

The Honors Journal Of Alpha Beta Gamma

International Business Honor Society of Community, Junior, and Technical Colleges

Canada • United States • Mexico

Fall 2005

Cleaning Up After Katrina

Editor's note: Katrina news from Rebecca Rutz, 9/20/2005.

Things are getting better. Debris is being removed (that's another story and pictures which I'll get to in a few days!). Businesses are opening, not always with full services, but they are opening. People are getting back to work. Insurance checks are coming in, but very slowly. Two of my best friends that lost nearly everything each have already gotten checks to replace their vehicles. Truck loads of supplies are arriving daily.

Many areas are still without power and safe water out of the tap, but food and water are still being distributed very generously. We started classes last Wednesday and students are coming back. In my classes, attendance is running over 50% from pre-Katrina enrollment. At our campus with over 3,000 students, we are down about 250 students. All things considered, that's amazing!

Mississippians are wonderful people. I know I'm not a "native," but I've spent nearly all of my adult life either here in Mississippi or some other part of the south. The news media has really played up the mess in New Orleans,

but we've been quietly and cooperatively going about the work of "cleaning up the mess and getting on with it!" Yes, there is some vandalism and some looting, but not much. What you more often see/hear is people who don't want to take as much as they really need because they want to leave enough for others. Then there are the friends who tell you they "are doing fine" and you find out they've lost everything, even their family

pets! So sad, but most people aren't complaining, they are just thankful to be alive and for all the relief workers that have been here. I've lost track of now many states I've seen fire, rescue, police and ambulances from. We just stop and say "Thanks" whenever we can.

I talked to my friend in Gulfport this afternoon. She had nearly 7 ft. of water in her house,

her husband said there were "white caps" in the living room! But she was upbeat. Both she and her husband have jobs. One of her friends, a local businessman, was recently elected mayor of Gulfport. His business is gone, his wife's business is gone, their home is gone, his parents' home is gone and I don't know what else. I've met and worked with him on some charitable events and he's a really terrific person. I just want to cry (I sometimes do!).

Well, I've rambled on quite awhile - again. Be sure to visit www.gatheringgrove.com, read Trish's commentary and view the pictures. Be sure to have some tissues handy - you are going to need them.

ABG NATIONAL LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE 2006

April 27th -30th

Fiesta Americana Cozumel Dive Resort

Cozumel, Mexico

Details coming soon!

Continued on next page

Continued from front page

Family & Friends - This message is from someone I've known and worked with in community theatre since 1988 (she was a teenager at that time). She has started her own "production company" and we were working on producing her original musical, scheduled to mount Halloween weekend! That won't happen!

But her website at Gathering Grove Productions has her personal commentary and some awesome pictures which she took (unless otherwise credited). I looked at every pic and several I just had to catch my breath and gasp at the destruction.

Note from Patricia:

I have used my website for Gathering Grove Productions to show the pictures I took of the Gulfport/Biloxi area....According to friends in Virginia and North Carolina, word about what has happened in Mississippi is not nearly as prolific as the time and energy the media has sent on covering New Orleans...So for anyone who is interested, here is my attempt at getting the word and pictures out about the devastation of our beautiful Coast. Pictures only tell half the story....Seeing it in person as I drove around and took all these pictures was just painful to my heart.

Go to: www.gatheringgrove.com



Above and Below: Hwy 90 Ocean Springs bridge, Biloxi



Above: Temple Baptist school, Gulfport



Right: Cemetary, Pass Rd, Gulfport

See pages 7, 29, 32 and 33 for more Katrina news!

THE HONORS JOURNAL
of Alpha Beta Gamma

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Note From the Editor

We hope that you enjoy this edition of the Honors Journal. We were pleased that we received submissions from so many of you and look forward to even more participation from all chapters for our Spring edition. Please keep your articles and ideas coming so that the Honors Journal can be truly reflective of all members of Alpha Beta Gamma.

As we approach the holiday season, I am sure that all of you are really busy wrapping up classes, preparing for the holidays, getting your scholarship submissions fine-tuned for the 2006 Leadership Conference, and preparing for chapter award submissions.

Let us all reflect on this past year and not lose sight of the disasters brought on by the hurricanes that struck the Gulf Coast, Florida and parts of Mexico. We can be proud of the contributions made by the members and chapters of Alpha Beta Gamma to help those in need. Let's remember that our fellow ABG members from these areas still are struggling with the aftermath and that all the residents of these areas are still in need of our help.

Hopefully we can look forward to a calmer and more peaceful 2006! I am sure that we are all eagerly awaiting the 2006 Leadership Conference where we can meet and take pleasure in old friends and new--until then, I wish you all a blessed and happy holiday season!

Please email any news and/or information to me at gaye.andersen@davenport.edu for publication in the Spring edition.

ABG RESUME PAPER AVAILABLE

Special resume paper which indicates membership in Alpha Beta Gamma is available from the national organization advisers can request supplies at the adviser home page or fax your requests to Brenda Bogren (914) 785-6481.

2005 Award-winning essays

Throughout this edition of the Honors Journal are the winning essays for the 2005 National Awards and Scholarships competitions. The winning essays and page numbers are as follows:

Professor Rebecca Rutz, Beta Tau Chapter, Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College was awarded the C. George Alvey Distinguished Fellowship Award. Nomination by Bridget Urquidez.
PAGE 5

Marylou Mamrila, Gamma Gamma Chapter, Davenport University, earned the Francis Cunningham Memorial Award for her essay entitled "Ethics In Business".
PAGE 9

Sasha-Lee Daweg, Zeta Chapter, Farmingdale State University, earned the Steve Perri Memorial Essay Award for her essay entitled "The Pros and Cons of Being an Entrepreneur".
PAGE 28

Jennifer Mercier, Beta Omicron Chapter, Northern Essex Community College, earned the Mary Bone Competition Essay Award for her essay entitled "What Alpha Beta Gamma Means to Me".
PAGE 30

Jason Henry, Gamma Chapter, Vincennes University earned the Nathan Ansell Memorial Award for his outstanding business plan.
PAGE 16

Wanda Carr, Kappa Eta Chapter, Martin Community College, earned the Ester Cross Memorial Essay Award for her essay on "Helping Others."
PAGE 21

Sandra McMurtric, Kappa Eta Chapter, Martin Community College, earned the Peter J. Gleason Award for her essay entitled "Business and the Environment, Today and in Ten Years".
PAGE 11

Celia Whitmore, Beta Tau Chapter, Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College, earned the Sophie Abeles Essay Award for her essay entitled "Learning".
PAGE 6

Patricia Caporale, Delta Chapter, Westchester Community College received an award for her proposal which addresses business related research entitled "Breaking the Glass Ceiling."
PAGE 12

2005 Student Officers

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**Giovanna Castillo, Charlene Eckols,
Jason Erar**

Nomination of Rebecca Rutz

by Bridget Urquidez

To Whom It May Concern:

My Name is Bridget Urquidez and I am the current Secretary for Beta Tau Chapter in Gautier, MS. I would like to nominate Rebecca Rutz for the Prof. C. George Alvey Distinguished Fellowship award. It would be a great honor to bestow on Mrs. Rutz. With all of her hard work, she is worthy of this award.

My fellow Beta Tau members and I have seen Mrs. Rutz hold her head high and keep up the pace, with a smile on her face, through a death in her family, a wedding, theft in her office and other various trips and events not related to Alpha Beta Gamma. As far as I am concerned, she has never faltered.

She has been a true ABG member, even when our chapter was not doing the best in the world. Mrs. Rutz kept things going even when it was only two or three of us working. There have been very few times that I have been in her office to find her doing nothing. This shows how highly motivated she is. She also does a tremendous job at keep this chapter going. We have gone from ten to thirteen initiates to over twenty. That says something about her. Yes, student members also play a big roll in that as well, but it would not have

happened without the hard work that she does. How honored Mrs. Rutz would be to receive this award.

Mrs. Rutz uses her tremendous teaching skills on and off the job. She allows students to express their creativity and does not cut them off at the knees when it comes to objectivity. There have been several times that she has taught us helpful skills that we can use later on after school and during. Now, for instance, we know how to follow Parliamentary Procedures. We know how to conduct ourselves in different environments. In addition, we know how to relax and have some fun too.

With Mrs. Rutz, Alpha Beta Gamma is not all about business. Thanks to her, we have helped the community in many different ways. We also have plans the help more with our community.

If I had to sum up Mrs. Rebecca Rutz in a few words, I would have to say she is a hard working, determined, smart, and caring individual.



Christmas Carol Quiz

Which popular Christmas carols are described below?

1. Sir Lancelot with severe laryngitis
2. Boulder of the tinkling metal spheres
3. Vehicular homicide was committed on Dad's mom by a precipitous darling
4. Wanted in late December: top forward incisors
5. The apartment of two psychiatrists
6. The lad is a diminutive percussionist
7. I exclaim, a member of the round table with missing areas
8. Decorate the entryways
9. Cup-shaped instruments fashioned of a whitish metallic element
10. Oh small Israel urban center



Answers on next page!

Learning

By Celia Whitmore

Learning is a growing process, never stopping until your life is over. A person experiences life and learns new ideas daily. There have been obstacles in my path, but I am proud to be a non-traditional student. I am continuing to learn and grow as I pursue my education.

Three years ago, I survived a serious fall. My neurologist informed me I had suffered a head injury causing brain damage and attempting to return to school was out of the question. Learning to write again was an adventure since I had fractured my right wrist and elbow in this same accident. During my first semester, I suffered a second fall and almost lost my right leg. Between these accidents and starting my first semester in years, returning to school has been eventful. I managed, learning to deal with the set back and the pain one day at a time.

I was determined to pursue my education and, with the help and understanding of the college, I triumphantly returned in the spring. So many wonderful people, friends and faculty alike, have taught me to believe in myself and in my dreams. I had forgotten how to do this after a tumultuous first marriage, life as a single mom before remarrying, and the physical and mental set backs. I learned to set my goals and, that by taking one day at a time, my goals are always reachable. This has been a wonderful lesson and such a source of inspiration. When I learned I had been accepted into the Honors Program, it was as if I had received an unforeseen miracle.

There is no greater joy than to be the mother of my three wonderful boys. We are learning and growing together daily; indeed, one of my sons is also a student at the college. I never imagined we would be perusing our dreams and ambitions together—it has brought us closer. I often bring my younger two along on various college activities and firmly believe that, because they have seen me determinedly striving for an education, they will always value their own schooling. This has become such a family affair. After thirty years out of school, my husband has decided to continue his education along with us! My entire family is growing toward a brighter tomorrow due to the wonderful opportunities learning is giving us.

My marriage has strengthened because of the educational experiences my husband and I are sharing. There is a joy in discussing our studies together. We have taken various courses at the same time and have delighted in long conversations. As we have signed up for a course together, I am sure this endeavor will be quite a learning and growing experience.

Learning and growing as a student, mother, wife, and friend to my fellow students has proven to be a fun, exciting challenge that I love. I hope to continue learning and remembering there is nothing I cannot overcome with the help of loved ones.

Answers to Christmas Carol Quiz, page 5

1. Silent Night
2. Jingle Bell Rock
3. Grandma Got Run Over by a Reindeer
4. All I Want for Christmas is my Two Front Teeth
5. Nutcracker Suite
6. The Little Drummer Boy
7. Oh, Holy Night
8. Deck the Halls
9. Silver Bells
10. O Little Town of Bethlehem



As a Community College in Mississippi Digs Out, Staffers and Students Look to a Difficult Future

By Sara Hebel

Perkinston, Miss.

Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College's administrators, employees, and students are beginning to pick up the debris of their campuses, homes, and lives after Hurricane Katrina plowed through this state just over a week ago.

Classes are scheduled to resume on Monday, exactly two weeks after the storm came ashore, at the four campuses of Mississippi's largest community college, which had enrolled about 10,500 students for this fall.

The institution's campus here, 30 miles north of the coast, and its Gulfport campus, near the beaches hardest hit, suffered heavy structural and water damage, totaling an estimated \$15-million. Crews from a disaster-recovery company in Texas that the college hired two days after the hurricane hit are at work, tearing out waterlogged carpets and ceiling tiles, repairing roofs, and chain-sawing tree limbs.

Administrators said they would not be surprised to lose a couple of thousand students. They have already transferred some students who are temporarily living elsewhere to online courses for the fall.

If enrollments do drop, the loss of tuition and fees — revenue that makes up more than one-third of the college's \$70-million budget — would be one financial hit among many the college expects to suffer. Another blow will come in the form of reduced support from state and county budgets, which are likely to be deprived of revenue from the damaged economy here and focused on a host of other needs.

State revenue from gambling taxes, as well as funds from individual income taxes and sales taxes, are expected to plummet. In later months, a construction boom might help soften the blow, state officials say.

Mississippi Gulf Coast's president, Willis H. Lott, said the college has insurance to cover the total replacement of buildings at a rate of \$80 per square foot. The cost of repairing and replacing damaged structures, though, is now estimated to be closer to \$140 a square foot. He estimates that the rate will rise with the costs of steel, cement, and fuel, which have

been scarce here since the hurricane.

The college will have to use some of its reserve funds to cover the costs, Mr. Lott said. He is seeking help from the Federal Emergency Management Agency, from which he has also requested 150 units of temporary housing for his homeless employees. He also has assigned staff members to look for matching-grant programs that may be available from government and private sources. Offers to help have poured in from colleges across the country.

Repairing bricks and mortar isn't going to be the hard part, though, campus administrators say. The real challenge will be to help people restore order to their lives, and colleges like theirs are essential, they believe, in helping Mississippi's Gulf Coast region meet that challenge.

"Community colleges are so important to a community that's trying to pick up the pieces," said Colleen Hartfield, the college's vice president for institutional relations.

She believes two-year institutions like hers are especially critical in a state like Mississippi, which has a large proportion of low-income families and where 70 percent of all college freshmen start their postsecondary education at a community college.

With the hurricane destroying about 16,000 jobs at casinos and countless other positions in businesses along the Gulf of Mexico and inland, community colleges can help train workers for new careers and help people who have nothing left to begin making progress toward something, she said. Among other things, the college decided this week that it would add some short, nine-week courses this fall that students could take to get job training in certain areas, perhaps in construction, that would be in demand.

Going back to work also can help restore structure to college employees' lives — something Ms. Hartfield knows from firsthand experience. A pine tree split her family's home here in half, she said, and the routine of work has been comforting.

Continued on next page

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Administrators estimate that as many as 150 of the college's 800 full-time employees have lost their homes. There is widespread concern that some of the 200 faculty and staff members who did not report to campus meetings on Tuesday may have died.

At the college's Jefferson Davis campus, in Gulfport, which is about a mile and a half north of the beach where some of the worst destruction occurred, only 84 of 200 employees showed up for Tuesday's meeting. So far college officials know of 31 full-time employees on that campus who have lost everything. One staff member who lost her home has been sleeping in her car.

A computer technician who lives in Pass Christian, Miss., has the only house standing in his neighborhood. Even though he has no running water, he has taken in many neighbors and even has people living in his horse trailer. On Tuesday, the technician was on the Gulfport campus, helping to restore the college's e-mail service.

On Wednesday, Trudi P. Mullins, the college's graphics-services manager, made it back to work here in Perkinston after spending the previous four and a half days trying to salvage what was left of her single-level home in Gulfport. The hurricane's storm surge pushed sewage-laden water as high as five feet in some parts of her house. Her car was completely submerged. She saved 10 percent, at best, of her belongings, she said, lugging them out of her home in a wheelbarrow.

But Ms. Mullins said she feels lucky because she is alive, has a place to live (with her brother, whose home nearby survived), and is back at work.

"This is your first step going back toward routine," Ms. Mullins said. "My brain and my heart were exhausted with going through just this constant waste of everything you've built in your life."

The day before, Janae Johnson, a freshman at the campus here, the college's only residential branch, pulled up to her dormitory to see what she could salvage.

Ms. Johnson's family home, in Pass Christian, is gone, wiped out in the storm, and she had come to collect more clothes and to check out what belong-

ings she had left. In her room, she found her SpongeBob Squarepants pillow, her laptop, framed photographs of herself with friends, some compact discs, a bottle of Louisiana hot sauce, and more clothes than she had remembered. Those are now all her possessions.

Ms. Johnson, who wants to major in journalism, said she looked forward to resuming college. The students had taken one week of classes here before being evacuated.

"Maybe it will take my mind off a lot of the things that have been destroyed," Ms. Johnson said. She has not visited where her family's house once stood, and said she would not go

back: "I might cry."

The community college is setting up a fund to help students and employees who have been affected by the hurricane. The institution is also seeking ways to help the community more broadly. In the days since the storm, the campus here has housed law-enforcement officers, power-company crews, and rescue workers. After the college's computer labs reopen, officials plan to hold sessions where people can learn how to file insurance claims.

When classes resume next week, campus officials are not sure how many faculty members or students to expect. Some employees may not be able, or may not want, to return to work. In addition to those whose homes are damaged, employees who are parents will have a hard time finding child care as long as the public schools in the area remain closed.

Cheryl Thompson-Stacy, the college's vice president for academic instruction and student affairs, said she had fielded offers from professors elsewhere in the country who have offered to teach courses online, to fill in gaps if some faculty members cannot return for the fall semester. She may accept some of those offers, she said.

Getting back to some semblance of normal is simply going to take a lot of flexibility from everyone at the college, Mary S. Graham, vice president for the campus here, said in remarks to faculty and staff members who gathered on Tuesday.

"You may have a Ph.D.," she said, "but we may need you to mop the floor this week."

"You may have a Ph.D.," she said, "but we may need you to mop the floor this week."

Ethics in Business

by Marylou Mamrila

Ethics and social responsibility of business that yields good behavior will soon be one of the same. If there is not plausible distinction between ethics and business, then who will pay the price?

In the late 70's and 80's, the dominant trend was preserving our environment, the "Green Wave." Why? Possibly, because businesses have become powerful enough for the public to realize that they are dominant in giving back what was stolen from nature.

In the year 2000 and beyond, it will be the ethical leadership wave. Why? Because the public now realizes how powerful businesses are. Corporate behavior affects the lives of its stakeholders. If corporations affect these stakeholders' lives merely in search of profit, the effect is not always positive and it will create resentment. Because business is powerful, people expect it to be socially responsible for what it does. This is something new in the world of business. It goes beyond the "shareholder value is all there is," philosophy, and the "profit and growth is the sole objective", concept.

Will companies become the moral leaders of tomorrow's society? Hardly! However, they will have to become conscious of the morality of their actions if they want to secure good relations with their customers, clients, suppliers, and not to exclude the political leadership and/or the general public. Haunting ethical actions will result in good relationships and will be the basic instrument for stakeholder's confidence and the market share. Big businesses that deal with people directly are recognizing this already, but small busi-

nesses and internet are not, although it would be to their best interest to wake up to this emerging fact of the business.

Behavior that satisfies standards is ethical, but to block or hamper it is not. Specific behaviors are not determined by any standards. These needs appear to be developed in light of concrete circumstances. Each company needs to write its own code of ethics, that is appropriate to its own business circumstances, its market share, and its particular geographic—cultural locations. Nevertheless, such a company code must have a universally valid core—the set of basic ethical standards to which the company is committed.

Writing the company's code of ethics is up to the companies themselves. It is encouraging to note that an increasing number of global players are undertaking an ethical code not just from motives of self-interest, but the experience of a "sense of discomfort" when confronted with ethically questionable actions.

As a rule, business ethics confuses a general standard with an explicit directive for action. This, however, is like confusing the general standard of the Ten Commandments with a directive to do x or y in a concrete instance. Ethical norms are abstract principles, not blueprints to adhere to in any and all circumstances. Such principles are necessary, still, and in today's environment are even essential. This is conceivably illustrated with the following three ethical principles.

Continued on next page



Principal One:

The Responsibility of Businesses—Beyond Shareholders toward Stakeholders.

The value of a business to society is the wealth and employment it creates and the marketable products and services it provides to consumers at a reasonable price in respect to quality. To create such value, a business must maintain its own economic health and viability, but survival is not a sufficient goal. Businesses have a role to play in improving the lives of all their customers, employees, and shareholders by sharing with them the wealth they have created. Suppliers and competitors as well should expect businesses to honor their obligations in a spirit of honesty and fairness as responsible citizens of the local, national, regional, and global communities in which they operate. Besides, businesses share a part in shaping the future of those communities.

Principle Two:

The Economic and Social Impact of Business.

This introduces an interesting matter that was not present in the profit—and—growth and shareholder philosophy concept. Beyond innovation, justice, and the world community, businesses established in foreign countries need to develop, produce, and/or sell as well as contribute to the social advancements. That is, by creating productive employment and helping to raise the purchasing power of their citizens. Businesses also should contribute to human rights, education, welfare, and vitalization of the countries in which they operate. Businesses should contribute to economic and social development not only in the countries in which they operate, but also in the world community at large, through effective and prudent use of resources, free, and fair competition, and emphasis upon innovation in technology, production methods, marketing, and communications.

“Ethics is a matter of commitment, and not an opportunistic tactic dictated by considerations of expediency.”

Principle Three:

In determining medium-to-long-term corporate strategies, consider the developmental dynamic of the systems that underlie the operating environment. This goes beyond Principle 2, for it introduces a longer-term foresight factor into company operations. Avoiding tensions and stresses and averting crises and breakdown is vital in the short-term, but it does not necessarily serve the business in the medium-to-long-term. What is good today may well be disastrous tomorrow. What is good tomorrow, however, is not an arbitrary decision, but a condition in which the company “goes with the stream.” Human communities, the same as natural ecologies, have a developmental dynamic of their own. Anticipating it within the corporate planning horizon is in the company’s best interest. The price of neglect can be high. It can include the polarization of society, the dilemma of urban and rural poor, the environmental pollution, the overuse of natural resources, and inappropriate technologies.

Suppose that a company recognizes that it is in its own best interest to act ethically. How can it tell what is ethical? What is the applicable ethical standard?

It is encouraging that ethics and social responsibilities are becoming big business which yields good behavior, resulting in higher income and a better working environment for all. Now is the time that the boardrooms of corporations become sensitized to ethical issues. The next step is to help managers come to the realization that there is a common core to the business of business ethics, a core that can be operationally specified to apply to individual companies and individual cases. This realization will open the door to concrete steps to apply these ethical standards in ways that serve the shared interest of stakeholders.

Upholding the common core of ethical standards with a visible commitment is what will distinguish true ethical leadership. Ethics is a matter of commitment, and not an opportunistic tactic dictated by considerations of expediency. For those that careen from one ethics’ crisis to the next may be accepted by a few, or some of the people part of the time, but they will not prove themselves ethical to all of the people forever. By headlining these ethical behaviors now, someone will not have to pay the price later.

Business and the Environment, Now and in Ten Years

by Sandra McMurtie

Our government has had a lot do with how businesses deal with the environment. They passed the Clean Air Act and have initiated several other laws to help keep businesses in line when dealing with the environment. Several states have issued mandates, that car emissions will have to be lower in the next couple of years. Several of our rivers are cleaner now than they were several years ago.

“We in Government have begun to recognize the critical work which must be done at all levels - local, State, and Federal - in ending the pollution of our waters,” stated Robert E. Kennedy. It is hard to imagine when talking about protecting our environment that we have been doing so for over forty plus years. Great steps have been made towards improving our way of life by improving our air, water, and land.

The average person breathes in about 20,000 liters of air a day. There are many causes of air pollution such as nitrogen oxides, carbon monoxides, and organic compounds which evaporate and enter the atmosphere. The biggest causes are the operation of fossil-fuel burning power plants and automobiles. These two sources combine for over 90% of all air pollution in the United States alone. There are two ways to control air pollution, one is input control and the other is output control. There are several input controls in place already and there are as follows: population growth, use less energy, improve energy efficiency, reduce waste and move to non-polluting renewable forms of energy production.

The Clean Air Act of the 70's has been amended several times. The last time was in 1990, so it would address acid rain, toxic pollutants, and ozone layer depletion. Under the act, massive decreases in gas emissions were mandated in order to control acid rain, and other air pollutants. This act has been a success and has contributed to making our air become less toxic for us to breathe.

The need to recycle is something all of us need to do. Our landfills are filling up faster than we can open new ones. McDonalds started a recycling program called McRecycle. They recycle materials in all

their restaurants and only buy products that are made from recyclable materials. They have replaced their Styrofoam packages with ones made out of paper. Several other companies have started to find ways to recycle and work for the good of the environment.

I wonder if the damage that has been done can be undone or can we just make sure it doesn't get any worse. Global warming is taking place because we have hurt the ozone layer. Now there are laws to help stop this but are we too late. We are inventing new ways to make our life easier but at what cost. I feel the United States is very persistent in making the environment better and not making it worse; but what about all the other countries. We import more goods from overseas than we ever have, do we know what these countries are doing to protect the environment.

In ten years, I think we will still be striving to improve our environment. Hopefully, we won't still be cutting down the rainforests, sending emissions into the air that will cause acid rain, or hurting the ozone layer.

I think protecting the environment for further generations is up to all of us. We need to require everyone not just businesses to recycle. We need to find more ways to make products cheaper out of recycled materials. But this takes an effort of everyone on earth not just the businesses.

Yes, the businesses need to produce products in more resourceful ways and in ways that help and not hurt the land, sea, and air around them. I feel for the most part we are heading in the right direction. Our environment will never be as pristine as it was when we first acquired this land.

If the leaders in our government don't get soft on us and reverse the laws that are in place to protect the land, air, and waters then we will be better off in ten years than we are now. But unfortunately, there are several people running for office or who are in office that doesn't care about the environment and preserving it. These people can upset and ruin all the advances we have made if they start lessening the



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Breaking the Glass Ceiling

by Patricia Caporale

The Webster's Deluxe Unabridged Dictionary defines glass as a substance that is transparent or translucent. A ceiling is term used to identify the covering of a room opposite a floor and an upper limit. These definitions could explain how in 1986 two Wall Street Journal reporters coined the phrase "The Glass Ceiling" to describe the invisible, but virtually impenetrable barrier between women and the executive suite (Successful 1). The phrase immediately captured the attention of the public as well as business leaders, journalists and policy makers. The expression has come to signify the impediments that prevent women from reaching the highest levels of the corporate world regardless of their accomplishments and merits (A New Look).

In their article *A Special Report on The Corporate Woman*, the authors Carol Hymowitz and Timothy Schellhardt, described a corporate world in which access to the top was blocked for women by corporate tradition and prejudice. They wrote, "the executive suite seemed within the grasp of high level corporate women but, they just couldn't break through the top" (Successful 2). Since then, a great number of articles, books, dissertations, speeches, business conferences and the Federal Glass Ceiling Commission have been generated to discuss this issue. It was found that the large majority of women cite several barriers to women's advancement, whereas most men cite only women's commitment to family or lack of experience as barriers. Despite the amount of research that has been dedicated to this matter, the Glass Ceiling still exists nearly three decades after this article first appeared.

Among the reasons cited for the existence of the Glass Ceiling were the beliefs that women are too easily diverted from their careers by family considerations, stereotypes about women's ability to function in the tough, competitive world of business and a caste system that relegates women to roles peripheral to core business activity. The biggest obstacle for women summarized in one phrase, "Men at the top feel uncomfortable beside them" (Successful 2).

It is important for one to understand the differences in communication styles between the genders

in order to realize the implications for the progress of female executives in corporate America. Men and women tend to approach certain tasks differently resulting in variations in the way they communicate, lead, deal with stress, view job satisfaction, and use power and influence. Women tend to use a more democratic and supportive communication style than men, making women appear less assertive than their male counterparts. For example, men initiate more interaction than do women while women are more likely to be interrupted, and to allow interruption than men. Additionally, women take less time to ask a question, and are less likely to ask multiple questions.

The seeds of these contrasting styles are sown in childhood. Girls learn, from their peers as well as from adults, don't boast, don't put yourself forward; downplay your achievements so you will be liked. Women are often also deemed to be less confident than they really are because of their automatic ways of speaking. When a woman says, "I'm sorry" as a conversational flow or because they are sorry something happened they are taken literally and told, "Don't apologize, it's not your fault". The conclusion; they are so under-confident that they think everything is their fault. If women speak in ways expected of men they are seen as too aggressive. Damned if you do, damned if you don't (Tannen). In informal meetings, women excel building ideas and working as a team. Women listen to gain understanding of a speaker's experience while men listen to solve problems. These differences have at times caused organizations to misunderstand women's styles of communication confusing it to be subordinate to male styles, slowing the advancement of capable women up the corporate ladder while less capable males advanced at a faster pace.

Stereotypes can be absorbed and become the beliefs upon which we act. They can result from faulty or narrow interactions that lead to generalizing from the particular. These misconceptions become embedded in our minds and prompt of us to think differently; such as that a female executive is less able to do the job (A Solid 28). CEO's are guilty of this bias. They admit that traditional stereotypes of women have in-

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fluenced managers to move women to staff rather than to the jobs that directly relate to a company's profitability and lead to the positions above the glass ceiling (Good 144). The rationale for this decision is that women are not as committed as men to their careers, not tough enough, unwilling or unable to work long or unusual hours, are unwilling or unable to relocate, unwilling or unable to make decisions, are too emotional, are not sufficiently aggressive/too aggressive, too passive and/or lacking quantitative skills (Good 148).

Less than 1% of CEO's see the development of high potential women as a priority.

Highly educated and/or experienced women have been known to disproportionately cluster in "white collar ghettos" or the bottom tiers of management and lowest paying industries (Velasquez 1). Without access to centering, developmental assignments, training and other career enhancing activities in the managerial pipeline, too many qualified people are stopped short, before they fulfill the promise of their abilities (Redwood 6). Declared one manager, "It's always going to be tough to figure out how to treat the women, but now it's worse and I'd rather not be in a restoring relationship with them." (Good 28). Mentoring is a critical factor in career advancement due to its function as a means of networking, socializing and forming ties with influential corporate leaders (Redwood 7). The corporate climate can alienate and isolate.

Many men don't like the competition and they don't like the tension of women functioning as their peers. Men contend they are losing - losing the corporate game, losing control and losing opportunity. They consider women a direct threat to their own chances for advancement and are losing the competitive advantage. "Off the Record" an unpublished manuscript quotes, "This man/woman thing is always going to be a problem. If you build a relationship with a woman people always assume that it is personal." (Good 28) or "If they are in, there's less of a chance for me. Why would I want a bigger pool? Men can only lose in this game. I'm endangered" (Good 31). Many companies fail to advertise widely for hiring and promotional opportunities and rely excessively on informal networks of recruitment or word-of-mouth recruiting (Payton 2). Be it modes of dress, modes of communication or modes of socializing many women felt that the corporate climate selected them out of

advancement.

The government's role was to collect and combine employment related data and assure compliance. But, it did little to provide the information in useful forms to the public who were most interested and needed to know what was happening. Historically, if affirmative action programs are to be effective, government monitoring and sanctions are required. When the threat of enforcement is not real, the program ceases to have any positive effects on minority and female employment (Good 30). There needs to be vigorous and consistent monitoring and enforcement of laws and policies already on the books (Redwood 5).

Title II of the Civil Rights Act of 1991 created the Federal Glass Ceiling Commission. This commission consisted of twenty-one members appointed by President George Bush and was chaired by the Secretary of Labor. Their mandate was to identify the barriers that blocked the advancement of women and minorities from achieving top-level management positions (A Solid 4). The commission needed to study the manner in which businesses filled management and decision-making positions, the developmental and skill-enhancing practices used to foster the necessary qualifications for advancement to such positions, and the compensation programs and reward structures currently utilized in the workplace (Moody 61). The Commission gathered information on barriers, opportunities, policies, perceptions and practices as they affected the groups that historically had been underrepresented in private sector top-level management. They undertook extensive research and information gathering efforts including public hearings, surveys and interviews. The work culminated in the spring of 1995 when they issued their recommendations for eliminating these hindrances with the release of their report, "*Good for Business: Making Full Use of the Nation's Human Capital*" (A Solid 9).

This report provided the first overview of the glass ceiling. It included statistics on the status of women in corporations, an explanation of the barriers in corporate culture and the work environment that impeded the development and advancement of women and a summary of corporate initiatives that have proven successful in breaking the glass ceiling in an array of companies. The report contained recommendations

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Transferring - Which School is Right For You?

Members of the Accreditation Council (AACSB)

(Only Schools with at least Bachelors, no MBA only schools)

The American Assembly of Collegiate Schools of Business, an organization of institutions devoted to higher education for business administrations and management, was formally established in 1916. The membership of the Assembly has grown to encompass not only educational institutions but business, government, and professional organizations as well, all seeking to improve and promote higher education for business and working to solve problems of mutual concern.

University of Akron	College of William and Mary	Kansas State University
University of Alabama	University of Colorado at Boulder	Kennesaw State College
University of Alabama at Birmingham	University of Colorado at Colorado Springs	Kent State University
University of Alabama in Huntsville	University of Colorado at Denver	University of Kentucky
University of Alaska Anchorage	Colorado State University	Lamar University
University of Alaska Fairbanks	University of Connecticut	La Salle University
University of Albany	Creighton University	Universit�e Laval
University of Alberta	University of Dayton	Lehigh University
Alfred University	University of Delaware	Louisiana State University
The American University	University of Denver	Louisiana State University in Shreveport
Appalachian State University	DePaul University	Louisiana Tech University
University of Arizona	University of Detroit Mercy	University of Louisville
Arizona State University	Drake University	Loyola University
Arizona State University West	Drexel University	Loyola University Chicago
University of Arkansas	Duquesne University	Loyola College in Maryland
University of Arkansas at Little Rock	East Carolina University	Loyola Marymount University
Arkansas State University	East Tennessee State University	University of Maine
Auburn University	East Texas State University	Marquette University
Auburn University at Montgomery	Eastern Illinois University	University of Maryland
Babson College	Eastern Michigan University	University of Massachusetts Amherst
Ball State University	Eastern Washington University	University of Massachusetts Lowell
University of Baltimore	Emory University	Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Baruch College	University of Florida	McNeese State University
Baylor University	Florida Atlantic University	The University of Memphis
Bentley College	Florida International University	University of Miami
Binghamton University	Florida State University	Miami University
Boise State University	Fordham University	The University of Michigan
Boston College	Fort Lewis College	The University of Michigan – Flint
Boston University	Francis Marion University	Michigan State University
Bowling Green State University	George Mason University	Middle Tennessee State University
Bradley University	George Washington University	Millsaps College
Brigham Young University	Georgetown University	University of Minnesota
Bryant College	University of Georgia	University of Mississippi
The University of Calgary	Georgia Institute of Technology	Mississippi State University
University of California at Berkeley	Georgia Southern University	University of Missouri – Columbia
California Poly. State Univ., San Luis Obispo	Georgia State University	University of Missouri – Kansas City
California State Polytechnic University, Pomona	Gonzaga University	University of Missouri – St. Louis
California State University, Bakersfield	University of Hawaii	University of Montana
California State University, Chico	Hofstra University	Montana State University
California State University, Fresno	University of Houston	University of Montevallo
California State University, Fullerton	University of Houston – Clear lake	Murray State University
California State University, Hayward	University of Houston – Downtown	University of Nebraska – Lincoln
California State University, Long Beach	Howard University	University of Nebraska at Omaha
California State University, Los Angeles	University of Idaho	University of Nevada, Las Vegas
California State University, Northridge	Idaho State University	University of Nevada, Reno
California State University, Sacramento	University of Illinois at Chicago	University of New Hampshire
California State University, San Bernardino	University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign	University of New Mexico
Canisius College	Illinois State University	New Mexico State University
Carnegie Mellon University	Indiana State University	University of New Orleans
Case Western Reserve University	Indiana University	New York University – Stern
University of Central Arkansas	Indiana University-Northwest	Nicholls State University
University of Central Florida	Indiana University – Purdue	Norfolk State University
Central Michigan University	Indiana University at South Bend	The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
Central Missouri State University	Indiana University Southeast	The University of North Carolina at Charlotte
University of Cincinnati	University of Iowa	University of North Carolina at Greensboro
Clark University	Iowa State University	University of North Carolina at Wilmington
Clark Atlanta University	Jackson State University	North Carolina State University
Clarkson University	James Madison University	University of North Dakota
Clemson University	John Carroll University	University of North Florida
Cleveland State University	University of Kansas	University of North Texas
College of Charleston		

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Transferring?

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Northeast Louisiana University	San Diego State University	University of Toledo
Northeastern University	University of San Francisco	Towson State University
Northern Arizona University	San Francisco State University	Tulane University
University of Northern Colorado	San Jose State University	University of Tulsa
Northern Illinois University	Santa Clara University	University of The Pacific
University of Northern Iowa	Seattle University	University of Utah
University of Notre Dame	Seton Hall University	Utah State University
Oakland University	Shippensburg University	Valdosta State University
The Ohio State University	University of South Alabama	Valparaiso University
Ohio University	University of South Carolina	University of Vermont
The University of Oklahoma	University of South Dakota	Villanova University
Oklahoma State University	University of South Florida	University of Virginia – McIntire
Old Dominion University	Southeastern Louisiana University	Virginia Commonwealth University
University of Oregon	University of Southern California	Virginia Polytechnic Institute
Oregon State University	Southern Illinois University at Carbondale	Wake Forest University – Wayne Calloway
Pace University	Southern Illinois University at Edwardsville	University of Washington
Pacific Lutheran University	Southern Methodist University	Washington University
University of Pennsylvania – Wharton	University of Southern Mississippi	Washington & Lee University
The Pennsylvania State University	Southwest Missouri State University	Washington State University
University of Pittsburgh	SUNY Buffalo	Wayne State University
University of Portland	Stephen F. Austin State University	Werber State University
Portland State University	Suffolk University	University of West Florida
Purdue University	Susquehanna University	West Georgia College
Radford University	Syracuse University	West Virginia University
Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute	Temple University	Western Carolina University
The University of Rhode Island	The University of Tennessee at Chattanooga	Western Illinois University
University of Richmond	The University of Tennessee at Knoxville	Western Kentucky University
Rider University	The University of Tennessee at Martin	Western Michigan University
University of Rochester	Tennessee State University	Western Washington University
Rochester Institute of Technology	Tennessee Technological University	Wichita State University
Rollins College	The University of Texas at Arlington	Winthrop University
Rutgers University – Camden	The University of Texas at Austin	University of Wisconsin – Eau Claire
Rutgers University – New Brunswick	The University of Texas at El Paso	University of Wisconsin – La Crosse
Rutgers University – Newark	The University of Texas at Pan American	University of Wisconsin – Madison
Saint Cloud State University	The University of Texas at San Antonio	University of Wisconsin – Milwaukee
St. John’s University	Texas A&M University	University of Wisconsin – Oshkosh
Saint Louis University	Texas Christian University	University of Wisconsin – Whitewater
Salisbury State University	Texas Tech University	Wright State University
University of San Diego		University of Wyoming
		Xavier University

Eligible Disciplines

of Alpha Beta Gamma International Business Honor Society

Accounting	Computer Programming	Industrial Relations	Range Management
Advertising	Conservation & Regulation	Investments & Securities	Recreational Management
Agricultural Business	Culinary Management	Legal Secretary	Restaurant Management
Arts Management	Dairy Management	Management Information Systems	Secretarial Science
Aviation Management	Data Processing	Management Science	Small Business Management
Banking	Environmental Design	Market Research	Systems Analyst
Broadcasting, Radio, TV	Economics	Marketing Management	Textile Engineering
Business Administration	Entrepreneurship	Medical Secretary	Theatre Management
Business Economics	Fashion	Mortuary Science	Trade Management
Business Journalism	Fashion Merchandising	Office Technologies	Transportation Management
Business Management	Finance	Operations Research	Travel & Tourism
Business Statistics	Graphic Design Technology	Paralegal	Wildlife Management
Casino Management	Hotel Management	Personnel Administration	Word Processing
Communications	Human Resource Management	Postal Services Management	
Communication Technology	Industrial Management	Public Administration	
Computer Information Systems	International Business	Public Relations	
	International Public Relations		

Business Plan: J's Computer Repair

By Jason Henry

Due to the length of this award-winning essay, we are unable to present the business plan for J's Computer Repair in its entirety. The following sections were selected to give a brief overview of this comprehensive project. See the table of contents (listed below) for more details regarding the depth of the complete plan.

Statement of Purpose

The investment capital required for starting your own in-house computer repair company is minimal. The opening investment that will be needed will be around \$10,000 - \$15,000 to be fully prepared. This investment will cover start-up expenses such as tools, first month's rent, test equipment, and operating expenses for the first 6 months. Venture capital will be provided by two parties, Jason Henry, the owner, will put up a cash loan of \$5,000 the remaining \$5,000 as needed will be provided from a small business loan from the Small Business Agency or a local bank. This loan will be repaid inside of three years.

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I. The Business and Our Purpose

The purpose of our company is to provide a hassle free experience for the customer. We will charge a flat fee for any computer repair; this will separate us from all other companies. The average computer repair firm charges an hourly rate for any repair. We will charge a flat rate per computer. This will be our focal selling point, that and the desire to please the customer. Customer service will always be our number one concern. "Look after the customer, and the business will take care of itself." - Ray Kroc. By using strategic marketing methods, as well as hard work we will accomplish our goals.

– The goal of our company is to provide comfortable living for the people involved, i.e. Jason Henry.

– The mission here at J's is to fix any problem in a timely, orderly, and caring fashion.

– The keys to success are hard work, team work, dedication, motivation, advertising, and networking.

– Our primary services will involve solving hardware and software problems, as well as building computers to the customer's specifications.

– The most beneficial location is a small suburb of a large city. Preferably a town where the average income is over \$40,000. With this in mind we feel that this project has distinct possibilities for success.

In detail with all the aforementioned keys to success, this business venture will succeed and provide us with a comfortable lifestyle in a job market we enjoy. As shown below if we can maintain a steady cus-

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tomer base of 53 we can cover all operating costs as well as provide adequate wages for us.

II. Objectives

The objectives of our plan are:

1. Provide a guide for day to day operations, future forecasting, problems that may arise, and develop a superior marketing plan.

2. The audience of this plan is not primarily the lenders of funds; but us, the owners, as well. This plan will help run day to day operations and answer any questions we may have in the future.

3. This plan will also show forecasting of sales, as well as the minimum amount of sales needed per month to maintain operation.

The objectives of J's Computer Repair are:

1. Generate growth, a company that is always expanding is always growing. We have no desire to become a multi-conglomerate computer company. However generating max customer count with advertising will be our way of growth.

2. We also plan on promoting good citizenship. We want to be active in the community. By sponsoring youth athletic organizations we not only will be generating good will but also furthering our advertising plan.

3. Profit although turning a profit would be nice; we have no real concern on generating a profit. There are two reasons you start a small company like ours. The first is to generate a profit for expansion. The second is to maintain a steady income, or buy a job.

III. Our Mission

1. To provide a courteous caring staff, capable of meeting any customer's needs.

2. Keep the customer well informed of all things related to their problem.

3. Treat customers as we would like to be treated; and maintain a no hidden fees policy, and finish every project in the time quoted.

4. Costs will be kept low, affordable to every one who owns a computer. This is why we will not be running an hourly charge program. We will run a flat fee program, meaning that every computer problem

will be fixed for a single rate.

5. Marketing Slogan: Computer repair is our profession, customer service is our passion.

IV. Keys to success.

-Motivation. We must be motivated to see that every project is finished on time.

-Dedication means sticking to our policies of no hidden fees, only flat rates, and keeping an informed customer; and we plan on it.

-Networking. A happy customer will tell his friends, word of mouth will be our greatest asset in the future.

-Hard work. If the job is to get done right, and on time, hard work is the key ingredient for a successful business.

-Advertising is getting our name out there. If people don't know who we are or what we do they might be likely to go to a competitor and overpay or be taken advantage of.

V. Company Summary

J's computer repair will be a new business with the following attributes...

- It will be a LLP run by Jason Henry.

- The goal is to pay back any long term debts inside of three years.

- This will be a home style operation. This means it will be ran from inside our Town-home apartment.

VI. Company Ownership

The company will be run as a Limited Liability Partnership run by Jason Henry. All net profits will go straight to me.

VII. Start-Up Cost Summary

The idea of keeping start-up investments relatively small, which is pretty easy for this type of company, is our goal. Total cost of start-up will be \$13,000. This will provide all the basic start up materials, such as computer testing equipment, tools, rent, and living expenses for the first 4 months.

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IX. Services Rendered.

J's Computer Repair services will include.

1. Hardware repair, fixing any internal problems will be our primary service.
2. Software repair, any programming problems we will handle. This primarily will consist of re-installing the problem program or re-installing a new operating system.
3. Computer Design, if a customer wants a specifically designed computer we are more than adequately capable of handling this situation.
4. Computer tune-up. Virus Repair, Spyware repair, and other miscellaneous computer problems handled by us.

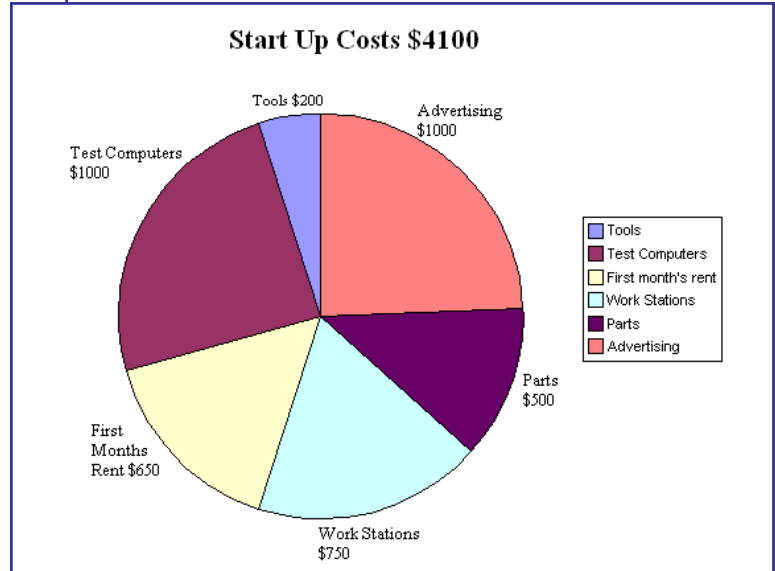
X. Services Description.

Some computer repair firms offer retainers, hourly rates and other forms of charging. We charge only a flat rate of \$50 for hardware repairs, \$40 for software repairs, \$50 for computer design and building, and \$30 for Computer Tune-Ups. Also any hardware replacement will consist of cost + 10%. These are our rates, no hidden fees, or other misleading information. The average computer repair will cost \$40. This is not per hour; it is a standard rate. So hypothetically if we have to install a new operating system which can take up to 2 hours, we will only charge \$40. Like other firms who charge the same rate per hour.

XIV. Marketing

J's Computer Repair will focus directly on the customer and their needs. For this we will have a specific marketing plan on how to reach the potential consumer. First we must identify who our target customers are.

- Anyone who owns a personal computer.
- Businesses who run any kind of computer system.
- Multiple Computers
- Single Computer use



These are very broad categories, but a further break down will be detailed in market segmentations.

- Personal use of computers.
- Small Businesses
 - Home
 - Retail
- Larger companies

After doing some research there are many more unexplored segments to consider. But as a starting point; we plan on using these particular four segments. Now many of the popular magazines that are used for sources, such as Business Weekly, Entrepreneur, and other say that Personal Computer Repair isn't a viable market. However, we disagree; we realize that the profits exist in segments such as larger corporations.

But, if the personal computer user needs are not met by other firms, which is the case in the areas aforementioned, we feel there is opportunity present.

Alpha Beta Gamma National Scholarship List

Ashland University
Auroro University
Babson College
Bentley College
Bloomfield College
Bradford College
Bluefiel College
Brenau University
Caldwell College
California Lutheran University
Canisius College
Central Wesleyan College
Charleston Southern University
Clarkson University
Clark Atlanta University
Coppin State College
Daeman College
De Paul University
Drexel University
Duquesne University
Eastern College

Eckerd College
George Washington University
Gustavus Adolphus College
Iona College
John Brown University
Johnson & Wales University
Juniata College
Kings College
Le Moyne College
Lees – McRae College
Lenoir Rhyne College
Liberty University
Limestone College
Lincoln Memorial University
Linfield College
Livingston University
Long Island University, CW Post
Manhattan College
Mercy College
Mississippi University for Women
Neumann College

New England Culinary Institute
New Mexico Institute of Mining and Tech.
New York School of Interior Design
Niagara University
Northeast Missouri State University
Kirksville
Northeastern State University, OK
Northeastern State University, MA
Notre Dame College of Ohio
Pace University
Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute
Rust College
Saint Vincent College
St. John's University
SUNY Binghamton
SUNY Buffalo
Teikyo Marycrest University
University of Pittsburgh at Bradford
University of Findley
University of Tampa



Looking For a Job?

www.ajb.dni.us
www.careerpath.com
www.monster.com
www.careermag.com
www.VJF.com
www.careermosaic.com
www.careerbuilder.com
www.bestjobsusa.com
www.cweb.com
www.umn.edu/apn
www.americasemployers.com
www.atb.org
www.career.com

www.careerexchange.com
www.careershop.com
www.dice.com
www.nets.com
www.engineeringjobs.com
www.espan.com
www.iccweb.com
www.hotjobs.com
www.jobcenter.com
www.jobsingovernment.com
www.jobtrak.com
www.thejobmarket.com



Ancell's Traits of Success

As Defined by Professor John D. Christesen

Nathan Ancell, founder of Ethan Allen Furniture Company, has achieved a national reputation for having been able to attract the most talented people to his firm. Dedicated and committed people helped to build his firm to be one of the largest in the nation

Here is a list of the traits for success which Nathan Ancell used in hiring people. Why not go through the list, rank yourself for 1 to 10 being best. Then have someone who knows you well to rank you. Discuss the variances and put together a program to strengthen those traits which need strengthening. You'll be on the road to success. Alpha Beta Gammas can share the list with classmates and friends.

Leadership: Others will follow your ideas or do what you want them to do.

Dedication: You have total belief in yourself and what you are doing.

Conceptual Skills: You can manipulate abstract data in your brain and play "what if" games with different scenarios.

Self-Confidence: You are sure of your talent, skills and abilities.

Ambition: You desire to rise to higher levels of responsibility and knowledge.

Honesty: You are truthful with yourself and with others and people know it.

Builder: You feel good about achievement and making things happen.

Wants Responsibility: You like authority and can take the blame when it's your fault.

Consistent: You usually are constant and unwavering on issues and ideas.

Respectful: You believe in the dignity of all humankind.

Committed: You put all your energies into your projects and can handle frustration. Others watch you and want to work harder.

Feel for Numbers: You like finance and watching numbers change because of your actions. You don't panic when numbers spell trouble.

Talent Picker: You have the ability to attract highly motivated and eclectic people to work and play with you.

Sense of Humor: You can laugh at the world and yourself.

Physical Strength: You take care of your body and feed it well.

Imagination: You can envision creative and innovative ways of doing things.

Problem Solver: You go beyond symptoms to pathologies.

Analyst/Questioner: You don't mind burying yourself in numbers or picking ideas apart, you know when to ask questions and when to listen.

Drive: You have an inner mechanism which pushes you.

Has Vision: You understand the importance of vision and you know what you want to create.

Accomplishment: You feel good after making things happen or creating ideas.

Risk Taker: You do not hesitate to make difficult decisions without having complete knowledge. You trust your "gut."

Persistent/Tenacious: You stay with a problem or line of thought until it is resolved.

Ancell's Traits of Success

Sensitive: You make yourself aware of other's feelings and you try to respond to their people's needs. You put yourself in others' shoes.

Sincere/Honest: you really believe in what you say and what you do. You speak truthfully and do not say just what others want to hear.

Enthusiastic: You love life. You love being a part of the world and a part of an organization. You dive into things. Others "feel" your enthusiasm.

laws and making new ones that don't protect our environment.

Since George Bush has taken office more of our national forests have been cut down than ever before. The environmental bills that have come across his desk have been unsigned and acts that needed to be renewed have fallen by the wayside. How much more can our environment take of Bush's lack of environmental concern? We don't need to over legislate either. There must be a common ground that our government officials can stand on without wiping out our land.

With the direction that the United States and businesses associated with the United States are taking the next ten years will be a lot better than worse. Great strides are being made on all fronts to get rid of acid rain, air

pollutants, car emissions, landfill over runs, and water pollutants. But we cannot control the rest of the world and there is where the problem lies. Third World countries do not follow any type of environmental restrictions. They still burn coal and have no mandates on controlling pollution. We need to find a way so they will take care of their part of the world because evidently it will become our problem.

I would like to close with a quote from Robert Redford that he made in 1985 at the dedication for Yosemite National Park. "I think the environment should be put in the category of our national security. Defense of our resources is just as important as defense abroad. Otherwise what is there to defend?"



What Does it Mean to Help Others?

By Wanda Carr

Helping others means denying some of your pleasures to help someone else feel good about them self. Helping others does not just represent helping the homeless. Encouraging another person and giving not because of a need but because you love to see people smile and laugh is considered helping others. There are people who are lonesome and just want someone to talk or listen to their issues. Have you every notice a child when you give them a new toy and their face just light up with excitement, this is what brings cheer to a person you help.

I currently volunteer at a local hospital and notice how appreciate people are when you just lend them a helping hand and make their day brighter. Helping others should make any individual feel good about them self. We as a people should want everyone around us to be happy. Does helping others come into effect when you see someone homeless? Does helping others just occur to you during the Thanksgiving and Christmas Holidays? Or do you help others just to get recognize or is it done out of the sincerity of your heart? These are some of the wrong ways to be considered helping others. I believe helping others is not just for a homeless person, nor on a special holiday, nor recognition. Helping others can be achieved when you take time to give someone a hand at whatever they may be doing. For instance, holding a door open for an elderly person, a friendly smile, helping the

handicap or saying an encouraging word to brighten someone day. Helping others can come in all areas of a person life.

I feel that giving time back to the community through volunteer services is a form of helping others. The time I spend assisting in the Personnel Office and assisting patients is a help to the employees at the hospital. As I enter a patient room and see they are all ready to be discharge from the hospital you should see the smile they have on their face, that is a face that you will see as you go about helping various people.

In conclusion helping others really means giving of yourself to make someone else have a happier day. Staying informed of the things that go on in your community, visiting elderly that has no children close by to talk to and going by the Ronald McDonald House to volunteer some of your time and brighter some child day are forms of helping others. This is what helping others is all about, I feel that this is what Nancy Rocky mother; Ester Cross-Carter was doing as she attended the Chapter meetings and events of Alpha-Beta Gamma. We are helpers one to another. We can help in a lot of ways. Ways that you feel that you cannot be of assistance. Help those you come in contact with and you can make a difference in their lives.

to business, to individuals and to policymakers for eliminating the Glass Ceiling (Successful 3).

The Commission determined that The Glass Ceiling is first a business issue and solutions must first be found in the world of business. The Commission research papers as well as testimony presented at the public hearings, clearly document the American labor force is segregated - men fill most top management positions in corporations. A large proportion of women are locked into low wage, low prestige and dead-end jobs not connected to any career ladder (A Solid 12). Corporate leaders say that they want to remove the barriers that obstruct access to the top. They are talking the talk yet women express dismay and anger when they describe what they perceive to be innumerable obstacles to their corporate advancement. There is a definite difference between what corporate leadership says it wants to happen and what is actually happening (Good 30, 31). Yet, the majority of CEO's interviewed by the Commission claimed that their companies had some women above the glass ceiling or ready to move through it while steadily climbing the promotion ladder. Without exception they expressed strong support for the concept of women's advancement to corporate senior management. Business must expand their traditional executive recruitment networks and seek out candidates with non-customary backgrounds and experiences. They must seek talent both inside and outside the corporation (Redwood 7).

Business leaders must recognize that they need the talent and input of women at the highest levels to better address the changing consumer markets, the changing work force demographics and international competition in today's global economy (Redwood 6). It is important for corporations to address this issue as several groups of shareholders are affected. First and most important are women themselves. If an individual works hard and is capable, that person should have the some opportunity to reach the highest levels of management regardless of gender. Impeding women from reaching upper management positions causes financial and social implications that spillover to other shareholders as well. For example, corporations are better served with a balance of men and women in high-level positions. This balance attracts new diverse talent. Women executives will help companies be more in touch with the need of their female customers, which

helps to provide better service and increase the company's profitability. Another important benefit for corporations that break the "glass ceiling," is that it establishes a sense of loyalty among their female executives thus helping corporations retain these valuable employees (Himmelstein).

There is no "one way" to eliminate the barriers to the advancement of women in the private sector. Each company is different and each must carefully evaluate its situation and needs. However, analysis of the companies that are managing change effectively indicates that the following characteristics are common to all successful initiatives; they are part of the strategic business plan, they are specific to the inclusive, they address preconceptions and stereotypes, they emphasize and require accountability, they track progress and they are comprehensive (Good 9). Successful programs they have CEO support, organization, they are have strong and sustained support. Programs work when the CEO and senior-line managers are advocates for change and act accordingly. They recognize that time alone will not eliminate corporate barriers to the advancement of women. Therefore their strategic business plans must include methods for advancing women. Performance appraisals, compensation incentives and other evaluation measures must reflect a manager's ability to set a high standard and demonstrate progress. Each CEO and his leadership team must establish that the inclusion of women is a top priority. Otherwise, the best-laid strategic plans designed to change how a business recruits, hires, develops and promotes its workforce will fail.

Research also revealed three levels of artificial barriers to the advancement of women in the private sector that contradict the nation's ethic of individual worth and accountability: the belief that education, training, dedication and hard work will lead to a better life (Good 7). Employment opportunities are often limited by the educational choices that women make early in their academic training and counseling that highlights the need for making the right choices is an important first step. Women continue to be channeled into traditional academic and occupational tracks often without exposure to the courses and skills which business consider vital to potential executive candidates (A Solid 50). The importance of education should be stressed

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to all employees.

The most important competitive advantage for any firm is its workforce, one that must remain competent through continuous training and development efforts. Development is the learning that goes beyond today's job; it has a more long-term focus. It prepares employees to keep pace with the organization as it changes and grows. Management development programs consist of all learning experiences provided by an organization resulting in an upgrading of skills and knowledge required in current and future managerial positions (Moody 229). Successful programs include rotational and non-traditional job assignments that broaden the base of a candidate's experience and visibility, specific career path programs that identify objective performance skill and knowledge criteria for advancement as well as access to specialized training, seminars and workshops (A Solid 24). Training frequently improves workers' skills and boosts their motivation. This in turn, leads to higher productivity and increased profitability.

The Commission recommends that organizations expand access to core areas of the business and to various developmental experiences and establish formal centering programs that provide career guidance and support to prepare women for senior positions (A Solid 14). A key method of executive development is a formal centering program that provides guidance to future executives within the corporate structure. Mentoring and networking are often mentioned as ways for women to break barriers in management. Many successful business persons have identified centering as a critical factor in their career advancement.

Managers must be held accountable for the development and advancement of women. Goals and timetables must be agreed upon, measurable results must be established and incentives, rewards and penalties must be tied to performance in meeting the goals and achieving results (Good 42). The increasingly non-traditional look of the current workforce requires that corporations value women and provide them with developmental opportunities (Employer 1).

"The one unchallengeable enduring difference between men and women is pregnancy, childbirth and motherhood. A "maternal wall" buttresses the Glass Ceiling. Once a woman announces her pregnancy, her professional commitment, as well as her future pro-

ductivity and performance are called into question by supervisors and co-workers. Although family-friendly policy statements may camouflage the maternal wall, in reality motherhood is held against women (Schwartz 36). Attitudes and beliefs about women, family and careers influence the career experiences of those who work and also have a family.

The Commission recommends that organizations adopt policies that recognize and accommodate the balance between work and family responsibilities that impact the lifelong career paths of employees. While it might seem that family-supportive policies would facilitate women's ability to successfully balance career and family, and thus contribute to breaking the glass ceiling, this premise is steeped in controversy. Women managers have not achieved equity in terms of balancing work and family. The Census Bureau reports that women have become less likely to interrupt their work schedules when their first child is born. Yet, combining work with parenting is a challenge for all women, given their disproportionate responsibilities at home, particularly in relation to children. Combining parenthood with advancement into management is particularly difficult for women. Despite the ongoing "mommy track" debate, research on both work-family issues and the glass ceiling has largely ignored the interface between family-friendly policies and career advancement (Schwartz 5).

The subject of family friendly policies falls within three categories that represent the most common definition of family-friendly benefits; dependent care benefits, leave benefits and flexible work schedule benefits (Schwartz 9). Dependent care benefits are those that help employees with their responsibilities for their children and dependent relatives. Examples are on-site or near-site child care, emergency or sick child care and dependent care assistance plans that would aid with older parents. Leave benefits provide employees with time off to care for dependents. Job protected leaves for childbirth and parenting and leave to care for an ill child or family member are guaranteed to all employees. And flexible work arrangements restructure or reduce an employee's time. Part-time work, flextime and telecommuting are the most common arrangements (Schwartz 9, 10). These initiatives generate significant reductions in absenteeism, tardi-

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ness and turnover.

Employees with higher incomes, more education and higher status jobs - managers, professionals and technicians - report greater access to work-family benefits than other workers. While employers may claim that their company offers a range of benefits, it is possible that only certain employees have the opportunity to use any given benefit. Corporate culture often discourages even those employees who are eligible for family-friendly policies from making use of them. Newsweek (Miller and Tsiantar, 11/25/91) observed, "... a company may pay lip service to offering alternatives for working mothers, but asking for them can be the kiss of death" (Schwartz 24).

Family friendly policies improve productivity and reduce costs by relieving workers of non-job related worries and allow them to focus on business objectives. These policies would demonstrate that companies value individuals and realize that activities outside of the office help a worker keep her perspective. Work/life policies provide a broad support network for working women, affording them greater opportunities to advance their careers (A Solid 26). Programs that help employees balance work and family responsibilities should be maintained and strengthened because they are undeniably beneficial to all employees.

While many women have successfully pushed for the opportunity of working part-time to balance work and family, this schedule has many potential negative implications for women.

Part time workers tend to be seen as secondary employees and therefore not as important or crucial to a company's work or growth. Since they are not in the office as often as their full time colleagues, part time employees are more likely to be cut off from networking. Under these circumstances, a women's advancement is much more difficult. Part time employment can deny a women healthcare benefits and reduce Social Security benefits while continuing the need to pay for childcare, often equaling the salary of the part-time employee (Schwartz 12).

The Glass Ceiling Commission's report makes clear that programs designed to expand equal employment opportunity work best when combined with real and vigorous enforcement. Government has a role to play in breaking the glass ceiling. It must lead by example and make equal access and opportunity a real-

ity for all. It cannot mandate and require the private sector to pursue and value diversity if it is unwilling to do the same. The Commission recommended that Federal enforcement agencies increase their efforts to enforce existing laws by expanding efforts to end universal discrimination and challenge multiple discriminations. It also advises evaluating effectiveness and efficiency while strengthening interagency coordination as a way of furthering the effort (A Solid 36).

The Equal Pay Act of 1963 is an anti-discrimination law, which needs further enforcement. In both 1995 and 2000 women managers earned less than their male counterparts in the ten industries studied. Seven of the ten industries were in the private sector. In these businesses, women managers' salaries actually declined relative to men managers'. The remaining three industries where the salary gap narrowed were in the public sector or were heavily regulated: education, hospitals and medical services, and public administration (A New Look 8).

Updating anti-discrimination regulations, strengthening and expanding corporate management reviews and improving the complaint processing system play major roles in ending discrimination. Enforcement agencies need to have adequate resources to enforce antidiscrimination laws. Better interagency coordination will enable agencies to improve enforcement effectiveness and seek strong remedies including affirmative action. Improving the enforcement of anti-discrimination laws is central to breaking the glass ceiling (A Solid 36).

Only the public sector has the resources to gather national, regional and state data on education, status in the workforce and compensation. Yet, the government is limited in assessing women's progress in management. The data collected is self-reported by respondents, rather than by employers. Therefore, there is an inherent degree of error (Employer 2). Accurate data on women can show where progress is or is not being made in breaking barriers. The categories used by governmental data collection agencies do not provide the information that is necessary to track and monitor accurately the progress of women (Good 29). Government agencies must revise the collection of data by refining existing data categories and improving the specificity of data collected.

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The data collected must be broken out into categories in order to develop a clear picture of where women are in the workforce. Expanding job classification categories would better enable Federal enforcement agencies and employers to evaluate the racial ethnic and gender composition of occupations, especially at the managerial level (A Solid 40). The majority of CEO's interviewed stated that law enforcement had been useful in "keeping us aware" or "keeping it on the front burner," despite the inconvenience of "more paperwork downstairs" (Good 30). Continued improved data collection can give a clearer picture of the progress being made by women by pinpointing areas where improvement is needed. Increased disclosure of data is an incentive to develop and maintain innovative, effective programs to break Glass Ceiling barriers, while beginning a process of positive social change through corporate employment policies (Redwood 8).

For real change to occur, bias and discrimination must be banished from the boardrooms and executive suites of corporate America. Business leaders identify perceptions based on cultural differences as significant barriers impeding the advancement of women in corporate structures. A classic glass ceiling for women still exists, despite the fact that women have moved slowly up the ladder in the largest US corporations. The presence and visibility of these women has influenced the appointment of other women to managerial positions and boards of directors (Good 143). CEO's are encouraged by the successful performance of women in top-level positions and feel that women have finally overcome the stereotypes that have historically limited their upward mobility. Yet, not all stereotypes are on the surface negative. Male managers also Perceive Women as: good with people, warm and nurturing, creative, hardworking, loyal and good team players (Good 148).

For these reasons many CEOs believe that women no longer confront serious Glass Ceiling problems. Still women and men managers tend to work in different occupations and industries according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics. For example, personnel or human relations managers are more likely to be women, while purchasing managers are more likely to be men. Managers in marketing, advertising, and public relations are more like likely to be men; administrators

in education and related fields are more likely to be women. Studies show that women often select industries and occupations that enable them to combine work and family responsibilities and that jobs where women predominate generally pay less than jobs where men predominate (A New Look 9).

It is evident that the Glass Ceiling exists to some degree and that it poses a formidable barrier to inclusiveness and economic productivity. Since the mid-1980s, advocates for women have worked hard to convince the business world that women are as capable as men in high executive positions, and that their inclusion in the executive suite would contribute greatly to the success of a company. But, workplace barriers still prevent qualified individuals from receiving the training, centering and developmental work assignments they need to compete on an equal footing for promotional opportunities. Their talents are wasted and their compensation and professional development and opportunity are negatively impacted. Valuable human and other organizational resources may be squandered. Developing an enormous pool of talent will increase a company's competitive edge in the global economy (Payton 2). Analysis has shown that firms with a strong record of promoting women are more profitable.

However, some women who have managed to shatter the glass ceiling now perch dangerously near the edge of a glass cliff. A recent British study has found that of five companies with the highest percentage of female board members three under performed the five companies with wholly male boards of directors, during the same period. This study has been interpreted as proof that women were "wreaking havoc in the boardroom." But, evidence has been found that the women were hired to the leadership positions only once a company was doing badly. Some claim the precarious position of the women in these jobs is the next wave of subtle discrimination. This is only further proof that not only do women face grater challenges than men in climbing the corporate ladder, but those who reach the top receive greater criticism than men and less positive performance evaluations for performing the same leadership roles (The Glass 18).

Opportunities for women to gain economic independence are often hampered, not only by cultural expectations concerning women's roles and relation-

Continued on next page

ships within our society, but also by the organizational structures which affect their lives. Women today are leaving the corporate world in vast numbers. The dilemma women find themselves in today is that, at the exact moment when we are free to aspire to any job, even President of the United States, we still find ourselves viewed through the lens of enduring stereotypes, paid less than men, and torn between the increasing responsibilities of work and family. Women have overcome the time when it was considered wrong to work but now face the attitude that it is wrong not to work. Some women who assumed they would be professionals now struggle with the desire or necessity to stay at home with their children. They have altered their hopes, aspirations and particularly their expectations. In order to combine the challenges of filling both their work and caretaking role, today women are forming new businesses at double the rate of men (Velasquez). And businesses started by women have exhibited a higher survival rate than those started by men.

We, as women, must push our industries for more and better childcare on the job. We must seek to elect more legislators who can push for specific mechanisms, which support women in the workplace, such as tax breaks for companies who offer childcare. We need to question our care delivery system on a national level, since it clearly fails to meet our needs. Women should also look to ways they can help support each other, through networking and centering. We should push our industries to allow more flextime and telecommuting, clearly, the wave of the future.

Change and modification of perceptions and behavior in the workplace may be slow and hard won. But, however slow and deliberate the pace of change, women should not let the perceptions of others define them. Each woman should define herself.

The American Dream is about opportunities for all. The Glass Ceiling is a concept that betrays America's most cherished principles. When glass ceilings are forever shattered, we will have succeeded in using our greatest asset - the insights and talents of all our working people - to their fullest potential. The permanent destruction of the glass ceiling will be a profound legacy we must leave for future generations (A Solid 6).

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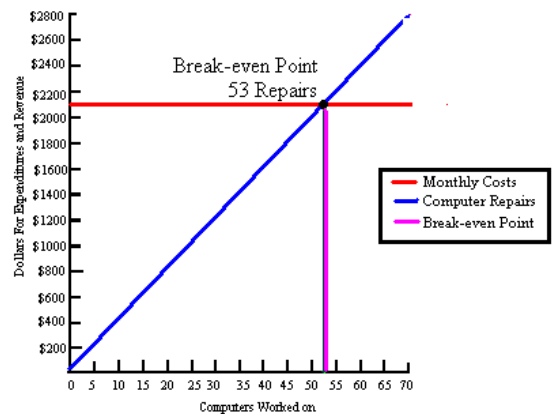
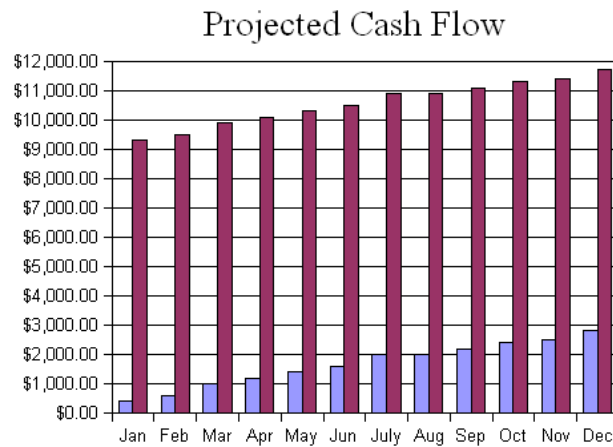
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XVIII. Financing

This section will outline cash-flow statements, income statements, break even points, balance sheets, profits and losses, and more.

	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	Jun.
Revenues	\$400	\$600	\$1000	\$1200	\$1400	\$1600
Rent	\$650	\$650	\$650	\$650	\$650	\$650
Utilities	\$200	\$225	\$250	\$250	\$275	\$275
Loan Repayment	\$150	\$150	\$150	\$150	\$150	\$150
Petty Cash Fund	\$200	\$200	\$200	\$200	\$200	\$200
Income for Jason	\$400	\$400	\$400	\$500	\$500	\$500
Advertising Budget	\$100	\$100	\$100	\$100	\$100	\$100
Insurance	\$150	\$150	\$150	\$150	\$150	\$150
Totals	\$1850	\$1875	\$1900	\$2000	\$2025	\$2025
Net Profit/Loss	-\$1450	-\$1275	-\$900	-\$800	-\$625	-\$425

Now we do not expect to make a profit in the first six months. Customers come with time. That is why we have a start-up budget of \$13,000 when necessary capital for start-up



For late-breaking news and
all kinds of good stuff,
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Pros and Cons of Being an Entrepreneur

by Shante Dawes

An entrepreneur is someone who assumes the risks, opportunities, and responsibilities of running a business on their own. As an entrepreneur there are very important issues that should be considered in order to be successful. Planning ahead is very important. This gives an idea of where you intend to be and how you plan to get there. Having a roadmap makes the journey much easier so that in the event that something arises, it was planned for.

An entrepreneur starts a business with the intentions of getting bigger as time progresses. This can be accomplished by first educating yourself on the area of business that you intend to go in. This involves analysis of the market, the customers, the needs that exist, the location, pricing, and competition. This will help predict the future prospects of the business.

Starting a new business can be very rewarding. As an entrepreneur, one of the chief benefits is the prestige of being your own boss. This has been a motivating factor for many people who start their own businesses. They have sole control over the direction of their business. All decisions are made by the owner and he stands as a figure of power and authority. Also after all groundwork has been done, and the business is making a profit, the profits are not shared.

There are important skills that are necessary for the successful managing of a business. An entrepreneur must be able to deliver good customer ser-

vice as keeping customers happy is juxtaposed with profits. As the business gets bigger, the span of control tends to widen, and the owner may have a few employees to deal with. It is now his responsibility to lead, and motivate them. This can be done with careful planning. He must also delegate responsibilities to employees so they will realize their value to the business and hence, improve their performance.

On the other hand, there are also risks and disadvantages involved. Starting a new business can be very costly; the owner has the responsibility to come up with the required capital. If the business fails, the owner can lose all that he has invested in the business and sometimes along with his personal assets. Running a business can be time consuming. Most businesses tend to go under if the owner does not have enough time to invest in the business.

The owner is responsible for the outcome his decisions. So making bad decisions that produce unfavorable outcomes will be his sole responsibility, and vice versa. The owner must also be aware that competition exists and he must be able to differentiate his products and capitalize on his distinctive competencies to stay competitive.

Entrepreneurs will succeed with hard work, drive, and dedication. It can be very pleasing to sit back and watch something you created grow and blossom. Although it may take a lot to run a business, it is possible to be successful. There is help and advice available for potential business people.

Gamma Gamma Congratulates “Who’s Who” Honorees

Gamma Gamma chapter congratulates the following students who were named to Who’s Who Among Students in American Universities and Colleges for 2005-06:

Christopher Anderson, James Bazier, Andrew Bixby, Christina Bressner, Larethia Carter, LeeAnn Ciaccio, Veetia Davis, Katherine Edwards, Susan Goettge, Kara Hanney, Yolanda Johnson, Yvette Myles, and Danel Purkey

These students have been recognized for their academic achievements as well as their leadership abilities and community service.

You know you live on the Gulf Coast when...

From Rebecca Rutz

- " You have FEMA's number on your speed dialer.
- " You have more than 300 C and D batteries in your kitchen drawer.
- " Your pantry contains more than 20 cans of Spaghetti Os.
- " You are thinking of repainting your house to match the plywood covering your windows.
- " When describing your house to a prospective buyer, you say it has three bedrooms, two baths and one safe hallway.
- " Your SSN isn't a secret, it's written in Sharpie on your arms.
- " You are on a first-name basis with the cashier at Home Depot.
- " You are delighted to pay \$3 for a gallon of regular unleaded.
- " The road leading to your house has been declared a No-Wake Zone.
- " You decide that your patio furniture looks better on the bottom of the pool.
- " You own more than three large coolers.
- " You can wish that other people get hit by a hurricane and not feel the least bit guilty about it.
- " You rationalize helping a friend board up by thinking "It'll only take gallon of gas to get there and back"
- " You have 2-liter coke bottles and milk jugs filled with water in your freezer.
- " Three months ago you couldn't hang a shower curtain; today you can assemble a portable generator by candlelight.
- " You catch a 13-pound redfish. In your driveway.
- " You can recite from memory whole portions of your homeowner's insurance policy.
- " You consider a "vacation" to stunning Tupelo, Mississippi.
- " At cocktail parties, women are attracted to the guy with the biggest chainsaw.
- " You have had tuna fish more than 5 days in a row.
- " There is a roll of tar paper in your garage.
- " You can rattle off the names of three or more meteorologists who work at the Weather Channel.
- " Someone comes to your door to tell you they found your roof.
- " Ice is a valid topic of conversation.
- " Your "drive-thru" meal consists of MRE's and bottled water.
- " Relocating to South Dakota does not seem like such a crazy idea.
- " You spend more time on your roof than in your living room.
- " You've been laughed at over the phone by a roofer, fence builder or a tree worker.
- " A battery powered TV is considered a home entertainment center.
- " You don't worry about relatives wanting to visit during the summer.
- " Your child's first words are "hunker down" and you didn't go to Ole Miss!
- " Having a tree in your living room does not necessarily mean it's Christmas.
- " Toilet Paper is elevated to coin of the realm at the shelters.
- " You know the difference between the "good side" of a storm and the "bad side."
- " Your kids start school in August and finish in July.
- " You go to work early and stay late just to enjoy the air conditioning.

What Alpha Beta Gamma Means to Me

By Jennifer Mercier

My eighth grade math teacher told me once that I was doomed to work in McDonalds for the rest of my life. There was a time where many people would have agreed with her; everyone, except me. Throughout my adolescence and education I was faced with adversity. I overcame emotional and social challenges and had many unexpected accomplishments such as being accepted into the national business honor society, Alpha Beta Gamma.

At the beginning of my grade school career I had nothing but love for school and class activities. I was an honor role student that had a club meeting for every day of the week, from drama club to Odyssey of the Mind. I loved math and sciences and always strived to be the best that could in any class I participated in. Outside of school I spent time with close friends in the woods and at the lake that sat behind my house. We lived on a farm on the outskirts of Amesbury along with my cats, dogs, and Poncho, my Shetland pony. My parents, although struggling, did their best to ensure I had everything I needed. In the first quarter of my seventh grade year, all of that began to change.

When I was only twelve years old my father committed suicide. Being in such a developmental stage of my life this had a very traumatic, long term affect on me. My grades slowly started to slip and my social activity began to disintegrate. I went from straight A's to a solid C average and did not return to any club meetings. This same mentality stayed with me through the beginning of eighth grade until amplified in mid-October when my childhood home burnt down due to a careless mistake of mine. A Creepy Crawler machine, one of many mother's old toys that I had found in the attic, took away my home and the last living memories of my father. Not having insurance on the home, my mother and I were forced to live in a dilapidated trailer on the side of my once beautiful Victorian house that my father had worked diligently to restore. I was devastated.

At this point, school and all aspects of life didn't seem to matter anymore. I failed eighth grade and withdrew almost completely from friends and family. It became difficult for me to interact with

people my age. Thankfully, I was passed on to high school without having to repeat the eighth grade. They had felt that this may give me the new beginning I needed. Unfortunately, once reaching high school, I was unable to confirm to any other cookie cliques and was therefore rejected by my classmates. I skipped school regularly and failed all of my classes. I was moved to an "alternative school", a brand new project the town was working on to help students who did not work well in a typical public school setting. The days were shorter and provided a more solitary work environment. I started to excel in all my studies again. Many times the regular assigned work was not enough to keep me occupied for an entire school day. Any bookwork given to an average alternative student would typically take them the majority of the day, whereas I still had a strong desire to learn and didn't procrastinate. I began making up my own project and papers and passed them in as extra credit. At the end of my sophomore year came to an end I felt, although grateful for being given the opportunity to learn in a comfortable environment and receiving the encouragement I needed, I was ready to return to the town public high school.

Upon my re-enrollment I was faced with the aggravation of having to make up several courses to catch up to the other students in my class because of certain credits that were un-transferable from the alternative school. Although, still struggling with social interaction it did not affect my grades. I studied my way through my courses while working nearly full-time at a local sub shop. By the end of my senior year I was taking advanced placement college courses and was awarded the Un-sung Hero award for my achievements. I graduated with my class in 2003 to many peoples surprise.

After graduation I proceeded to Northern Essex Community College to further my education. I had fallen in love with a banking course I had taken my junior year of high school. I decided business was definitely my field of interest and winning second place in a national stock market game only

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added to my motivation to pursue a business major. My current major in Business Transfer and I am presently taking courses towards my degree. I hold a 3:03 grade point average and am now tutoring students struggling with accounting.

Looking back on my life I am just as surprised as most that I have done more than just survived my childhood. I took it upon myself to work hard and make up for the time I had lost living in my own depression. And now I am granted the honor as well as the reward of being recognized by Alpha Beta Gamma. Acknowledgment by such a reputable organization is reflective of the effort and determination I have towards my education.

I have always believed that thinking you are better than something is not the way to approach life; thinking I'm better than nothing and always doing my best is what has put me in a position to be allowed to stand side by side with fellow academics in Alpha Beta Gamma. This is proof to me that I can accomplish everything I know I am capable of, despite any one else's opinion.

A childhood poem, one of my favorites, that helped me through times of discouragement, is something I think can give confidence to us all.

Listen to the MUSTN'TS
Listen to the MUSTN'TS, child,
Listen to the DON'TS
Listen to the SHOULDN'TS
The IMPOSSIBLES, the WON'TS
Listen to the NEVER HAVES
Then listen close to me—
Anything can happen, child,
ANYTHING can be!

--Shel Silverstein, *Where the Sidewalk Ends*

Alpha Beta Gamma has shown me that anything can be even when the odds are against you.

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ALPHA BETA GAMMA RESPONDS

The members of Alpha Beta Gamma quickly pitched in to send aid to the Gulf Coast and victims of Hurricane Katrina—the worst natural disaster ever to hit the United States. Although each and every chapter of ABG contributes and supports many charities and organizations throughout the year, there has been a concerted effort to assist victims of this disaster. Many of us feel personally affected by this storm and its aftermath as we were fortunate to hold our 2005 National Leadership Conference in Biloxi, MS. There, amid the soft southern breezes we enjoyed the unique mix of neon lights and antebellum mansions which coexisted in this exciting area of the country. We met many people who treated us with the famed “southern hospitality” and we regret that their lives and homes will never be the same.

In response, the National student officers of ABG quickly encouraged all chapters to “pull together” to send aid to the affected areas. The following chapters have thus far reported their efforts:

Alpha Alpha Chapter (Pensacola Jr. College) is taking donated items to Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College. Alpha Alpha is also ready to mentor any displaced ABG students.

Beta Omicron (Northern Essex Community College) is donating funds to the American Red Cross and the Salvation Army. Canned goods are also being donated to the Salvation Army.

Delta Chapter (Westchester Community College) will make a donation to the Bush Clinton Katrina fund.

Eta Delta (Delaware Technical & Community College) is donating funds to our chapter in Mississippi to assist affected ABG's in replacing books and school supplies.

Vincennes University, home of **Gamma Chapter** has agreed to provide full tuition; room and board to 20 students displaced by this storm, and has raised \$1,800 for relief efforts.

Gamma Alpha Chapter (Brevard Community College) has been collecting food items for a food pantry that is available to Katrina evacuees who have relocated to the North Brevard area.

Gamma Gamma Chapter (Davenport University) held a 50/50 raffle which resulted in a \$300.00 check donated to the American Red Cross. Useful items (clothing, sheets, towels, etc.) have been donated and were taken to the gulf area by a local resident.

Omega Chapter (Brooks College) donated \$1,127.59 which grew to \$2,255.18 when matched by the college. Chapter Advisor, Dixie Towers also participated in a family effort that raised \$4,000 when matched with funds from Liz Claiborne Corp. These funds were donated to the American Red Cross.

Sigma Chapter (Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College) is organizing a skeet shoot to benefit Katrina victims.



"Gulf Coast Night Before Christmas"

by Kimberlee Wile

Kimberly is a Junior from Pascagoula High School

Twas the night before Christmas
and throughout the Gulf Coast
Not a Nail being driven
well, at least for the most



The cheerful round elf
St. Nicholas was he
whistled and shouted
each name with great glee

His cheeks as red as that
well-known truck's cross
his beard was sadly
the texture of moss

The socks were unpacked
from the box from UHAUL
and hung with great care
on the FEMA trailer "wall"

"Now Dasher, now Danxer
Now Prancer and Vixen!
On Comet, on Cupid,
on Donder, and Blitzen!

The tarp of our roof
was as blue as his eyes
and his dimples they added
to the charm of his size

And Ma and I on
our uncushioned bed
attempted to sleep
under sheets of rough threads

To the tin on the roof
of their trailer so small
now dash away, dash away,
dash away all!"



His belly was round
full of those MRE's
yet he carried himself
with the greatest of ease

When out on the lawn
I heard such a clatter
"LOOTERS!" I feared
were after the water



So up to the top
of our shelter they flew
with a sleigh full of housewares
and St. Nicholas too!

The smile he gave
when he glanced over to me
led me to know
we were safe as can be



Away to the door
of the trailer I flew
Nearly fell down the steps
onto mid-morning dew

And then in a flash
I heard on the roof
the banging and clanging
of each little hoof.



He said not one word
but unloaded his sack
and put well needed supplies
in one great big stack

The powder of sheet rock
looked closer to snow
than any a' Christmas
I ever did know

I stumbled back in
and with turning around
down the sky light
St. Nicholas came with a
bound



and laying a finger
aside of his nose
and giving a nod
up the skylight he rose

But what to my curios
eye should appear
I lowered my rifle so not to harm
eight tiny reindeer



He was dressed in short sleeves
with shorts and tennis shoes
he was dusty and dirty
with nothing to lose.

He sprang to his sleigh
to his team gave a shout
and away they all flew
to more trailers throughout

The driver he landed
not so suddenly
cautious and careful
not to hit the debris

The sack of necessities
he had flung on his back
and he looked like a Lowe's rep
just opening his pack.

But I head him exclaim
as he trailed out of sight...
"Merry Christmas to all
and to all a good night!



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“Great Websites Recommended by Students”

Help make this a valuable resource for all Alpha Beta Gammans!
E-mail the following information to ceo@abg.org

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