

In this 2011 Business and Career issue of Talk Magazine, we have selected a number of men and women that have trained themselves, worked tirelessly, and were prepared when opportunities were presented to build outstanding careers and set examples for us all.

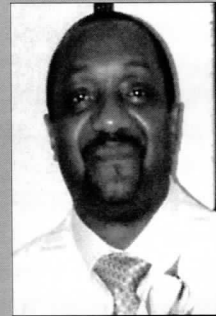
Business owners have an entrepreneurial spirit and are willing to invest personal money, very long hours, and individual sacrifice in the pursuit of their dream of independence. Top corporate executives achieve their goal of climbing up the corporate ladder through solid education, mentorship, hard work, and aspiration. The commonality owners and executives exhibit is a strong desire to succeed and a willingness to do what it takes to make it happen.

With great esteem, Talk Magazine salutes these 32 individuals, as well as our Person of the Year, Dennis Cook, and hope their recognition may serve to inspire others.

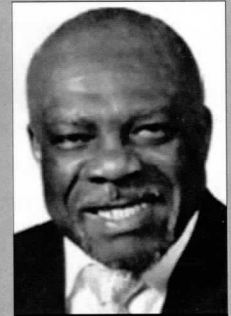
Those who's names we know and those names we don't know, who work daily building careers that will open doors, and developing businesses that will offer employment, we at Talk Magazine commend you all.



Renee Amore
Executive/Owner
King of Prussia



Wayne Burnett
Executive
Erie



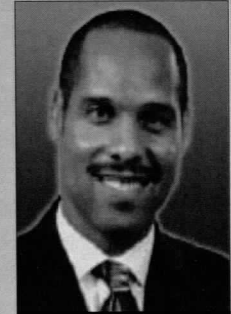
Fredrick Douglas
Executive/Owner
Pittsburgh



Joann Bell
Executive
Philadelphia



Harold Epps
Executive
Philadelphia



Samuel J. Patterson
Executive/Owner
Broomall



Bettye Walker
Executive/Owner
Erie



Chaz Kelleem
Executive
Pittsburgh



Cheryl McKissack
Executive/Owner
Philadelphia



Charisse Lillie
Executive
Philadelphia



Annette Owens-Johnson
Executive/Owner
Chester



Joseph L. Green
Executive/Owner
Harrisburg

Salute To Pennsylvania's

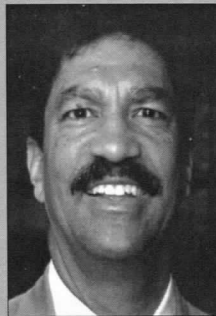
Business Owners & Top Executives



Grace Robinson
Executive/Owner
Pittsburgh



Jerome Shabazz
Executive/Owner
Philadelphia



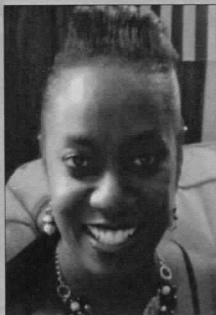
Michael Robinson
Executive/Owner
Lancaster



Lorina Marshall-Blake
Executive
Philadelphia



DaWayne Cleckley
Executive/Owner
Erie



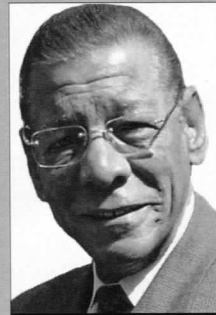
Lisa Heidelberg
Executive
Erie



J. Whyatt Mondesire
Executive/Owner
Philadelphia



Burrell Brown
Executive/Owner
Clairton



Rod Doss
Executive
Pittsburgh



Angela Mitchell
Executive
Harrisburg



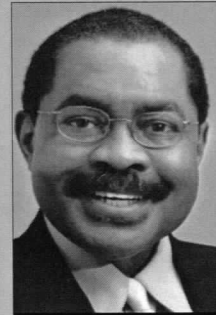
Cecile M. Springer
Executive/Owner
Pittsburgh



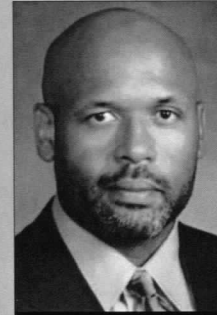
Vera Cornish
Executive/Owner
Harrisburg



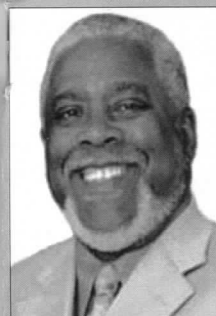
Robert O. Ogbede
Executive/Owner
Pittsburgh



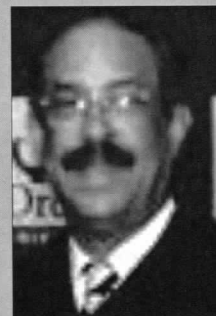
William Miller
Executive/Owner
Philadelphia



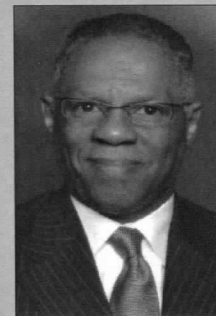
Michael Pearson
Executive/Owner
Yeadon



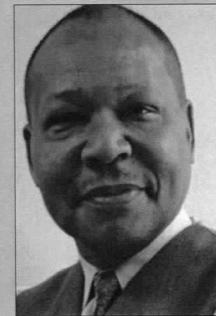
Kofi Asante
Executive
Philadelphia



Robert Bogle
Executive
Philadelphia



Richard Utley
Executive/Owner
Harrisburg



Irvin Williams
Executive/Owner
Pittsburgh



Donna Allie
Executive/Owner
Philadelphia

How I Got HERE...



Grace Robinson, LUTC, MBA • State Farm, Agent

How important was early emphasis on education was to your success? My parents stressed to us that education is the key to success. They always talked about being your best and doing your best.

Q: Whom do you currently work for and what is your current position?

A: I am self-employed at a State Farm Agent at the Grace Robinson Insurance Agency.

Q: What secondary education do you have?

A: I have a B.A. and an MBA Degree

Q: What was your major in college?

A: My major in college was Sociology and Psychology. My MBA is in Business Administration

Q: What jobs did you start at and how did you progress?

A: I worked at Sears in the Collections Department. From there, I worked for a wholesale glass company. My clients were insurance Agents. I became an Insurance Agent.

Q: Did your career progression require you to change companies?

A: Yes, I went from service to sales and service.

continued on page 20



Angela Mitchell, MBA • The Hershey Company, Global Marketing Manager

Q: Whom do you currently work for and what is your current position?

A: The Hershey Company, Global Marketing Manager on Hershey's KISSES/Bliss/Premium

Q: What secondary education do you have?

A: Both an B.A. and an MBA

Q: What was your major in college?

A: B.A. in Business Administration, and MBA, concentration Marketing

Q: What jobs did you start at and how did you progress?

A: IBM, Personal Systems Sales Specialist and then worked for Hewlett Packard as a Global Product Manager covering Europe/Asia. I decided that I wanted traditional marketing experience and switched industries to work for General Mills as an Associate Brand Manager and progressed upwards to Brand Manager.

Q: Did your career progression require you to change companies?

A: Yes

continued on page 20



Annette Owens-Johnson, MSW, LCSW • Boundary Span, LLC

How important was early emphasis on education was to your success? School was a reprieve for me as a child. I buried my head in the books as a way to get lost in another world. Little did I know at the time that my "other worlds" would be a jumping off point for reality. My college and graduate school education laid the foundation for my path to seeking success.

Q: Whom do you currently work for and what is your current position?

A: Therapist in an outpatient facility with NHS Human Services, adjunct professor, I teach a Human Growth and Development at Lincoln University, and will be teaching a Human Behavior & Social Environment course at LaSalle University. Additionally, I have started a private therapy practice that offers holistic counseling services by the name of Boundary Span (LLC).

Q: What secondary education do you have?

A: Both an B.A. and an ~~MBA~~ MSW

Q: What was your major in college?

A: Criminal Justice Bachelor of Arts degree, I also have a graduate degree, Master of Social Work

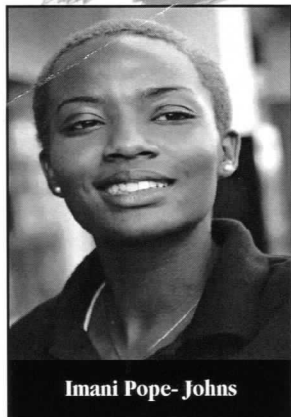
Q: What jobs did you start at and how did you progress?

A: My first "real" job out of college was at Women Against Abuse, Inc. as a housing counselor. From there I went to Community Action Agency of Delaware County, PA as a housing counselor/shelter manager, which is when I decided to return to graduate school for my social work degree. Once I obtained my social work graduate degree, I was able to return to Women Against Abuse as the director of transitional housing. I was able to obtain an outpatient therapist position with NHS Human services after serving as a manager of two mental health residential facilities with them. This is when Boundary Span came into fruition.

Q: Did your career progression require you to change companies?

A: Yes. See above.

continued on page 20



Imani Pope-Johns

HOWARD

by Sholnn Freeman

Imani Pope-Johns, a public relations senior in the School of Communications, traveled to Singapore to participate in the Digital Life Academy, an internship sponsored by MyCubeTM.com.

The Digital Academy is a global think tank of 30 people ages 16-25 interested in online privacy, data and content ownership, content monetization and similar topics. The 30 were chosen from 15,000 worldwide applications. Selection was based on en-

trepreneurial drive, business acumen and a dedication to the concept of digital life freedom.

The participants received an all-expense-paid trip, plus housing and a stipend of \$2,400. This six-week internship is scheduled from July 4 to Aug. 12. To win the internship, Pope-Johns wrote an article about online privacy versus mobile shopping convenience.

"I am grateful of this experience, not only because it is in my field of study, but because I have never been out of the country," Pope-Johns said. "I cherish moments like this."

How I Got HERE...

Continued from pages 17 & 18

Grace Robinson, LUTC, MBA

Q: When did you make your final career decision?

A: After I had my children, I needed more stability. I used to travel out of town a lot.

Q: How many years has it taken you to reach this level of your career?

A: It never stops. I have been working at this for 29 years. Never take anything for granted.

Q: How important were mentors?

A: Mentors were very important. My parents and family always encouraged me to never give up.

Q: How important is on-the-job-training?

A: You have to be trained in order to work effectively and efficiently.

Q: What advice do you have for recent college graduates in planning their careers?

A: Network and work hard at finding the right mentor in or out of your particular field. Intern with a Company and never give up on your goals.

Angela Mitchell

Q: When did you make your final career decision?

A: Once I entered the consumer packaged goods industry, I decided that this was the industry for me. Loved the general management experience and ownership of a P&L – also, enjoy the variety of experiences and opportunities from advertising development, promotions, innovation, and project leadership

Q: How many years has it taken you to reach this level of your career?

A: About 4 years once, I switched industries.

Q: How important were mentors?

A: Extremely important – they provide a critical role in helping you understand the corporate culture, political environment, and key characteristics of successful people (spoken and unspoken) as well can be a great sounding board to help you think through business situations and questions.

Q: How important is on-the-job-training?

A: On-the job training is expected, as you progress in your career – the ability to ramp up faster and more efficiently also differentiates one from another.

Q: What advice do you have for recent college graduates in planning their careers?

A: Know what you're passionate about, develop a plan, and make yourself accountable to the critical steps necessary to get you there. Don't be afraid to ask questions and take the time to build relationships – they are invaluable as you build your career.

Annette Owens-Johnson, MSW, LCSW

Q: When did you make your final career decision?

A: I see my career actually as more of a process rather an end. I have many goals for Boundary Span, but I would say that my last (and best) career decision at this point was to take the leap of faith to become my own boss and start my own organization.

Q: How many years has it taken you to reach this level of your career?

A: In essence, all my life. The journey of my career started way back in high school, and still evolving to this day. That's why it's so important to have the foundation of the importance of education laid early. If one desires a career, they should always keep progressing in it. It will be ultimately much more fulfilling.

Q: How important were mentors?

A: Again, mentors were vital to me. Role models who are doing positive things and making positive moves are SO needed in all communities. This is why now I also try to give back as a mentor myself.

Q: How important is on-the-job-training?

A: As a former job developer, I would have to say that this for the most part depends on the job itself. I find that the best jobs and careers take into account both a person's educational background, and offer on-the-job training as well.

Q: What advice do you have for recent college graduates in planning their careers?

A: The most important thing I would say is to follow your heart when deciding what you will ultimately undertake as your career. Know what you bring to the table, and what products and/or service that you can provide as only you can. Develop your brand, which can be your personal brand. And above all, enjoy your journey, as well as your destination.

Cecile M. Springer, MURP

Q: How important is on-the-job-training?

A: On-the-job-training gives the employee the best advantage to learn what the employer wants you to be able to do and exactly what is expected on the job. This is often the basis for a successful employment opportunity.

Q: What advice do you have for recent college graduates in planning their careers?

A: First, examine what you really want to do. Then, determine what skills you will need to be competitive in that field. Then find someone who is an expert or well informed in that area and interview them to find out what it means to be successful in that field, where are the jobs, and would they help.

Chaz Kelleem

Q: How important is on-the-job-training?

A: We learn on the go. Most learn while watching, doing, or being involved. Some things cannot be taught in the classroom or learned from a book, as we just have to try. Sometimes failing at something is the best lesson.

Q: What advice do you have for recent college graduates in planning their careers?

A: Believe in yourself always and work harder than everyone else does. Gain as much experience in both your profession and within leadership opportunities while in college as possible. Think outside the box within your career search. Understand what you are willing to do (i.e. relocate, take less money to do what you love, etc) and understand the value of yourself.