FROM THE DESK OF THE SOUTHERN AREA DIRECTOR

Dear Link Sister,

I am delighted to re-launch our signature newsletter, The Focus. This first edition is a compilation of articles that our Link Sisters throughout the Southern Area have submitted for publication. Our 2015-2017 theme ~ Embracing Our Legacy, Fulfilling Our Promise is embedded in our desire to share the inside ‘stories’ of Southern Area friendships, memberships, and community services. Special thanks to each of you for your submissions and your cooperation in sending articles and photos to Communications Editors Link Ghussan Greene, Orangeburg (SC) and Link Joy Wallace, St. Petersburg (FL). We also acknowledge all support from the entire team of friends assisting in edits and comments to assist in this production.

This edition of The Focus includes submissions from Link Sisters who shared activities of their chapter events; programming articles that demonstrate life transforming activities; and, kudos of our individual Link Sisters achievements.

Of course we recognize that there are ‘thousands of stories’ in our Area, this is our first of many. One of our greatest attributes is the spirit of friendship and celebrating each other’s accomplishments. Kudos to each of you and we look forward to reading more about your accomplishments in your community and your chapters in the near future.

Be sure to bookmark our website www.salinksinc.org to find complete information on our programs and activities. If you are a part of the Facebook online community, become a fan of The Official Southern Area Links Incorporated FB page!

Although we certainly Embrace Our Legacy, we hope The FOCUS will also encourage you to embrace each other in friendship.

Enjoy My Friend!

Link Anne
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Programming
THE HEART OF LINKDOM

Includes Our Southern Area Program Award Winners. You will find a brief synopsis epitomizing the heart of Linkdom: community service involvement with transformational programming. Feel free to contact the chapter or the author of the article for additional information.
Expanding The Links Presence in Jamaica

International Trends and Services

As we broaden our platforms for programs designed to service the educational, health and cultural needs of people in the Caribbean, we look forward to our Southern Area chapters supporting the Linking with Jamaica program in three phases.

Phase I involves Chapter donations/support *(see below)*;
Phase II will occur on site in Jamaica in January, 2016; and
Phase III occurs in the Spring 2016 with additional partnerships between our schools, hospitals and other organizations.

This is a great opportunity for partnerships to connect and work with the local Jamaican population on one of our program initiatives (e.g., mental health, Hepatitis C/HIV, oral health). If you live in an area where that population is not accessible, please align with other populations that have a need. We encourage chapters to take photos of these activities and send them to its@linksinc.org with a copy to itschair@salinksinc.org.

Within the Southern Area, originally the Magnolia (GA) and now the Bradenton-Sarasota (FL) chapter has partnered with the Watford Hill Primary School and we are pleased to expand our commitment of support with this opportunity. The school children are from economically challenging environments where many of the parents are unemployed and some children walk five miles each way to school every day. Our support is meaningful, impactful and transformative.

Finally, you can be proud to know that during the Opening Reception of our Global delegation to Jamaica in January, our International Trends and Services Committee will formally present a gift of hand sanitizers and 300 Webster dictionaries to each of the Links, Incorporated schools in Jamaica.

For additional information about our Jamaican partners refer to http://linksinc.informz.net/linksinc/data/images/Jamaica%20Info%20Packet_FIN.pdf

*Phase I
Make a donation to our schools and the community. Chapters that participate will be acknowledged at the National Assembly in Las Vegas. Funds will be used to purchase laptops, books, school supplies, and other needs that have been
The Pontchartrain (LA) Chapter continues its work with middle and high school girls through the chapter’s umbrella program, “L.I.N.K.S. Reaching New Heights—Rising Stars”. Thanks to a $45,000 grant from the Institute of Mental Hygiene in New Orleans, the chapter expanded the mentoring program to serve more students and offer additional enrichment activities and engagement opportunities. The grant will be administered over a three-year period.

The chapter’s work through “L.I.N.K.S. Reaching New Heights—Rising Stars” received the Second Place Umbrella Programming award from the Southern Area during the 43rd Southern Area Conference. Through the mentoring program, students are educated about important topics by each of the five Facets. Mentoring sessions focus on STEM, breast health, bullying, etiquette, and knowing your digital footprint. Mentees have also helped assemble women’s survival kits for the chapter’s mission work in Haiti, and Skyped with pen-pals in Ghana. There will also be tutoring sessions throughout the year.

The program kicked off with a pinning ceremony and orientation in August for parents and students. The session culminated with a visit from the author of the mentees’ summer reading book and New Orleans native Fatima Shaik. The Pontchartrain Chapter is poised for a productive program year!

On August 6, 2015, the Raleigh (NC) Chapter of The Links, Incorporated kicked off the 2015-16 program year with a “Teacher Appreciation Luncheon” for nineteen faculty and staff at Hope Charter Leadership Academy. Hope Charter is a tuition-free public school, serving approximately 125 elementary students in a high needs urban area. The school’s vision is to “inspire enthusiasm for education and to empower scholars to learn, lead, and succeed.”

Hope Charter believes “no child’s potential is too small; no family’s odds too great.”

The Services to Youth and Health and Human Services Facets worked together to provide a catered lunch filled with healthy options and a program focused on mental health strategies. Each Hope Charter classroom received gift baskets loaded with school supplies while members of the faculty and staff received personal gift baskets with items supporting good mental health and social well-being. Principal Clarissa Fleming was presented with a soothing plant as a symbol of the growing partnership between Hope Charter and the Raleigh (NC) Chapter. The event represented an excellent start to a partnership that will continue over the year!
The Orangeburg (SC) Chapter of The Links, Incorporated has entered into agreement with the Bootstraps Mentoring Foundation and Orangeburg Consolidated School District #5 to provide programmatic support and assistance to its “Bootstraps Scholars Program” as a Pilot Program with the inaugural Cohort I of the program starting August 2015. Chapter facet leaders are strategically planning for provision of beneficial and engaging activities for the middle school participant and their parents.

Chapter members have adapted components of their successful, “Links to a Healthy Lifestyle: Stimulating the Whole Child-Mind, Body, and Soul” initiative. A distinctive aspect of this year’s program is the alignment with The Links, Incorporated National Signature Program Project L.E.A.D. Consistent with the Links’ Umbrella Program concept, chapter members will work collectively with the Bootstraps Scholars to close the academic achievement gap, respond to their social-emotional needs, encourage health and fitness, introduce S.T.E.M. related education and career options, and improve their financial literacy.

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In light of the tragic mass shootings in Charleston, SC this summer, the Columbia (SC) Chapter collaborated with Nickelodeon Theater to sponsor the annual Blaktastik Festival, a three-day event that highlights black creative culture through art, film, music and education. The Nickelodeon Theater is South Carolina’s only non-profit Art House Film Theater. The festival theme explored how this generation is taking a unique look at contemporary alternative Black culture and the redefining of it by innovative filmmaking techniques.

A highlight of the Festival was a student film workshop and Instagram competition, which provided the high school students an opportunity to express their views of Black culture. Students were given cameras, keyboards, sound recorders and ink to curate original content for their short films. The films were screened on Sunday, July 26, 2015 for the public. The three-day festival was held at South Carolina’s only non-profit, art house theatre—affectionately known as “The Nick”—the Nickelodeon Theatre and the Tapps Art Center.

Submitted by Link Martha Smith

Tallahassee (FL) Chapter
Preparing the Next “Misty Copeland”
Submitted by Kimberly Hankerson

In light of the tragic mass shootings in Charleston, SC this summer, the Columbia (SC) Chapter collaborated with Nickelodeon Theater to sponsor the annual Blaktastik Festival, a three-day event that highlights black creative culture through art, film, music and education. The Nickelodeon Theater is South Carolina’s only non-profit Art House Film Theater. The festival theme explored how this generation is taking a unique look at contemporary alternative Black culture and the redefining of it by innovative filmmaking techniques.

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Submitted by Kimberly Hankerson
The STEAM Café, an inaugural program of the Tallahassee (FL) Links, Incorporated in partnership with Raa Middle School, kicked-off with 24 students on Thursday, September 24, 2015. The program is designed to introduce students to the science, technology, engineering, art and math that is in the world around us. The program outline includes the following:

- **Kick-off – “STEM: What’s it all about?”**
  - An introduction into the interconnectedness of Science, Engineering and Math in our everyday lives; the students also created rockets to discuss gravity and physics.

- **Week 2 - The Tallahassee Museum**
  - A tortoise and its habitat were used to show the connectedness of Science and Engineering, and how taking care of animals and making sure that they live in a specially designed environment promote animal health/well being.

- **Week 3 - Sports Medicine**
  - The science behind the treatment of orthopedic injuries sustained by athletes incorporated Science and Technology. The presentation included a discussion of model treatment plans and a hands-on demonstration of certain treatments.

- **Final Week - FIELD TRIP**
  - A visit to the Regional Transportation Management Center for a tour and discussion about how the traffic center works to address regional traffic needs/concerns incorporated Technology and Engineering.

The Mississippi Delta (MS) Chapter of The Links, Incorporated, under the leadership of Link Vanessa Rogers Long, implements an umbrella approach to programming that is executed through a middle school mentoring program—Young LITES (Young Ladies in Training for Excellence and Services) at Higgins Middle School in Clarksdale, Mississippi. Link Earline Brooks Carter serves as the chairman for the Young LITES program, and it is funded primarily through a 21st Century Community Learning Center grant that the chapter received for almost 1 million dollars. The program framework speaks to academic, social/emotional, and financial literacy objectives. The program activities include, before and after school tutoring, Saturday academics and recreation, art/cultural enrichment activities, health and wellness informational activities, and activities centered around science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM).

On July 31, 2015, their summer activities culminated with a trip to the Bennie G. Thompson Academic & Civil Rights Research Center at Tougaloo College. There, they were greeted by the College President and participated in a book presentation and book signing of “A is for Attitude” with best-selling author and acclaimed orator, Patricia Russell-McCloud, J.D, a Link sister. The book will be the subject of a book-study with the girls this fall.
Saluting the Southern Area 2015 Award Winners

Services to Youth

1st Place - Gainesville (FL) Chapter
Project Apple: Reading Literacy

2nd Place - Fort Valley (GA) Chapter
STEM-ulation: Left Brain and Right Brain, Out-of-the-Box Thinker

Legacy Winner - Tallahassee (FL) Chapter (5 years)

1st Place - Buckhead-Cascade City (GA) Chapter
Project Majestic: Inspiring, Engaging and Stimulating Tomorrow’s Leaders

2nd Place - Orlando (FL) Chapter
Empowering Women - Transforming Lives

Legacy Winner - Buckhead-Cascade City (GA) Chapter (20 years)

1st Place - Gainesville (FL) Chapter
Musical Cascades - Linking Heart and Soul

2nd Place - North Broward County (FL) Chapter
Making the Case, Expect Respect

Third Place - Pontchartrain (LA) Chapter
Expanding the Links Presence

2nd Place - Buckhead-Cascade City (GA) Chapter
Empowering Women - Transforming Lives

3rd Place - Charlotte (NC) Chapter
Join All Talents in Service (JATIS)

2nd Place - Pontchartrain (LA) Chapter
Links Keep the Music Playing

International Trends & Services

1st Place - Buckhead-Cascade City (GA) Chapter
Project Apple: Reading Literacy

2nd Place - Fort Valley (GA) Chapter
Project Majestic: Inspiring, Engaging and Stimulating Tomorrow’s Leaders

Legacy Winner - Tallahassee (FL) Chapter (5 years)

1st Place - Gainesville (FL) Chapter
Musical Cascades - Linking Heart and Soul

2nd Place - Fort Valley (GA) Chapter
Empowering Women - Transforming Lives

Legacy Winner - Buckhead-Cascade City (GA) Chapter (20 years)

1st Place - Pontchartrain (LA) Chapter
Links Keep the Music Playing

3rd Place - Pontchartrain (LA) Chapter
Making the Case, Expect Respect

National Trends & Services

1st Place - Azalea City (GA) Chapter
Project Majestic: Inspiring, Engaging and Stimulating Tomorrow’s Leaders

2nd Place - Fort Valley (GA) Chapter
Empowering Women - Transforming Lives

Legacy Winner - Fort Valley (GA) Chapter (9 years)

1st Place - Pontchartrain (LA) Chapter
Musical Cascades - Linking Heart and Soul

2nd Place - North Broward County (FL) Chapter
Empowering Women - Transforming Lives

Legacy Winner - Buckhead-Cascade City (GA) Chapter (20 years)

1st Place - Pontchartrain (LA) Chapter
Links Keep the Music Playing

2nd Place - Fort Valley (GA) Chapter
Project Majestic: Inspiring, Engaging and Stimulating Tomorrow’s Leaders

Legacy Winner - Tallahassee (FL) Chapter (5 years)

Health and Human Services

1st Place - Azalea City (GA) Chapter
Linkages to Life - Organ Donor and Transplantation Awareness

2nd Place - Fort Valley (GA) Chapter
Leadership Development Mentoring Character Education Program and Links Beautification

Legacy Winner - Tallahassee (FL) Chapter (5 years)

1st Place - Pontchartrain (LA) Chapter
Plan for Success: Connecting Our Youth

2nd Place - North Broward County (FL) Chapter
Women of Color Empowerment Conference

Legacy Winner - Buckhead-Cascade City (GA) Chapter (20 years)

1st Place - Pontchartrain (LA) Chapter
Musical Cascades - Linking Heart and Soul

3rd Place - Charlotte (NC) Chapter
Join All Talents in Service (JATIS)

David Bowie: Linking With Haiti: Project Disaster Recovery

3rd Place - Pontchartrain (LA) Chapter
Making the Case, Expect Respect

Leadership Development Mentoring Character Education Program and Links Beautification

The Arts

1st Place - Pontchartrain (LA) Chapter
Musical Cascades - Linking Heart and Soul

2nd Place - Orlando (FL) Chapter
Empowering Women - Transforming Lives

Legacy Winner - Tallahassee (FL) Chapter (5 years)

1st Place - Pontchartrain (LA) Chapter
Links Keep the Music Playing

3rd Place - North Broward County (FL) Chapter
Women of Color Empowerment Conference

Legacy Winner - Buckhead-Cascade City (GA) Chapter (20 years)

1st Place - Pontchartrain (LA) Chapter
Plan for Success: Connecting Our Youth

2nd Place - North Broward County (FL) Chapter
Linkages to Life - Organ Donor and Transplantation Awareness

Legacy Winner - Buckhead-Cascade City (GA) Chapter (20 years)

1st Place - Pontchartrain (LA) Chapter
Musical Cascades - Linking Heart and Soul

3rd Place - Charlotte (NC) Chapter
Join All Talents in Service (JATIS)

Leadership Development Mentoring Character Education Program and Links Beautification

Umbrella Program

1st Place - Mississippi Delta (MS) 
21st Century Community Learning Centers: Young LITES

2nd Place - Pontchartrain (LA) 
Links Reaching New Heights: Rising Stars

Legacy Winner - Tallahassee (FL) Chapter (5 years)

1st Place - Pontchartrain (LA) 
Leadership Development Mentoring Character Education Program and Links Beautification

2nd Place - North Broward County (FL) 
Women of Color Empowerment Conference

Legacy Winner - Buckhead-Cascade City (GA) Chapter (20 years)

1st Place - Pontchartrain (LA) 
Musical Cascades - Linking Heart and Soul

3rd Place - Charlotte (NC) 
Join All Talents in Service (JATIS)
The Montgomery (AL) Chapter of The Links, Incorporated kicked off the 2015-2016 year with an invigorating Strategic Planning and Brand Management Summit. The event was held on Saturday, August 29, 2015 at the Capital City Club atop the RSA Tower overlooking the City of Montgomery. Summit participants wore casual white linen.

Chapter President, Dr. Deborah Thomas, led members in the L.I.N.E.N (Links-Invigorated-Networking-Empowered-Navigating) Event in strategic planning for the upcoming Links’ year. The retreat addressed two major themes: Strategic Planning for service to impact the future of our community and Utilizing Technology and Social Media to assist members in navigating web-based platforms for effective communications among chapter members and for impactful service to the community. The day was fun-filled starting with a continental breakfast, Links inspired bingo game, Mediterranean themed luncheon, as well as prizes and gifts for each member. It was hands down, a very successful event.

As its kickoff of the 2015-2016 year, LeFleur’s Bluff (MS) conducted a Leadership Retreat/Workshop on Saturday, August 22, 2015 at the Hilton Hotel in Jackson, Mississippi. The theme for the event was “Making a Bigger Difference in 2015-2016” with a charge to the membership to do bigger and better things for the community and the greater Metro Jackson area in addition to our adopted Rowan Middle School Girls.

We were honored with a presentation from the National Programs Director, Link Delores Bolden-Stamps, who gave us an update on national programs, and a charge to beef up our efforts with the Program Reporting Process. Also presenting was Link Hope Bynum, VP for Membership, who discussed intake plans and procedures.

After a short break, Facets and other chapter committees participated in roundtable discussions to develop means of engaging every member in all activities in order to enhance the involvement of the Chapter in the Jackson community. It was overall a GREAT DAY!
“Chapter Check-Up: Mind, Body, and Soul” was the theme for The Treasure Coast (FL) Chapter’s planning retreat on Sunday, August 23, 2015. The St. Lucie Trail Golf Club of Port St. Lucie was the inspiring backdrop for an afternoon of training in membership and program alignment, accountability, and accessibility.

Link Anne T. Herriott, the newly elected 19th Southern Area Director and Link Lonneen Brown, Southern Area Treasurer, were special workshop presenters. More than 30 Treasure Coast (FL) Links gathered to plan the chapter’s upcoming charitable and educational programs for the 2015-2016 chapter year.

According to Chapter President, Link Elizabeth Jackson, the Treasure Coast (FL) Chapter’s focus is on delivering transformational programs through education, cultural enrichment, health and wellness, and civic involvement in Indian River, St. Lucie, and Martin Counties.

As they planned for their 2015-2016 programming and friendship activities, the Wilson-Rocky Mount-Tarboro (NC) Chapter of the Links, Incorporated enjoyed a beautiful day on the water. Hosted by Link Terri Anderson, the membership met to engage in friendship, fellowship, and fun at Lake Gaston, NC. After meeting to strategize programming efforts for the upcoming year, WRT members enjoyed a guided boat tour around the lake.

The Emerald City Links of Tuscaloosa (AL) Embrace Service, Accountability, Friendship, and Excellence

Linked in friendship and connected in Service, Tuscaloosa (AL) Links kicked off an exciting year in the Emerald City. Honoring President Pamela Pruitt’s theme, Links Embracing Service, Accountability, Friendship and Excellence; A SAFE Foundation to Make it Happen and Make it Matter, chapter members focused on Service linked to programming-service matters, Accountability linked to membership-accountability matters, Friendship linked to embodiment-friendship matters, and Excellence linked to operational effectiveness and strategic planning. Chapter members collaborated and developed their umbrella programming during the Facets workshop.

Wilson-Rocky Mount-Tarboro (NC) Chapter Retreat

Submitted by Link Eboni J. Baugh
Kudos

The American Cancer Society honored the Wilson-Rocky Mount-Tarboro (NC) Chapter President, Link Jennifer King Congleton, with the Hope Lodge Volunteer of the Year Award. The McConnell-Raab Hope Lodge, located in Greenville, NC, is a facility that houses, at no cost, cancer patients and their families while they are receiving treatment. Link Congleton has devoted countless hours and led many programs encouraging the Wilson-Rocky Mount-Tarboro (NC) (WRT) Chapter members and other members of the community to become involved with the Hope Lodge.

Wilson-Rocky Mount-Tarboro (NC) Chapter President Honored

Greater Miami Chapter Hosts Reception to Honor 19th Southern Area Director, Anne T. Herriott

On Sunday, September 13th, Greater Miami (FL) Chapter hosted a celebratory reception for chapter member and recently installed 19th Southern Area (SA) Director, Anne Turner Herriott. The reception took place in the Hurricane Room at the University of Miami in Coral Gables, Florida. SA Director Anne Turner Herriott was joined by her family including Connecting Link Willie Herriott, her father Mr. Jonas Turner, her sister Mrs. Margaret Hatcher, and brother from Atlanta, Mr. Ron Turner. The reception program included special recognitions by fellow Links chapters: Dade County, Miami-Biscayne Bay, Fort Lauderdale, Orlando, and Bold City. Herriott was also honored with a special presentation on behalf of Congresswoman Frederica S. Wilson’s (Florida District 24 and Greater Miami) and a proclamation declaring “Anne Turner Herriott Day” by Miami-Dade County District 3 Commissioner Audrey M. Edmonson (Miami-Biscayne Bay).

Executive team members present included SA Treasurer Lonneen Brown (Orlando), SA Financial Secretary Renée S. Jones (Greater Miami), and SA Southern Area Technology Chair Melissa K. Adams. The celebratory reception culminated with a very special toast from Mrs. Regina Jollivette Frazier, 9th National President (Greater Miami).

Tuscaloosa (AL) Chapter Recognizes Link Debbie Hughes

Link Debbie Hughes of the Tuscaloosa (AL) Chapter is IBM’s Vice President of Channels and Midmarket for Global Technology Services (GTS) Worldwide. In 2014 and 2015, Link Debbie was honored by Computer Reseller News (CRN) as one of the Women of the Channel who are deserving of recognition for their expertise and vision. The annual list honors outstanding female executives across vendor channel organizations, distributors, solution providers, and other women prominently involved in the IT channel ecosystem for their successes and the far-reaching impact they have on the technology industry and its future. Currently, she leads a team that is working with the business partner community around the world to drive the sale of services including Cloud and Managed Services, Security, Business Resiliency and Consulting Services (BCRS) and Maintenance. Link Debbie has spent the last four years as an executive in GTS Channels and has over 30 years of experience in the information technology industry across hardware, software and services. Over the course of her accomplished career, Link Debbie has filled business development, consulting and sales roles.
The Greater Mobile (AL) Chapter celebrated “The Golden Time of Day: An Evening of Music” with family, friends, and other distinguished guests. The chapter was honored to be joined by National Program Director, Link Delores Bolden Stamps, whose remarks emphasized the scope of our organization and its impact nationally and internationally. Her presence as well as that of Link Caroline Yelding, National Co-Director of Health and Human Services; Link Sarah Moody Thomas, President of Pontchartrain (LA) Chapter; Link Sharon Jones, President of Pensacola (FL) Chapter; Link Mary Woods, Harbor Lites (IL) Chapter; and many Connecting Links and Heir-O-Links, showcased the bond of friendship and support shared by the members.

Triangle Park (NC) Chapter White Rose Luncheon Area Chapters Celebrate

Left to Right: Pamela Jamison, VP membership - Raleigh Chapter; Edwina Thornton, President - Raleigh Chapter; Joyce O’Rourke, VP Programs - Triangle Park Chapter; Caroline Lattimore, President - Triangle Park Chapter; Linda J. Barnes, President - Winston Salem Chapter; Anita Daniels, President - Durham Chapter; Victoria Thornton, VP Membership - Durham Chapter; Yvonne Walton, President - Elizabeth City Chapter
Multi-Chapter Brunch to Nurture Friendship
“What’s in a number?”
Submitted by Link Angela Starks

The number 7 is noted as the numeral for completeness, perfection and wholeness. There are 7 colors in a rainbow, 7 days in a week, 7 seas in the world, and 7 letters that make the word “friends.”

It is in the power of 7 that a Multi-Chapter Friendship Brunch will get underway on October 31st with seven Southern Area chapters: Altamonte Springs, Brevard County, Daytona Beach, St. Petersburg, Bradenton/Sarasota, Tampa and Orlando.

“We are all excited about the event, and the excitement has been contagious,” said Brunch Chairperson, Link Vicki J. Brooks, a member of the Orlando chapter and Chair of the chapter’s Organizational Effectiveness Committee.

A friendship grew among Central Florida chapters, said Brooks, while preparing for the National Assembly held in Orlando in 2012. Since that time, three chapters have met each year for a Friendship Brunch. For 2015, four additional chapters are joining in on the festivities - bringing the total to seven. Next year, more Florida chapters may join in the fun.

The event, just in time for National Friendship Month, will be held at the Country Club at Heathrow in Lake Mary.

Bradenton-Sarasota Links connect with Jamaicans throughout North America
Bradenton-Sarasota Chapter, FL, of The Links is very involved and committed to its comprehensive program to support Watford Hill Primary School in Hanover, Jamaica, WI. Watford Hill is one of the three schools that will be highlighted at the Links Global Initiative January 27-30, 2016 in Jamaica. Chapter member Carolyn Glenn (member of the National ITS Committee) and Connecting Link Earl Glenn, CEO of Unconditional Love for Children, Inc. (ULC) were invited to speak at the inaugural meeting of the North American Past Students Association of Watford Hill School in Queens, NY, August 8, 2015. They applauded the group’s vision and enthusiasm and cited the school’s significant accomplishments since the Links have been involved as well as the critical needs of the school. The alumni pledged unwavering support to the school and cooperation with the Links. More than 120 residents of the US, Canada and Jamaica were present for this organizational meeting, dinner and gala and an additional 100 North American residents have been identified as graduates of Watford Hill and prospective members of the alumni association. Watford alumni members donated instruments to Bradenton-Sarasota Links and Unconditional Love for Children’s project to organize Watford’s first-ever band. The alumni is also planning a community health fair for August, 2016 and presently considering funding specific support requests from the Links and ULC. Several alumni members will attend the Links Global Initiative in January in Jamaica.

The Triangle Park (NC) Chapter

Members with President Caroline L. Lattimore (7th from the right, and left to right); Vice-President of Membership, Deshera Mack; and Vice-President of Programs, Joyce Dawson O’Rourke.
Columbia (SC) Chapter of The Links, Incorporated Inducts Nine New Members

Excitement....Elation....Exhilaration....all describe the atmosphere and anticipation surrounding the May induction of nine new members into the Columbia (SC) Chapter of The Links, Incorporated. The formal induction, held at the Capital City Club in Columbia, South Carolina, included an elegant brunch followed by dancing. Connecting Links, alumna members and special guests joined in welcoming the newest members to Link-dom.

New members with their Connecting Links (COLUMBIA)

Buckhead-Cascade City (GA) Chapter Welcomes 22 New Sisters to Linkdom

Submitted by Link Scarlet Brown

With laser focus on enriching our community, the Buckhead-Cascade (GA) City Chapter aggressively continues to strengthen and fortify our organization with “Sisters” who embrace our mission of service. “A woman who walks in purpose doesn’t have to chase people or opportunities. Her light causes people and opportunities to pursue her.” In pursuit of purpose, love, sisterhood, and continued greatness, we welcomed 22 new sisters to our chapter. As each new member delivered her oath, a renewed sense of commitment and pride permeated throughout the room. An overwhelming warmth confirmed new friendships that will be forever nestled in our souls. All together, we are now fully charged, excited, and energized to fulfill our pledge to serve. The Buckhead Cascade City Chapter is galvanized and well-armed to embody the name LINKS.

Submitted by Link Scarlet Brown

LeFleur’s Bluff (MS) Chapter
Finding the right home for the Southern Area’s records has been a priority. The repository we were looking for had to do much more than just hold our documents. The site also needed to have the capability to professionally catalog, properly archive, and make our history available for study. The Amistad Research Center in New Orleans fits that description and now holds our records.

The Amistad Research Center identifies itself as the nation’s oldest, largest, and most comprehensive independent archive specializing in the history of African Americans and other Ethnic Minorities. It is rooted in the American Missionary Association which founded hundreds of abolitionist churches and schools including many Historically Black Colleges and Universities like Atlanta University, Dillard University, LeMoyne-Owen College, Talladega College, Tougaloo College, Hampton College, Fisk University and others.

ARC holdings include the papers of artists, educators, authors, business leaders, clergy, lawyers, musicians and others. Literary manuscript holdings include letters and original manuscripts from poets and writers from the Harlem Renaissance. Original art works from African and African American artists are on the site. Approximately 250,000 photographs, some dating from the mid-1800s, are also in the collection.

Having such items together is beneficial for those who are interested in studying the history of slavery, race relations, African American community development and the Civil Rights Movement. Placing the records of the Southern Area of the Links, Incorporated with these items ensures that we will be part of the discussion when scholars seek information on those who have contributed to African American culture.

Our initial gift to the ARC is comprised of two boxes of materials including copies of the Southern Area Focus from 1996 to 2006; conference booklets and program reports from 1997-2011; and select Southern Area Executive Committee minutes from 1997-2007. Additionally, individual chapter history books and Southern Area history books were added to the ARC collection. These items will be listed as available for study on the ARC website once they are catalogued. It is hoped that those Links who have records, minutes, conference guides or other information, especially from the 1950s, 1960s, 1970s and 1980s where such items are lacking, would be willing to send originals or copies to help complete our collection.

For more information visit the ARC website at http://www.amistadresearchcenter.org
In The Links, Incorporated, the roles and responsibilities of the Chapter Secretary have been redefined. Due to global efforts to create a paperless society and increase productivity through the use of technology, the secretarial tasks and know-how have evolved significantly. The skills and proficiencies needed by the chapter secretary take her from the “pen and paper format” of old to the computer, the iPad, and the unlimited resources of the ever developing world of e-communications. Her skills should include understanding software; word processing capabilities; inputting and extracting data; and uploading, downloading, and transmitting files/information. The chapter recording secretary’s responsibilities include:

- Recording and managing meeting minutes.
- Updating Necrology information of Links, Connecting Links and Heir-O-Links in the Membership Management System (MMS) within 24 hours of death notification.
- Completing the on-line Chapter profile for each year (updating newly elected officers and facet/committee chairpersons) by April 30th of each year.
- Confirming chapter member’s 1 in 5 information within the MMS.
- Running relevant reports from MMS including: 1 in 5 Membership Reports and Chapter Rosters- providing reports as requested by Chapter President, Vice-President and Corresponding Secretary.

To review the full duties and profile of the Chapter Secretary, please view the toolkit on the National Website: www.linksinc.org – ref: Members Only Section/documents/chapter secretary.
Crown Jewels (NC) Chapter 12th Annual

Charlotte (NC) Chapter Diamond Jubilee

Daytona Beach (FL) November 6, 2015

Save the Date

Greater Miami (FL) Diamond Jubilee

Greater Miami (FL) November 8, 2015
SAVE THE DATE
Jacksonville (FL) Chapter

Executive Committee Directory

April 19th, 2016
Embracing Our Legacy, Fulfilling Our Promise

*Executive Team (Council) Member
+Leadership Board Member
SOUTHERN AREA
EMBRACING OUR LEGACY FULFILLING OUR PROMISE

FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT
WWW.SALINKSINC.ORG

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