



2009 Women Build Ambassadors:

Mayor Heidi Davison, Honorary Chair

Heidi Davison is a graduate of the University of Georgia with a Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education and a Masters of Education in Middle School Education, Mayor Davison taught Language Arts for Social Circle City Schools and the Oconee County School System. She formerly served as a Leadership Development Associate with the University of Georgia's J. W. Fanning Institute for Leadership and as the Leadership Athens Director for the Athens Area Chamber of Commerce. From education to the environment, Mayor Davison has been an active volunteer in a wide range of issues that affect the citizens of Athens. As a long-time resident of Athens-Clarke County, educator, and community volunteer, she has experienced first-hand the need for local government to actively seek the participation of all its citizens.

Julie Clarke

Julie Ballard Clark, a member of the Georgia gymnastics team from 1994-98, returns to her role as volunteer assistant coach after spending last season the Director of Gymnastics Operations. In addition to her responsibilities with the Gym Dogs, Clark formerly served as promotions, marketing and general director of all programs, as well as an optional level coach and class instructor for Classic City Gymnastics Academy in Athens. In her years as a Gym Dog, Clark was a member of the 1998 NCAA Championship team, and received two All-America honors. Clark earned the 1995 SEC Freshman of the Year Award and was a member of the 1995 World University Games held in Japan. She is married to Gym Dogs associate head coach Jay Clark. They have a son, Walton Cole, born on Aug. 15, 2002, and a daughter, Kinsey Grace, born Dec. 15, 2005.

Christina Cotter

Christina Cotter is a freelance writer/photographer and the managing editor of Athens' alternative weekly newspaper, *Flagpole*. She was previously the managing editor for the local women's magazine *Athena*. In early 2000, she transitioned from being a local entrepreneur (The Manhattan Cafe, Empire Antiques/Imports) into journalism - allowing her to write about the most inspirational people here in town and to document her travels abroad. She also worked as a production coordinator/cameraperson in the U.S. and Japan for a documentary (*Jimmy Scott: If You Only Knew*) that traveled the international film festival circuit and aired on PBS.

Debbie Dietzler

Deborah Dietzler, joined the association in 1997 as associate executive director and chief operating officer and was named Executive Director in January 2005. During her tenure, she has been instrumental in helping start the Atlanta Alumni Center, creating an award-winning Web

site, involving more students in alumni activities and widening the diversity of the alumni base. She is President Elect of the Alumni Directors of the Southeastern Conference and currently serves on Athens Rotary Club, UGA's Graduate School Advancement Board and Admissions Enrollment Advisory Committee and the Board of Friends of the Georgia Museum of Art. Additionally, she serves on the Athens Area Habitat for Humanity Board of Directors.

Sgt. Courtney Gale

Sgt. Courtney Gale is a 10 year veteran with the Athens-Clarke County Police Department. She grew up in Maryland and moved to Athens, GA to attend the University of Georgia in 1994. After graduating from UGA, she immediately started working for the police department and has steadily advanced in the ranks. Not only is she active with work, but she takes an interest in the community she lives in and continually participates in activities that benefit the community as a whole. She is a member of the Oconee County Land Use and Transportation Citizen Advisory Committee and in August of 2009 will begin her studies again at UGA for a Masters in Public Administration and Policy. This last year and a half has been the most challenging due to an altercation that occurred while she was working. Sgt. Gale was stabbed 10 times while on the job and is still on the road to recovery, but hasn't stopped--slowed down (a little bit), but had enough in her to participate in the Dancing with Athens Stars this year to help raise money for Project Safe, an organization devoted to aiding victims of sexual and domestic violence.

Dr. Joan Koonce

Dr. Koonce is an Associate Professor and Extension Financial Planning Specialist with the University of Georgia (UGA) Cooperative Extension. In her position, she develops educational materials, train county Extension agents and conduct seminars and workshops in the areas of investments, insurance, retirement, estate and tax planning. Prior to her current position, she taught undergraduate and graduate level personal finance courses and conducted research on various financial topics at UGA for 17 years. She is a member of Cornerstone Church of God in Athens where she actively serves on the Ladies' Ministry, Redemption Lift Ministry and Angel Food Ministry Teams.

Cici Mercer

Cecilia Mercer, a longtime attorney known in the Athens community as Cici, focuses her practice in real estate, specifically residential and commercial property law. A native of New York, Mercer graduated Magna Cum Laude from the University of South Carolina with a degree in business and accounting. In 1990, she earned her Juris Doctorate from the University of Georgia's School of Law. Following graduation, she became a faculty services reference librarian at the UGA Law Library, where she edited faculty treatises and articles. In addition, she worked with the Institute for Continuing Judicial Education and the Institute of Government. Mercer was employed at both facilities and gained valuable experience, all while running a household as a single parent of three children. Prior to working at Timmons, Warnes and Anderson, Mercer was employed with another prominent real estate law firm in the area. Mercer has taken every opportunity to be actively involved her community and in her field. She has training in mediation from the American Arbitration Association and in divorce mediation from Elizabeth Manley. Her knowledge of real estate and law is appreciated in all her affiliations. She is a member of several sections in the State Bar of Georgia, including real property, corporations and probate and trust. She is also a member of the Athens Area Board of Realtors, and a former member of the Board of Directors of Athens Area Habitat for Humanity.

Mable Mitchell

Mable has a Bachelor of Science Degree in Biology from Mississippi Valley State University and a Masters of Science degree in Education from the University of Georgia. She was an educator in Athens, GA for over 30 years and has more than 20 years of Real Estate experience in the state of Georgia. She is a member of Hill First Baptist Church where she serves as Church Treasurer and President of the Senior Usher Board. She is also former President of the Bon Bon Social and Civil Club of Athens, an active member of the Athens Area Association of Retired Educators, the Athens Area Association of REALTORS®, the National Association of REALTORS® and the Women's Council of REALTORS®. Mable and her husband Robert have lived in Athens for over 40 years and have two children.

Mickey Montevideo

Mickey is the founder, president and principal associate of MYM Marketing & Public Relations, Inc. Prior to starting her business, Mickey was the Public Relations Director at Athens Regional Medical Center for 15 years. An Athens native, Mickey graduated with an ABJ from the University of Georgia's Henry W. Grady College of Journalism and Mass Communications, with a specialty in Broadcast News. Mickey lives in Bogart with her husband, Harry, who is the publisher of the Red and Black, the daily newspaper serving the University of Georgia campus, and their young son, Harrison.

Judge Jo Carol Nessel-Sale