

PEOPLE

The movers and shakers of Gloucester County

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People

Who's News around Gloucester County

Sheryl Timpanelli, a 32-year-old mother of two and a 4.0 student, is the first student to graduate from Rowan University and the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey RN-to-BSN program with which Rowan has been partnered for two years. The program allows registered nurses to earn a B.S. in nursing at Rowan while taking courses taught by both Rowan and UMDNJ faculty.

"I was at UMDNJ before the Rowan partnership was announced," says Timpanelli, a Cherry Hill resident. "I was one of only two students to be grandfathered into the new Rowan program."

The program requires 31 hours of specialized required nursing courses. Students must be registered nurses to qualify.

"It was very hard to juggle my schoolwork with my family," says Timpanelli, who was nine months pregnant with her second child when she finished the program with a 4.0. "I couldn't have done it without my husband, Nicholas. He and the rest of my family were very supportive."

"Sheryl's steadfastness, intelligence and diligence in pursuing her goal while raising her family set a tremendous example," says her professor, **Barbara Benjamin**.

Two exhibitions by Gloucester County artist **Carol Taylor-Kearney** are on display at galleries in Lawrenceville and Wilmington.

Taylor-Kearney's "Illuminating Childhood" exhibit, an installation of oil-on-glass paintings, is in Lounge B Gallery in Conant Hall at Educational Testing Services in Lawrenceville through March 31. It features glass

Four 'Women of Achievement' from county honored

Four residents of Gloucester County are among the nine winners of 2006 "Women of Achievement" awards and will be honored Saturday, March 25 (11 a.m.-3 p.m.) at the fourth annual Candace Awards Luncheon at The Renaissance Room in Turnersville.

County honorees are Simmie Wilcox, Woolwich Township, for community service; Deborah Bogan, Deptford, religious leader; Gwendolyn Brown, Woodbury, public policy; and Dr. Corann Okorodudu, West Deptford, education.

Simmie Wilcox

"Excellence is doing a common thing in an uncommon way," says Simmie Wilcox, quoting Booker T. Washington as a way to define her personal value system.

The 1968 Woodbury High School graduate is a licensed insurance broker who had 18 years of training in the prevention of domestic violence, sexual assault and child abuse. Her work as a legal secretary and office manager at Camden Regional Legal Services Inc. gave her an inside look at the need for legal assistance involving non-criminal issues in urban areas, especially for women of color.

A powerful advocate for women victims of domestic violence, Wilcox served as director of PASA (People Against Spousal Abuse). She has aided countless minority women in their attempts to break the cycle of domestic violence.

Others honorees:

Dr. Davida Coe Brockington, Voorhees, arts and culture
Dr. Michele Benoit-Wilson, Cherry Hill, health
Samara Heaggans, Roslyn, Pa., science and technology
Traci C. Benjamin, Pine Hill, communications
Sandra Long, Philadelphia, corporate/glass ceiling.

"I'm very honored," Wilcox says. "I've been privileged. I didn't attend college and I was a stay-at-home mom before I was given the opportunity to work with battered women and children. The cycle has to stop somewhere."

Deborah Bogan

Deborah Bogan works in the teaching ministries of First Baptist Church of Jericho, where her husband, Claborn Bogan Jr., is pastor, and other area churches. She has served as director of First Baptist's Women's Ministry and director of Christian Education while teaching W.O.W. (Women of Wisdom) Bible Study in the Young Adult Women's Church School Class and Homebuilder's Class Couples Ministry with her husband.

She has given workshops and seminars and had speaking engagements throughout

New Jersey. She conducted a seminar in San Francisco on how to develop a women's ministry.

"I'm amazed they would consider selecting me for this honor," says Bogan, a 1968 Delsea Regional High School grad and one of 10 children. "I don't feel like I've accomplished anything on my own. It's the plan the Lord has for me. I believe God has his hand on my life; I give all the glory and honor to Him."

Gwendolyn Brown

Life-long Woodbury resident Gwendolyn Brown, a Licensed Practical Nurse and Parent Educator, is the first African-American woman named to her city's council, serving since 1995. She also serves on the Gloucester County Board of Social Services, Elliott Heard Fund, and chairs the Community Development Committee. Involved in cancer awareness programs, she participates annually in the cancer walk at Cooper River Park. The 1956 Woodbury High graduate also is deeply involved in church work at Bethlehem Baptist.

"The committee honors people who continue to give back, just as the organization does," Brown says. "I'm happy they felt they could honor me."

Dr. Corann Okorodudu

A champion of human rights throughout her career, Dr. Okorodudu is Professor of Psychology and Coordinator of the African-

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 American Studies program at Rowan University.

She is also the American Psychological Association's primary representative to the United Nations. Her role: Integrating a psychological perspective into the UN agenda on women, children, racism, and the elderly. Her deep involvement in human rights initiatives includes the UN Commission on the Status of Women and the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.

Published often in psychological journals, she also has authored "Liberian Women Peacemakers." Dr. Okorodudu established a Rowan

guest speakers series that has included Winnie Mandela.

Guest speaker will be Pamela A. Crawley, senior vice president and director of public affairs, Citizens Bank.

The luncheon is sponsored by the National Coalition of 100 Black Women, Inc. Southern New Jersey Chapter. Cardace, a queen of Ethiopia near the time of Christ, is the symbol for the coalition, an advocacy organization seeking to empower black women seeking to meet professional goals.

Tickets are \$45 in advance, \$55 at the door. Call 787-0391, 875-7101 or 384-1250 for tickets.