

**MAKE A LASTING
CONNECTION IN 2015!**

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Connections Professional Networking
Luncheon Friday, June 12, 2015

Our topic for the month of June is Networking.

Guest Speakers



Anita Begnaud

Anita Begnaud is an Acadiana girl through-and-through, who attended UL Lafayette where she graduated Magna Cum Laude and Outstanding Communications Graduate, earning a B.A. in Interpersonal/Organizational Communications in 2011.

She serves as Marketing & Communications Director of One Acadiana (formerly the Greater Lafayette Chamber of Commerce), which is currently transforming into a national-caliber regional economic development organization serving a nine-parish area in south Louisiana.

Anita serves as a board member of the705 and is part of the committee that is rebranding the organization made up of young professionals who are passionate about helping Acadiana reach its full potential. Additionally, she serves on the executive committee of CASA of SoLA, which recruits and selects volunteers to be the voice of Acadiana's abused and neglected children in court.

When she's not working and networking, you can find her running, reading, or sharing a meal (and a drink or two) with friends and loved ones. Anita is proud of the place she calls home and is grateful for the opportunity to tell the rest of the world Acadiana's story of its unique culture - a perfect blend of family, food, and fun, unlike any other place in the world.



Anne Falgout

Anne is a life-long Acadiana resident, moving to Lafayette as a student of the University of Southwestern Louisiana (Now UL Lafayette). Anne attended the university on full academic scholarship where in 2003 she graduated Summa Cum Laude with a Bachelor of Arts degree in English. Anne was named Outstanding Graduate, won the Owen Reamer Award for Excellence, and earned special honors from the College of Liberal Arts as the student with the second-highest GPA. Prior to graduation she joined the Lafayette Economic Development Authority staff as a full time Research Associate to assist businesses with their decision-making process. In the last twelve years Anne rose through the ranks at LEDA serving as Research Coordinator before being promoted to Director of Market Intelligence and Quality Manager.

In November of 2014, Anne returned to her home parish to work with the newly-incorporated Vermilion Economic Development Alliance. She represents the business community on the Vermilion Chamber of Commerce board and the parish on the Acadiana Economic Development Council and Acadiana Planning Commission Revolving Loan Fund boards. With her extensive research capabilities and ability to bridge the statistical and business worlds, Anne serves as a great resource for area entrepreneurs.

Anne is an active member of FUEL Vermilion, Vermilion parish's young professional organization and returned this year to the 705 board in her fifth year as the President, formerly serving as President-Elect, and in Programming, Philanthropy and Marketing/Communications. Three years ago, Anne completed a two-year term as the Curriculum Co-Chair for the Leadership Lafayette program and is currently serving as the Lafayette Junior Leadership co-chair. She is Leadership Lafayette graduate of Class XXII and a third-generation member of the Confrerie d'Abbeville, a fraternal organization committed to maintaining this area's French heritage. Anne also shares her cultural commitment through food and storytelling in her weekly community column "Chef

Anne Specials” in The Daily Advertiser. With her three children, Anne currently resides in Lafayette, and looks forward to growing her involvement in the community that she loves so much.

Please join us for a wonderful networking experience!

Petroleum Club

Lunch Buffet \$18

Please RSVP* by noon Wednesday, June 10th. It is important that you let us know if you plan to attend.

email: 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 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



I would like to say it is an honor to have the opportunity to serve as Connection's president this upcoming year. I am grateful for the past Presidents' and Board Members' mentorship and look forward to their continued support and guidance.

This time of year usually brings with it a great deal of change. High school and college students graduating and elementary and middle school grade promotions. Also, lots of weddings taking place. For fellow family and friends, these milestones signal the closing of a chapter.

Change is not always easy, as we all have had to deal with some sort of change in our own lives. But we need to be reminded, as some doors close; new doors and opportunities are opening. This cycle is necessary for all things and people to grow.

As we begin another chapter, both personally or professionally, let us embrace new opportunities and not be focused on the obstacles of change.

Connections will be celebrating its 30th Anniversary this year, so it too will be growing as we enter into its third decade of professional networking!

I will hold true to the mission of Connections as I help lead this great organization into a new chapter. I look forward to hearing from membership and seeing you all at future meetings.

Sincerely,

Deirdre Detraz

Connections President 2015-2016

Business Spotlight of the Month

JD Bank - 300 Verot School Rd., Lafayette La 70508 | Ph. (337) 500-1381

Gwen Doucet – Vice President/Branch Manager

Since 1947, JD Bank has been serving Southwest Louisiana. Although we are new to Lafayette, JD Bank is a community bank with a total of 23 full service branches. At JD Bank, we put our customers first. We strive for excellence by developing and maintaining strong, long-lasting personal relationships with our customers. With our customers in mind, we have designed and provided quality accounts and services to them and their businesses, as well as local government agencies. We staff our facilities with professional, knowledgeable, and caring employees dedicated to outstanding service.

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

Connections Directory

We are preparing for the upcoming Connections Directory. To have your information included in the directory, your membership dues must be paid by our next meeting on June 12, 2015.

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 –June 12th

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, June 15th

11:30 am at Abacus Restaurant on Pinhook

Deadline to submit articles to be included in the next Connections Newsletter is the 15th of the month.

Future Connections' Meetings:

July 10

August 14

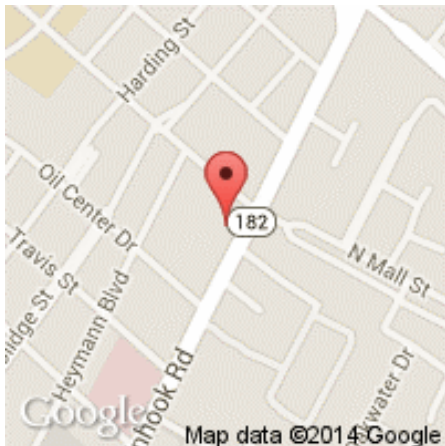
September 11

October 9

November 13

December 11

[Read More](#)



Petroleum Club
111 Heymann Boulevard (Oil Center)

Buffet lunch \$18

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

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 May meeting!!

A special thanks to:

Gail Wolf

Pat Sonnier

Nanette Heggie (Investment Partners)

Amy Schwarzenbach (Commandress)

JoAnn Pugh

Rodlyn Cochran (KATC)

Rose Moss (Mary Kay Cosmetics)

Lourdes Broussard (Lynn Wood & Associates)

Gwen Doucet (JD Bank)



\$1,000 Connections UL Lafayette Scholarship

Connections Professional Woman's Networking Organization awards a minimum of one UL Lafayette Scholarship per year with preference given to a mature woman student between the ages of 24 and 55 - one either returning to college for a career change, or a mature first-time student. Selection is based on academic merit, cumulative GPA 2.5 or higher, and professional promise by the Connections Scholarship Committee. Should you know of a woman meeting the criteria above, please encourage her to contact the UL Lafayette Scholarship Office in Martin Hall for a Connections Scholarship Application. **You may contact JoAnn Pugh for more information at joannpugh@hotmail.com.**



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 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. If you would like to become a member of CONNECTIONS, contact Lana Fontenot, Membership Vice-President at лана.fontenot@solacc.edu.

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!!

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