

# MAKE A LASTING CONNECTION IN 2015!

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## ***Connections Professional Networking***

### **Luncheon Friday, August 14, 2015**

#### **Guest Speaker**



**Deidre Toups**

**Deidre Toups is President of HB Rentals. She has held the position as President since 2008. HB Rentals is a Global Provider of Remote Site accommodations. It has 20 locations in the U.S. and 4 International Locations. The company has a total of 700 employees and has over \$200 Million in Revenue. She also served as CFO for HB Rentals for 11 years and Senior Vice President for 1 year.**

Deidre was born and raised in Lafayette, La. As a graduate of USL (now ULL) she graduated Magna Cum Laude and was named Fall UL Outstanding Graduate the same year she graduated. She has a Bachelor's in Business Administration and a Major in Accounting.

She was listed in The Independent's Women Who Mean Business Award Recipient and was an Acadiana's Top 20 under 40 Award Recipient.

She also served as Staff Auditor for Broussard, Poche, Lewis and Breaux for 4 years.

As a CPA she held the Highest Score in the state of LA and was awarded the Elijah Watts Sells Certificate of High Distinction for scoring in the top 100 in the Nation. She was a Chartered Global Management Accountant and was part of the Moody Executive Institutes Executive Leadership Development Program.

Some of her civil activities include:

- Member of the AICPA
- Vistages International CEO Organization Member
- Former Pastoral Council, St. Joseph's Catholic Church, Milton, LA
- Youth Athletic Coach
- Young Professionals of LAGCOE Mentor and UL Women's Athlete Mentor

She will discuss some of her experiences with us during the August meeting.

**Please join us for a wonderful networking experience!**

## **Petroleum Club**

### **Lunch Buffet \$18**

Please RSVP\* by noon Wednesday, August 12th. It is important that you let us know if you plan to attend.

email: [connectionsprofnet@gmail.com](mailto:connectionsprofnet@gmail.com) or

**RSVP on website** <http://www.connectionsforwomen.net/>

*To prevent Connections being charged by the Petroleum Club for no-shows, if you need to cancel your RSVP please do so by 10:00 am on the Thursday prior to the meeting. We need to confirm our numbers with Petroleum Club by 11:00 am the day before.*

To cancel, please send email to [connectionsprofnet@gmail.com](mailto:connectionsprofnet@gmail.com) or call 658-9590.

Connections accepts cash or checks. Please have your check made payable to Connections prior to arriving at the meeting to expedite registration.

## **President's Message**



It's hard to believe, with the high humidity and scorching heat, summer is coming to a close! As the last month of summer begins, we may feel a little hurried knowing this season will soon be ending. Back to school shopping, last minute vacations, summer sports finals, and student orientations may perhaps be occupying our "to do" list. In the coming weeks, it will take us longer to get to work and run errands. School traffic, in particular, affects nearly all of us, even if we do not have students in our household.

Upon this realization, I begin reflect on patience. Patience as a virtue, as an act to practice and overcome. A quick search on the internet provided a wonderful selection of quotes

pertaining to patience. I would like to share one of the few I can across from a female author.

*"Water does not resist. Water flows. When you plunge your hand into it, all you feel is a caress. Water is not a solid wall, it will not stop you. But water always goes where it wants to go, and nothing in the end can stand against it. Water is patient. Dripping water wears away a stone. Remember that, my child. Remember you are half water. If you can't go through an obstacle, go around it. Water does."*

— Margaret Atwood, The Penelopiad

This beautifully describes many positive traits I aspire for, as a woman: caring and supportive, flexible and firm, gentle and effective. I would like to encourage everyone to practice the virtue of patience as our community also transitions back to school.

Respectfully,

Deirdre Detraz

2015-2016 Connections President

## Business Spotlight of the Month



**"A Rose By Any Other Name!"**  
Rose Hoffman Cormier - Entertainer

Home: [\(337\) 988-0602](tel:(337)988-0602) | Cell: [\(337\) 654-0571](tel:(337)654-0571)  
E-mail: [mmonreaux@lusfiber.net](mailto:mmonreaux@lusfiber.net)

Rose Hoffman Cormier has been performing as Marilyn Monreux for birthday parties and Christmas parties for 13 years; Mrs. Santa Claus for Christmas parties and events for 5 years; and Mother Goose for birthday parties and events for 2 years. Marilyn Monreux sings Happy Birthday, Marilyn songs and Christmas songs. Mrs. Santa Claus sings Christmas songs with the children, reads "The Night Before Christmas", can give out your gifts to the children and take photos with them. Mother Goose sings Nursery Rhymes and reads Nursery Rhymes. For more information, contact Rose on her home phone, cell phone or e-mail address.

# News & Announcements

**NEW Connections website:**  
<http://www.connectionsforwomen.net/>

**Members...** You can bring marketing materials, business cards and brochures/flyers to the meeting and place on the door prize table to promote your business!!

**Members...** You can email announcements, accomplishments, business tips or share good news to Rebecca Taylor and she will share on Connections Facebook page.

Send to: [Rebecca@AcadianaProfile.com](mailto:Rebecca@AcadianaProfile.com)



### Connections Scholarship

*The board has been discussing making some changes to the scholarships that we offer. We have voted on opening up our scholarship to students attending SLCC and also changing the minimum age of eligibility of 24 years of age.*

*We will hold a membership vote at the August meeting concerning these changes.*

### **Connections Directory**

#### **Get connected through our Directory!**

We are working toward our 2015 Member Directory. With the print date fast approaching we are asking everyone that appeared in the last directory to check their information for any corrections/updates that need to be made. You can view this information at: [http://www.connectionsforwomen.net/\\_Assets/Board/connections%202014-15%20directory.pdf](http://www.connectionsforwomen.net/_Assets/Board/connections%202014-15%20directory.pdf)

Below is a listing of prices for ads in the 2015 Directory

Business Card Ad: \$40 | With Photo: \$50

Half Page Ad: \$60 | With Photo: \$75

Full Page Ad: \$100

### **Want a new headshot?**

Photographer Mary Cormaci will take Photos from 11am to 11:30am before the August 14th Connections meeting at the Petroleum Club. The cost to members and guests is \$20, and the image will be used in the Connections Directory as well as being available to you for future business promotion!

### **Faith House, an organization we have donated to has a list of immediate needs for their shelter.**

**Immediate Needs:** Laundry detergent, dish washing liquid, paper plates, utensils, bowls and cups, towels and washrags, floor cleaner, brooms/mops, diapers (size 4 and 5), sanitary products, ethnic hair care products, Lysol, sheets and blankets (Twin Size)

**For women moving out of the shelter, they are also seeking:** Furniture (Sofas, beds, dressers, etc.) sheets/blankets, pots/dishes/utensils, kitchen tables/chairs, carseats, fans, and suitcases.

Please contact Mary User at (337) 234-2715 for donations or questions.

### **SLCC - Striding for Scholarships 5K & 1 Mile Fun Run**

**Saturday, October 17, 2015**

Get ready...get set...let's #RaceForEducation!

Registration is now **OPEN** for the first-ever Striding for Scholarships 5K and 1-Mile Fun Run.

Here's a few event details:

- Proceeds will support student scholarships at SLCC. **One scholarship will even be given away to a lucky student ON RACE DAY!** Plus, the MORE family and friends a student brings, the MORE chances they have to win the scholarship!
- Teams are encouraged - get your department, family, or friends together and let's stride for scholarships! All early registrants will receive a **free race t-shirt and other goodies**.
- Not up for the 5K? Participate in the 1-Mile Fun Run/Walk or volunteer!
- Share the 5K event on Facebook - you could win SLCC goodies! <https://www.facebook.com/events/842239302532062/>

**Register here: <https://runsignup.com/Race/LA/Lafayette/StridingforScholarships5K1MileFunRun>**

***Bring your business card and at each meeting we will draw a name. Your business will then be "Spotlighted" in the next monthly newsletter.***

# Mark Your Calendar!

## Connections Meeting – August 14th

Networking and business card exchange begins at 11:30 a.m.  
Meeting starts promptly at 12:00 noon at the Petroleum Club.

## Connections Monthly Board Meeting:

### Monday, August 17th

#### 11:30 am at Abacus Restaurant on Pinhook

Deadline to submit articles to be included in the next Connections Newsletter is the 21st of the month.

## Future Connections' Meetings:

### September 11

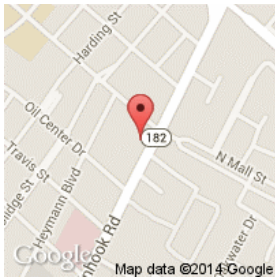
### October 9

### November 13

### December 11

### January 8

[Read More](#)



Petroleum Club

111 Heymann Boulevard (Oil Center)

### **Buffet lunch \$18**

Please bring cash or **preferred method of payment check.**

Meetings are being held in the lounge on the 1st floor, near the arch driveway, down the hall from the buffet.

Networking begins at 11:30 a.m.

Meeting begins at 12:00 Noon.



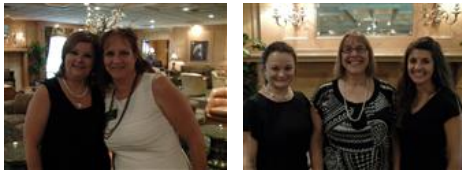
*Bring a door prize! It's a GREAT way to promote YOUR business!!*

Thank you to our members and guests for the door prizes donated at the July meeting!!

A special thanks to:

**Gail Wolf**  
**Chere Coen (Guest Speaker)**  
**Janice Weber (Acadiana Family Counseling)**  
**Eileen Menard Martin**  
**Deirdre Detraz**  
**Pat Sonnier**  
**Rodlyn Cochran (KATC TV 3)**  
**JoAnn Pugh**  
**Gwen Doucet (JD Bank)**  
**Rose Moss (Mary Kay Cosmetics)**  
**Rose Hoffman Cormier**

Thank you Chere' Coen for talking to us about your journey in writing.



**Connections Officers**

Dierdre Detraz- President  
Cynthia Beslin- President Elect  
Eugenia Shedrick – Newsletter VP  
Rebecca Taylor– Public Relations VP  
Lana Fontenot – Membership VP  
Debra Billeaud – Treasurer  
Rodlyn Cochran- Program VP  
Vonda Broussard - Secretary  
Nanette Heggie – Board Member at Large and Career Achievement  
Joann Pugh -Scholarship Chairperson

**CONNECTIONS PURPOSE AS BY OUR CONNECTIONS CONSTITUTION**

SECTION ONE: TO PROVIDE A PROFESSIONAL , EDUCATIONAL AND PERSONAL SUPPORT NETWORK FOR CAREER-ORIENTED WOMEN.

SECTION TWO: TO PROVIDE AN ARENA IN WHICH CAREER-ORIENTED WOMEN CAN MEET ONE ANOTHER.

SECTION THREE: TO PROMOTE PROFESSIONAL ACHIEVEMENTS OF WOMEN IN THE COMMUNITY.

SECTION FOUR: TO PROVIDE MODELS FOR THE COMMUNITY.

Enjoy yourself at our meeting!!

CONNECTIONS is a monthly newsletter published by the members of CONNECTIONS. For consideration of all information and articles, contact Newsletter Vice President and Editor, Eugenia Shedrick at 337-852-3027 or [eugenias@worknet2k.com](mailto:eugenias@worknet2k.com). If you would like to become a member of CONNECTIONS, contact Lana Fontenot, Membership Vice-President at [ana.fontenot@solacc.edu](mailto:ana.fontenot@solacc.edu).

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