership, scholarship, service and fellowship activities.

The theme of this year's Convention was "Leading With Honor." Mrs. Elisabeth Omilami, Chief Executive Officer of Hosea Feed The Hungry and Homeless was the keynote speaker opening night of the convention. The 501(c)(3) agency was also the recipient of this year's State-Wide Service Project, a Canned Food Drive. The drive was a soaring success that yielded over 900 items of non-perishable goods. The featured speaker on Saturday morning was Mr. Jesse Baskerville, an Environmental Regulatory Specialist Consultant whose professional career encompassed 35 years with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

Beta Beta Tau was honored several times during the Annual Awards Ceremony. The Chapter was recognized for leadership and service with an Appreciation plaque. Two Certificates for Hallmark achievements were also earned: Distinguished Achievement in Regional Programs – Service, and Distinguished Achievement in Regional Programs – Scholarship.

The highlight of the Ceremony was being awarded Five Star Level for 2009. This is the second time the Chapter has been recognized with this prestigious status for their success in meeting the higher standards of quality programming and excellence in scholarship, service, leadership and fellowship. Atlanta Metropolitan College's Chapter is one of five Georgia Regional chapters to achieve the coveted Five Star Level.





*Beta Beta members accepting the award.*

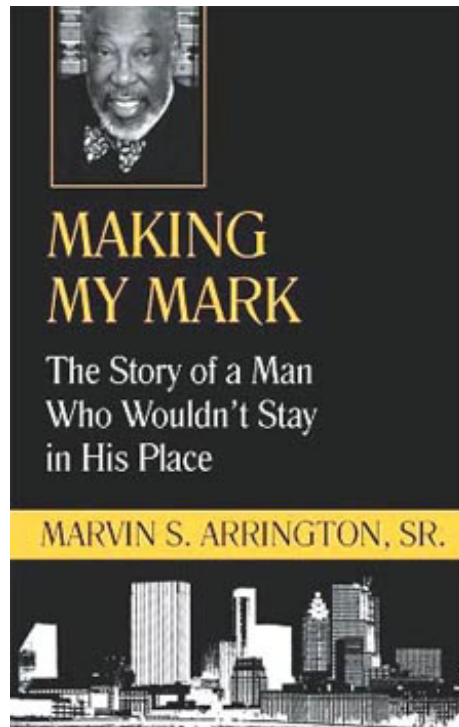
### Judge Marvin Arrington, Guest Speaker at Black History Month Program

Some of the highlights of Judge Arrington’s address during the Black History Month Program, specifically, the theme was centered on:

- Social Responsibility
- Community Activism
- Parental Responsibility
- Accountability of Elected Officials

Judge Arrington spoke about his recent book, “Making My Mark: The Story of a Man Who Wouldn’t Stay in His Place,” and his life growing up in the segregated South and the opportunities and challenges he faced.

**Publisher Information: Mercer University Press, Published March 2008, ISBN-13: 9780881460988**



*President McGaha & CEO of Hosea Feed the Hungry, Elisabeth Omilami*

### 2009 MESA Leadership Conference held at Westin Airport Hotel

The Atlanta Metropolitan College Mathematics, Engineering, and Science Achievement (MESA) Scholars attended the MESA Regional Leadership Conference held at the Atlanta Westin Hotel on February 5th-7th, 2009.

College and university participation included Atlanta Metropolitan College, Chicago State University, Darton College, Georgia Perimeter College, South Georgia College, and Tallahassee College. Twelve of our MESA scholars participated in professional development workshops, team building competitions, and lectures.

The conference consisted of workshops in resume and interviewing, team building, professional networking, strategic steps to a 4.0 and time management.

**Dates to Remember**

**Last Day of Class for Full Term  
April 30th  
Graduation Commencement  
May 8th  
Graduation Rehearsal Gymnasium  
May 6th @ Noon**

## NOW IS THE TIME ... BELIEVE, BEGIN AND BECOME: Theme of the 2008 - 2009 Miss Atlanta Metropolitan College Pageant Pageant Colors: Electric Blue and White

The 2008-2009 Miss Atlanta Metropolitan College Pageant was held on Friday, December 5, 2008, in the college gymnasium. The forecast for the evening was clear and mild with a touch of coolness. The atmosphere was set in motion by the smooth, passionate sound of jazz by Terry Touch Productions. The honored artist for the night was Miles Davis in honor of his 45th anniversary.

The evening flowed into the mood of anticipation, which was captured and orchestrated by the Master of Ceremony, Mr. Craig Goolsby and Mistress of Ceremony Ms. Ashton Jones. Both are students at Atlanta Metropolitan College. Together in harmony they set the evening in motion.

The moment was about to begin. Clubs and Organizations Queens and Kings were introduced to the AMC family to the music entitled "People Make the World Go Round". They stimulated the audience by dancing to Miles Davis tune, "So What".

There were five contestants. Each contestant was judged on platform presentation, talent, questions and answers. The judges were: Reginald Lewis, Director of Career and Development Services at Westwood College-Northlake and currently Mr. American Beauties Lifetime Ambassador; Debbie Shannon, a plus size model, formerly Ms. Plus America 2004; Natisha Webb-Rabb, American Beauties Plus 2008 Lifetime Queen and the owner of Pro-tege Productions.

The contestants were: Miss Charvela Dickerson, a native of Allentown, Pennsylvania and the daughter of Ms. Gervela Fuqua. Charvela is pursuing a



**Miss Atlanta Metropolitan College 2008-2009: Nina Pressley, with President McGaha**

degree in psychology and her ultimate goal is to become a child psychologist and open her own practice. Miss Dickerson's platform entitled "First Year Student Leadership: Right Place,

Right Time". Talent: Obama/Speech Excerpt-Education.

Miss Sophia Garcia, a native of San Francisco, California and the daughter of the late Mr. David Rose and Ms. Laray Garcia. Sophia is a mass communications major and her goal upon graduation is to become a renowned speaker and radio personality. Miss Garcia's platform entitled, "Better Communication, New Opportunities". Talent: Self-written poem, "Is It Worth It?"

Miss Salathia McClendon, a native of Atlanta/Savannah, Georgia and is the daughter of Ms. Flossie James. Salathia is pursuing a degree in Business Administration and after graduating she plans to attend Spelman College. Miss McClendon's platform entitled, "Bridging the Gap". Talent: I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings", by Maya Angelou.

Miss Nneka Oseji, a native of Atlanta, Georgia and is the daughter of Dr. and Mrs. Charles Oseji. Nneka is pursuing a degree in middle grade education and plans to continue her education at Clayton State University. Nneka future goals include becoming a public school



**Court, from left to right: Charvela Dickerson, Nneka Oseji, 2nd Runner Up, Miss AMC, Nina Pressley, Sophia Garcia, 1st Runner Up and Salathia McClendon**





**Miss AMC, Nina Pressley 2008 - 2009**

teacher, owning a childcare center, and becoming a college president. Miss Oseji platform entitled, “Student Economic Empowerment”. Talent: “The Black Prayer”, by an unknown author.

Miss Nina Pressley, a native of Rochester, New York and the daughter of Laura and Dan Pressley. Nina is majoring in Business Administration and upon completion of the bachelor’s degree she plans to earn a master’s degree in business marketing. Her goal is to become a successful entrepreneur and have a positive impact on her community. Miss Pressley’s platform entitled, “Healthy Is As Healthy Does”. Talent: Self-written poem entitled, “Rise Above the Crowd.”

Miss Atlanta Metropolitan College 2008-2009: Nina Pressley

-First Runner-Up: Sophia Garcia

-Second Runner-Up: Nneka Oseji



**Clubs and Organizations Court Participants**



## AMC Art Club Sponsors Art Exhibit

The Art Club exhibition was held on March 17-19, 2009, in the Student Center/Conference Room A. The doors opened to the sound of instrumental soothing jazz, greeting each guest with a harmonious and pleasing sound.

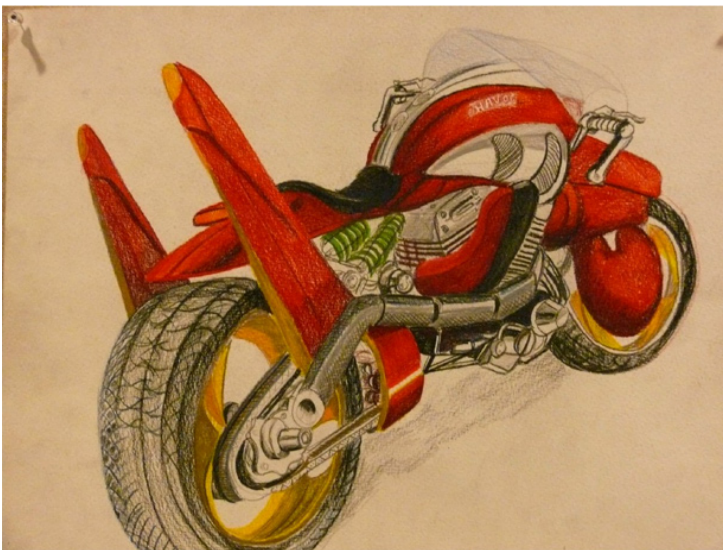
Upon entering this room, it was apparent to all that a well kept secret was being unveiled. As guest walked upon the path of this art clubs show and gazed upon the various, textures, forms and designs, it was the look of excitement and fascination that interested the artist more.

Drawings, paintings, found objects, clay and other forms of art were placed with the intent to draw and excite each visitor's interest. This Art Show was open to faculty, staff, students and visitors.

Art Students  
Guest Artist  
And, Jason Sweet-Advisor



*Collection of Various Artist*



*Artist, Mikarios Wright*

This exhibit will continue as an annual event, sponsored by The Art Club of Atlanta Metropolitan College.

Special kudos to:  
Mikarios Wright- President  
Garbrille Garley-Secretary  
Abdeli Vela-Set Layout/Design and Lighting  
Art Club Members



*Artist, Jason Sweet*

## Former Lady Bulldog Traci Waites Hired to Coach AMC Women's Team



Traci Waites, a three-time Parade All-American high school star at Rockdale County High School (1982-84) and a former women's basketball player at the University of Georgia has been named the new women's basketball coach.

Waites coaching career includes Pittsburgh for three years 1998-2000 and Arizona for four seasons 1994-1998. Prior to Arizona, Waites was the head coach at Santa Monica Community College in Santa Monica, Calif., from 1993-1994 after serving the program as an assistant for three years

As a collegiate player first at University of Georgia then at Long Beach State University, Waites played in the NCAA Tournament each of her four seasons and went to two final fours. She holds the distinction of being the only player in final fours for two different teams.

Waites served as captain for the USA Basketball select team from 1988-1989 and played professional Basketball for a year in Magenta, Italy. Traci was recently selected into the Georgia Metro Sports Hall of Fame.

## Former AMC Student Dontell Jefferson Signs with the Charlotte Bobcats



Congratulations to former AMC basketball player Dontell Jefferson who recently signed with the Charlotte Bobcats. He is a native of Lithonia, GA and a graduate of Stephenson High School in Stone Mountain.

At AMC, he averaged 15.0 points, 6.7 rebounds, 9.4 assists, and 3.6 steals. He earned All-Conference and All-Region awards and helped AMC to a 21-7 Overall record and a second place league finish.

A three-year NBA D-League veteran, Jefferson played for two seasons with the Dakota Wizards, where he was a part of the 2006-2007 NBA D-League Championship squad.

Jefferson has participated in pre-season with the Memphis Grizzlies and Los Angeles Clippers.



University System of Georgia

*Headlines@ the Met* is a publication of Atlanta Metropolitan College Office of Media Relations.

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