



STAR

**RISING STARS
QUARTERLY
NEWSLETTER
SEPTEMBER 2010**

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Hope. Believe. Grow. Succeed



On September 2, 2010 the first 2-class session of the year ended with 19 students graduating.

8 weeks of instruction to a diverse STAR student body ended the 3rd Quarter, marking the 57th graduating class.

Congratulations and well done!

The Board of Directors



We welcome Beckie Manley as the newest member of the board.

Beckie is the EVP and Creative Director for Joseph David Advertising

based on St. Simons Island, where she's revered as storyteller, creative director and sprinkler of pixie dust.

After graduating from BJU with a major in graphic design and minor in creative writing, Beckie launched her career at a boutique agency in the heart of Atlanta. From there, her interests took her to Brains on Fire in South Carolina, which fanned the flame of entrepreneurship and resulted in the start of her own agency, Tenth Planet Advertising, in 2003. Several years later, she accepted a partner position with JDA, a full service firm and has provided creative and financial leadership to a burgeoning team of fierce media warriors

(1 st Row – Left to Right) Patrick Antoine, Fidaa Saif, LaWanda Blue, Gary Beasley, Tuesday Crist, Jennifer White, Ashley Floyd, Lavonia Collins, Sarah Albertie (2nd Row – Left to Right) Debra Collins, Mary Swanger, Charrissa Cummings, Tannell Washington, Matthew Williams, LaQuita Gurley, Joann Daniels, Katinah Walker, and Laurie Sudden.

ever since. Beckie's mantra? "Every day we celebrate the moments when the consumer falls in love with our clients' brands. At JDA, cynicism is checked at the door. We totally dig this stuff."

Congratulations to Pamela Devenney who takes over as Chair. We wish to thank Wally Orrel for his stalwart service as the former Chairman.

Georgia Work Ready

certificates attest to employee skills in Mathematics; Reading comprehension; and the ability to Locate Information in complex documents.



Glynn County still needs over 100 people from the private sector to take the test to become a Work Ready Community. Please help us out and have some fun by going back to 'school' for an afternoon. How well do you think you can do on this test? Call Katie to register, (912) 554-0540.

STAR Graduate profile:



Lewis Jones

King and Prince Seafood

Lewis Jones, a 61-year old from Darien, graduated in June, 2010.

Lewis signed up for the STAR program because he applied for a promotion with his employer, King & Prince Seafood, but was turned down due to a lack of computer skills.

Lewis continued with his job while attending the STAR class, working from 2- 10 pm each day and spending the mornings in class.

Lewis could not type and struggled with the computer but was diligent about doing his homework and completing the requisite lab time. With improved computer skills, he reapplied after graduation for the same position and was promoted with a \$2/hr raise.

In the STAR program students are taught budgeting and how to manage their finances. Lewis quit smoking after taking the STAR program and calculates that he

is saving an additional \$35/week. Becoming a “STAR” can be profitable in many ways as Lewis so clearly shows.

In Lewis’ words, “The STAR program has been very helpful to me. Prior to coming here I had no knowledge of computers. Since being here I have gained a basic knowledge of the operation of computers. **I have learned how to get where I need to go to find what I’m looking for.”**

“The program has also taught me a lot about basic life skills. It has taught us how to be professional and present ourselves that way when job searching.”

“I will always be grateful to have had the opportunity to go through this program. It has been a learning experience of a lifetime.”

Lewis has learned how to improve his own life with STAR’s program.

STAR Foundation will continue its workshop series educating individuals in personal financial management.

This 8-session series covers the following topics:

- **Getting Started**
- **Spending Smart**
- **Basics of Banking**
- **Using Credit to your Advantage**

- **Money Management**
- **Protect Yourself Financially**
- **Planning your Future**
- **Buying a Home**

The workshops for the community at large are conducted by local professionals and will be taught at STAR Foundation.

Please call STAR (912) 554-0540 for more information and to sign up for the next series beginning in October.



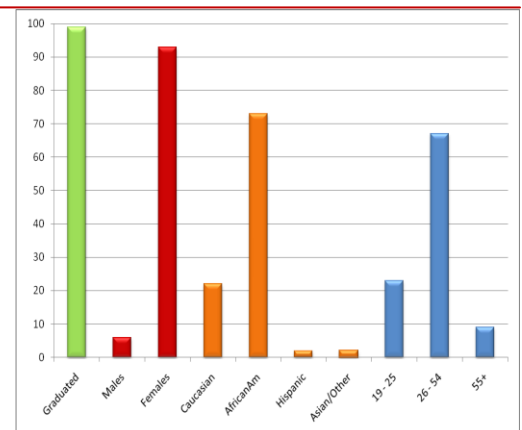
All workshops are OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Graduate Data Jan. 2009 – June 2010

How are we doing?

10 classes and 7 quarters are covered by the time period noted above.

Demographic tracking statistics include the following: total number of graduates, **gender, ethnicity, and age**. 99 students graduated with 10 students coming from McIntosh County and 89 from Glynn County.



In the workplace: Where are they now?



Pamela Norman
Jekyll Island Club
Hotel

Please help our students by donating your gently used professional clothing and accessories.

The Inside Story



Pamela graduated from STAR in March 2004 and went to work for **Purple Sage Catering** where she continues as Head Server. She also works as a server in the Grand Dining Room at the Jekyll Island Club Hotel, employment obtained by applying for a position that was not even advertised. Pamela loves her work.

Pamela says, "I watched TV and saw all these rich people, and decided that if I couldn't be a rich person, I wanted to be the person who served them."

She gets to meet lots of people. Purple Sage Catering takes her into beautiful homes and her time as a longshoreman gave her the opportunity to see some really fancy cars even though she might not own one.

Do you have or know someone with a soft skill who wishes to have a meaningful wonderful volunteer experience? Contact us to see how you can contribute and feel joy in helping others. Creating diversity in the classroom leads to a dynamic force which fosters enlightenment and growth.

Professional clothing, particularly ladies business wear and accessories, is an ongoing need that we cannot always fulfill.

The Merita Bakery Thrift Store at 1907 Gloucester Street fed the local inhabitants for many a long year, and continues to feed the local population to this day. The only change is in the fare being offered. You can give a woman a loaf of bread and feed her for a day, but if you teach her how to find the ingredients and bake her own bread, she will feed herself and her family for a lifetime.

STAR purchased the Merita Bakery store in June 2002 and immediately began to remodel the building to house STAR and Dataline Services. The reconstruction work done by contractors and STAR took 3 months to complete, and the **Grand Opening** was held on 22 October, 2002.

STAR helped give me a new perspective on life and let me see that there is hope. "Hold your head up, don't look back. If you live in the past, it's going to haunt your future. I dream of one day owning my own home, travelling and continuing to work."

Pamela is part of the **Brunswick Housing Authority Home Ownership Program** and through her own initiative has significantly reduced her debt and should be eligible at the beginning of the year to purchase a home.

Pamela is out there somewhere feeding someone; give her a smile and maybe a spin in your hot rod, or how about a cruise on that luxury yacht or a flight over the Isle of Cumberland in your helicopter?

Helping someone look professional and feel confident are ways in which you can help people to find improved employment and opportunities, so please help us out. We can use all sizes and styles.

Financial contributions are always needed, welcomed and then utilized for an amazing worthwhile cause. You even qualify for a tax deduction by providing to a precious resource. Please donate.

Many families have been nourished by this building. Now instead of using flour, water, yeast, salt, and sugar; one needs but to attend 8 weeks of class instruction and lab time to really be able to feed yourself and your family in a new fulfilling meaningful way. STAR now provides a new salt to the community.

"Moving STAR to its own building was a huge step for us," says Ellen Murphy, Executive Director. Class room seating, computers and instructors replaced ovens and mixing bowls. A new type of leaven is being utilized and wondrous creations are still being baked at the old but more satisfying thrift bakery store, except these new creations now walk out the door.

STAR FOUNDATION

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The STAR Foundation is a Brunswick, Georgia based nonprofit organization that equips adults in Coastal Georgia for growing self-sufficiency through its holistic, self-empowering program of job and life skills training.

Here it is again, the Rising Stars Newsletter for you to read, enjoy and find out what is happening in the world of the STAR Foundation. First of all, we wish to THANK YOU for all you have done and are doing to help STAR do what it does: make changes in the lives of our students and graduates. Nothing could be achieved without your generous, ongoing support and help. We really do need your help and want you to know that we appreciate all that you do for the program.

The need for a program like STAR continues to increase with the economic climate that we all now live in, obtaining employment is an increasing challenge for many and being able to increase one's employability is of paramount importance. STAR helps many who would not be helped without your kindness. Thanks again.

Ellen Murphy

Director

Board of Directors

Ellen Murphy, Executive Director
Pamela Devenney, Chair
Janice Applegate
Carlton DeVooght
Steve Holt
Tony Kreimborg
Beckie Manley
Wally Orrel
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