

Bill's Business

Bringing our readers vital news on local and national businesses that positively impact the communities we serve.

William Garth, Sr., CEO/Publisher of the Citizen Newspaper Group

Largest Black-Owned Energy Firm Fetes 20 Years in Business

HOUSTON — CAMAC International Corporation, a global energy corporation and the largest African-American energy business in the country, is celebrating its 20th anniversary in business in 2006. CAMAC International Corporation evolved from a business start-up into a multi-national with revenues of over 1 billion dollars.

A key to CAMAC's early success was in partnering exploration, development and acquisition projects in offshore West Africa. As a value-added partner to several multi-national corporations, CAMAC experienced phenomenal growth and was directly involved in securing petroleum investments valued at more than \$1.4 billion dollars.

CAMAC's partnership agreements assisted with the entry of Conoco in 1991, Statoil, the state oil company of Norway in 1993, and the re-entry of British Petroleum (BP) in 1993 into offshore Nigeria.

Today, CAMAC International Corporation and its affiliated group of companies are engaged in principal business activities that include the exploration, production, and the physical trading of crude oil for markets in Africa and Europe and the wholesale trading of electric power and natural gas in the United States. Also, CAMAC through its South African affiliate provides the first-ever, curb-to-curb school bus transportation services for students in Johannesburg.

"CAMAC has also demonstrated strong fiscal transparency and has conducted its worldwide operations with integrity wherever the search for energy resources has taken the corporation," Dr. Kase L. Lawal, chairman and chief executive officer, said.

"Our commitment to academic achievement and human development, whether through business empowerment or arts and education programs, encourages the growth of citizens and communities worldwide," Lawal said.

Oral Historian Named First Vernon Jarrett Fellow

The University of Illinois at Chicago's Great Cities Institute has awarded the first Vernon Jarrett Senior Fellowship to Julieanna Richardson, founder of an archive of African American oral history.

Richardson has served as executive director of The HistoryMakers since founding it in 1999. The organization produces a website, television programs and events based on interviews with African American leaders in education, law, politics, business, media, medicine, science, technology, arts, entertainment, the military and sports.

The website (www.thehistorymakers.com) currently offers biographies and photographs of 1,000 such interviewees, including Jarrett and UIC art professor Kerry James Marshall. The HistoryMakers plans to add 5,000 two-hour video interviews to the site.

Richardson will help set the long-term agenda for the fellowship as its first recipient. She also will undertake short-term programs in her areas of expertise.

David Perry, director of the UIC Great Cities Institute, said Richardson is an ideal choice because her work is in keeping with Jarrett's tradition of analysis combined with action.

"Vernon believed in leadership by African American people of letters," Perry said. "He urged students not only to read their leaders' writings, but to speak their words aloud to each other and learn their way of writing, speaking, and finding motivation. The power of knowledge permeated his written columns. He was an advocate for informed leadership and social change, and a public intellectual in every sense of the word."

"The scope, ambition and goals of Julieanna Richardson's project advance the tradition of Vernon Jarrett by encouraging youth to build their lives on the legacy of past leaders," he said.

Richardson received a law degree from Harvard University and a degree in theater and American studies from Brandeis University, where she researched the Harlem Renaissance. She worked as a corporate lawyer before joining the City of Chicago in 1985 as chair of the Chicago Cable Commission and

administrator of the Office of Cable Communications.

The fellowship honors the legacy of journalist and activist Vernon Jarrett, who was a Great Cities fellow at UIC from 1996 until his death in 2004. Jarrett started his career as a reporter for the Chicago Defender during the 1940s. He became the Chicago Tribune's first syndicated African American columnist, a Chicago Sun-Times columnist and a host on radio and television talk shows.

He established the Afro-Academic, Cultural, Technological and Scientific Olympics (ACT-SO), a year-long enrichment program for African American high school students.

Perry said that he envisions the fellowship in the future to be supported through a partnership



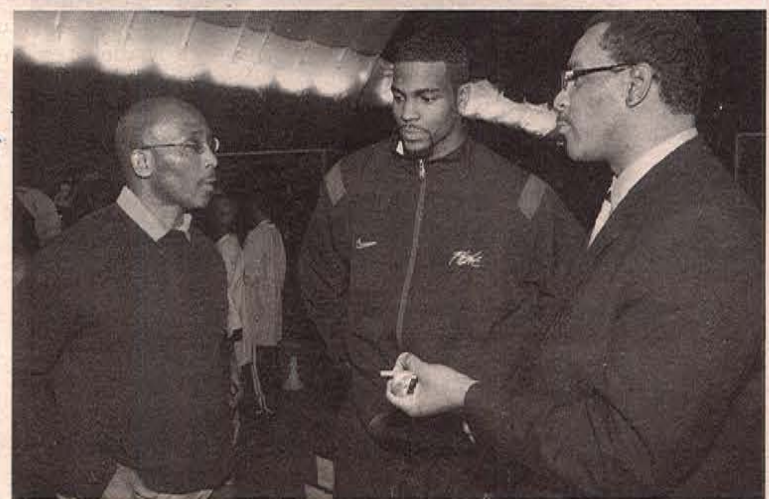
Julieanna Richardson

between UIC and the Vernon D. Jarrett Foundation, established by the Jarrett family to distribute scholarship funds through national organizations associated with Jarrett.

Nike Helps Youth Gear Up with \$45,000 Donation in Football Gear



Pictured above, Nike Marketing Director Andrea Fairchild, Nike Regional GM Larry Harper, Cleveland Browns Wide Receiver/Detroit native Bralyon Edwards, Detroit Police Athletic League Executive Director Dan Varner and Dunham's Executive VP of Store Operations join forces to combat childhood inactivity at a NikeGO event in Detroit, Wednesday February 1. Nike and Dunham's donated \$45,000 worth of football gear to the 300 P.A.L. youth that attending the event and participating in the free SPARQ skills clinic. Pictured at right, Nike Regional GM Larry Harper, Cleveland Browns Wide Receiver/Detroit native Bralyon Edwards and Detroit Police Athletic League Executive Director Dan Varner discuss childhood inactivity at a NikeGO event in Detroit, Wednesday February 1. Nike and Dunham's Sports donated \$45,000 in football gear to the more than 300 Detroit P.A.L. youth that attended the event and participated in a free SPARQ skills clinic.



Forums ♦ Symposia ♦ Conferences

Business owners, do you know what options you have for retirement? Is your business working as hard for you as you are for it? Are you looking for a roadmap to guide you through retirement security. If any of these questions are a concern for you, Kennedy-King College's Business and Industry Services may have the answers. KKC will host a "Business Owners Guide to Retirement Planning" on Wednesday, February 15 at 6 p.m. at the college, located at 6800 S. Wentworth Ave. For more information and to register, call CBA Financial Services at (312) 384-0336