

# WOMEN IN BUSINESS

## PROFILES OF SUCCESS

An Athens Magazine tradition since 1997, the Women in Business and Profiles of Success advertorial features allow readers the chance to learn more about some of the most outstanding businesswomen and locally owned businesses in the area. We begin with Women in Business...

### ANN BROOKINS

Assist 2 Sell

One of the most familiar faces in the Athens real estate market, Ann Brookins of Assist 2 Sell has been helping buyers and sellers with their home needs since 1986.

Although Ann has received many prestigious awards through the years, she says, "I measure my own success by the excellent service and caring attention given to each buyer and seller."

Her designations include Graduate of the Realtors Institute, Certified Residential Specialist, and Accredited Buyers Representation. Ann is a member

of the Athens Area Association of REALTORS, the Multiple Listing Service, and the Women's Council of REALTORS. She is also a Lifetime Member of the Million Dollar Club. In 1987, Ann was named New Face of the Year by the Athens Association Board of REALTORS.

As a full-time, professional REALTOR, Ann invites anyone interested in buying or selling a home to contact her at (706)353-1054 for a market analysis.



Ann Brookins

### PAM FOLGER

Folger Entertainment



Pam Folger

Make a weekly date Monday nights at 8 p.m. with Pamela Folger. Sit back, relax and get ready for a fun-filled hour to find out, as Pamela's cable TV show's title "It's All About Athens" suggests, well, everything you need to know about what's going on in Athens!

Charter subscribers in Athens can tune into Channel 23 weekly to see Folger Entertainment's show, "Its All About Athens." Comfortable both in front of and behind the camera, company president Pamela Folger works as cameraman, editor, producer, director, and salesperson of Folger Entertainment.

"My objective is to make Channel 23 a good local channel that people will want to watch and enjoy seeing themselves and their friends or neighbors. Athens needs a channel that has weekly shows and draws local interest," Pamela says.

Loyal viewers already know that Pamela has revamped four of her former shows into one weekly one-hour show "It's All About Athens."

"By combining the four shows, we've created a more interesting program that packs more punch and really keeps people's attention. In just an hour, you

can see everything," Pamela says. "And it has a really catchy jingle!" she adds with a laugh.

Ladies are particularly fond of the show's first segment "Talk of the Town" where Pamela and hostesses Kate Lynch and Mary Beth McDonald discuss community-related topics. Next up are two of the guys' favorite segments: "Pamela Folger's Home & Garden Show" and "Classic City Sports Talk." For music fans there's "Cross Country" with country music video clips and interviews with featured guests including Shawn Mullins, Jeff Foxworthy, and Dierks Bentley.

Whether she's interviewing a local interior designer or cooking up fried apple pies with Charlie Daniels on his tour bus, Pamela says she never gets nervous during an interview. "Big celebrities like it when you're down to earth and get to know them a little bit before the interview," Pamela says.

Even though Pamela's focus is "all about Athens," Pamela has recently found additional success with her new monthly segments. One segment covers financial news and information with Tom Greene of Greene Financial Center, another focuses

on medical topics with Dr. David Allen of The Urology Clinic, and the third segment addresses topics of interest for the moms in the audience with Sherri Goggins, Mrs. Georgia 2006.

"The most rewarding part of my job is when people come up to me and tell me my show is their favorite show. I've met a lot of my friends from them watching the shows and calling me. I love it when people feel comfortable enough to come up to me in a restaurant or shopping. I even get the occasional request for an autograph!" Pamela says.

Pamela invites you to tune in Monday nights at 8 p.m. and enjoy the show.

## GEORGIA FEDERAL CREDIT UNION

Lisa Thurmond

For Lisa Thurmond, who was recently named the new Athens District Manager of Georgia Federal Credit Union, helping people is a specialty.

As Athens District Manager, Thurmond provides financial services benefiting University of Georgia students, faculty, staff and alumni. However, with its community charter, Georgia Federal Credit Union is also open to serve anyone who lives, works or worships in Athens-Clarke County.

"Credit unions offer a great value in financial services—from free checking with identity theft protection to a full array of consumer and mortgage loans," says Thurmond, who is responsible for managing the two Athens branches, located at 190 Gaines School Road and 1710 S. Lumpkin St.

Thurmond brings to her new position a wealth of experience in

the financial services industry. Prior to joining Georgia Federal Credit Union, she was employed at Georgia Power NE Credit Union for 19 years, with her most recent position being manager.

Thurmond holds a bachelor's of Business Administration with a specialty in finance from the University of Georgia. She is a member of the NE Georgia Credit Union Chapter Board, Athens Credit Professionals, Georgia Credit Union League Acceptance Corp Board, and the UGA Alumni Association.

Georgia Federal Credit Union is celebrating 50 years as a not-for-profit financial cooperative serving educational, governmental, and private industry employees and their families across the state. With assets exceeding \$450 million and 14 branch locations, Georgia Federal Credit Union is ranked as one of the top credit unions in Georgia.



Lisa Thurmond

## SPA & PATIO CENTER

Casey Thornton

Creating beautiful outdoor living spaces is a calling that comes naturally to Casey Thornton, manager of Spa & Patio Center in downtown Watkinsville.

The outdoors provides a natural space for relaxing or connecting with others at home," says Thornton, whose parents founded Spa & Patio Center in 1972. "We want to help our customers bring beautiful things to their outdoor rooms with the same gracious spirit they bring to the home's interior."

Whether the project includes a custom Hot Spring spa nestled in the landscaping, an outdoor kitchen for large entertaining or just a quiet space to curl up and read, Thornton's expertise in exterior design will help maximize any outdoor living space.

"I'm very passionate about exterior design," says Thornton, who has worked in the family-owned business

since she was 13. "Our goal is always to guide people in coordinating their own ideas and desires with their environment. That's my specialty - helping homeowners create the livable space of their dreams."

At Spa & Patio Center's Watkinsville showroom, Thornton features a vast array of distinctive all-weather furniture and accessories displayed in realistic settings to help customers create the look they envision.

"We want to design living spaces that you want to come home to," she says. "We offer everything needed to create a unique outdoor space and the professional design experience to complete the look."

Visit the Lake Oconee store in The Village at Harmony Crossing (706) 485-5777 or the Watkinsville store at 8 N. Main Street, (706) 310-7007. For more information, see [www.spapatio.com](http://www.spapatio.com).



Casey Thornton

## BROOKS-MANNING INTERIORS

Garrett Hiday

Brooks-Manning Interiors, Inc., brings the beauty and function of design to your home for hassle-free living in a comfortable and stylish environment.

"We create design solutions based on the principles of function, organization, color, and style, which provide our clients with a home where hassle and confusion are eliminated," says founder Garrett Hiday. "We develop our relationships with our clients by applying these principles to create a home that reflects their personality and supports the celebration of life's events with family and friends."

Brooks-Manning Interiors is more than an interior design business. The group works closely with each client to translate their vision and preferences through every stage of design, including the architectural design, construction, and

interior decoration.

The primary designer, Garrett Hiday, is a University of Georgia graduate with a bachelor's in interior design and has been in the residential design business for 20 years, including 4 years in Jacksonville, Fla., and 9 years in Atlanta—four of those years spent working with esteemed designer Dan Carithers.

"Working with Dan Carithers gave me a thorough training in project and office management," says Hiday. "I effectively 'earned my Ph.D.' in the business—an experience that enabled me to open Brooks-Manning Interiors in Atlanta before moving to Madison in 2001."

If you have a vision for your home, contact Brooks-Manning Interiors, Inc. today and make that dream a reality. They are located at 162 N. Main St. in Madison and are available by phone at (706) 752-0230.



Garrett Hiday

## ATHENS HEARING CLINIC

Dr. G'Anne Thomas

Serving Athens for over 25 years, Dr. G'Anne Thomas, audiologist and owner of Athens Hearing Clinic, maintains the highest standard of care for the hearing impaired, using the latest technology in services and assistive hearing devices to diagnose, treat and rehabilitate hearing loss and hearing-related disorders.

"Most people are not familiar with an audiological practice. We are not a hearing aid franchise," says Dr. Thomas. "Our practice is patient, not product, focused. An audiologist's role is to aid in the identification and diagnosis of hearing loss. Our mission is to improve the quality of life for the patients through better hearing, whether that is with the use of instruments, assistive devices, counseling or referral for medical intervention."

Dr. Thomas holds a clinical doctorate in Audiology from the

Arizona School of Health Sciences and has extensive field practice serving the audiological and hearing needs in this area. Athens Hearing Clinic, which opened in 2003, provides comprehensive audiological services including hearing evaluations, newborn screenings, balance assessment testing and aural rehabilitation, family counseling, hearing aid fittings, repairs and maintenance on all makes and models of instruments. In addition to Athens, she also serves her patients at a satellite office in Hartwell.

If you or a loved one are experiencing hearing difficulties, open up a whole new world for yourself or a friend with a visit to Dr. Thomas at her offices, located at 1077 Baxter St. in Athens and 182-B Cade St. in Hartwell. Or call (706) 549-3111 or 1-800-418-2422 for more information.



Back Row Left to Right: Amber Sims (billing clerk), April Bishop (receptionist), Front Row Left to Right: Tina Hart (customer care rep), Dr. G'Anne Thomas (Audiologist)



Paula Sartain, RN, BSN & Helen Springs, RN

## A.C.T. HOME CARE

"A Caring Touch" is the philosophy upon which A.C.T. Home Care, Inc. was founded. A.C.T. is co-owned by Helen Springs, RN, and Paula Sartain, RN, BSN. Both Helen & Paula are Registered Nurses with over 20 years each of experience.

Springs has practiced home health care since 1991. Previous to beginning in home health care, Springs worked in the ICU and Emergency Room settings.

Sartain began her home health care career with the founding of A.C.T. Home Care, Inc. in 2005. Sartain spent the prior 15 years in management at Elbert Memorial Hospital.

A.C.T. Home Care, Inc. is dedicated to assisting individuals remain in their own

homes in spite of illness or complications of the aging process. "We have an empathetic and honest concern for our clients and their families—we both have had parents who required home care services in the past year, so we understand first-hand what it is like for the families who have loved ones in need of home services."

"We have been so fortunate with finding wonderful, dedicated employees in our area—they are the backbone of our services, and we are proud to say that we have many employees who have been with us since the beginning of A.C.T."

To reach A.C.T. Home Care, Inc., call (706) 559-4432.

## FIRST GEORGIA BANKING COMPANY

Tori Haack & Chris Gilmer

For Tori Haack and Chris Gilmer, the Athens community is an asset they can bank on.

"We're a full-service community bank," says Haack, president of First Georgia Banking Company in Athens. "Our philosophy is always to be responsive to our customers' needs, because they are the key to our future."

Founded in 2004, First Georgia Banking Company is one of the fastest growing community banks in the country. Their temporary location, at 8811 Macon Highway, is the bank's 11th market.

"We want to be a primary resource for the community's financial needs," says Haack. "We are empowered to make local decisions that will benefit the unique needs of the Athens community and our customers."

With more than 17 years in the banking industry, Haack is the only female president of an Athens bank, while Gilmer, branch manager, offers an additional 26 years of experience to meet all your banking needs.

For more information call Haack or Gilmer at (706) 548-1432.



Tori Haack, Chris Gilmer

## ATHENS INFUSION & PHARMACY

Ann Hansford, Melissa Sellars, & Christa Bailey

For Athens Infusion pharmacists Ann Hansford, Melissa Sellars, and Christa Bailey, all UGA graduates, providing error-free care in the most timely manner is a matter of business.

For over a decade, Athens Infusion & Pharmacy has specialized in providing I.V. medications to patients in their homes – preventing hospitalization – or upon departure from the hospital. The medications and supplies are delivered directly to the patient's door, giving them the ability to recover in the comfort and security of their own home.

Beginning in 2001, this specialty pharmacy began providing advanced medication packaging systems to individuals in assisted living homes and personal care homes, as well as special-needs clients or anyone with multi-drug regimens. Using a medication delivery system like Medicine-on-Time ensures that doses are not missed. This system saves time, reduces errors, and is convenient for patients and caregivers.

For more information, please call (706) 369-3050, or 1-800-582-8925.



(L-R) Melissa Sellars, Christa Bailey & Ann Hansford

# PROFILES OF SUCCESS

## JWR JEWELERS

Offering the area's finest hand-crafted jewelry combined with the highest-caliber service, JWR Jewelers in Athens is the Classic City's premier destination for a jeweler you can trust.

"Our jewelers strive to make customers for a lifetime through outstanding service, knowledge, and craftsmanship," says owner John W. Reed. "Long-term relationships are vital to any successful jewelry business. We can build that kind of relationship with our customers because our service is based on a foundation of honesty and integrity. It's our key to success."

Founded in 1993 by John and Patti Reed, JWR Jewelers has a longstanding reputation as a full-service jewelry store that offers everything from a quality selection of diamonds, colored gemstones, pearls, karat gold and sterling silver jewelry.

"All our diamonds are hand-selected with special care," says Reed, who is a graduate gemologist from the Gemological Institute of America.

The trained professionals at JWR Jewelers also provide custom designs, appraisals, repairs, and engraving as in-store services. Watch repair, hand-engraving, and stone re-polishing are also available.

As members of the American Gem Society and the Independent Jewelers Organization, the jewelry professionals at JWR Jewelers are committed to ongoing education and are



Left to Right: Paul Henriques, Jimmie Beals, Patti Reed, John Reed and Tony Cruz

uniquely qualified to provide you the best service with integrity.

Other professionals at JWR Jewelers whose expertise you can trust include Master Jeweler C. Paul Henriques, Tony Cruz, and Jimmie Beals, who bring more than 40 years of experience to the JWR Jewelers' staff.

JWR Jewelers is located in the Beechwood Promenade Shopping Center, at the corner of Alps Road and Baxter Street, in Athens. The phone number is (706) 543-9800 and the website address is jwrjewelers.com. Store hours are Monday–Saturday, 10 a.m.–6 p.m.

## NEW BALANCE

Ty and Stacey Wheeler are putting their best foot forward.

As owners of New Balance Athens, the couple strives to provide the highest professional standard of customer service in athletic shoes and apparel for the entire family.

"What really sets us apart from other athletic shoe stores is that we provide full one-on-one service including foot analysis with our computerized foot scanner. Our trained and knowledgeable staff help you choose the right shoe for your foot type or problem," says Stacey.

New Balance Athens on Epps Bridge Parkway has been open for over a year, while the Wheeler's second location in Greenville, S.C., is celebrating six years of success.

Visit New Balance Athens at their location on Epps Bridge Parkway or call (706) 552-3668 today and take your first step to a new you. Your feet will thank you.



Ty and Stacey Wheeler



Dr. Howard

## THE HOWARD DIET WEIGHT LOSS CENTER

The story of Dr. Andrew Howard, OB-GYN and founder of The Howard Diet Weight Loss Center, is a success story you can make your own!

Now available in Athens, The Howard Diet offers a proven, physician-supervised weight loss program that has helped hundreds of patients lead a happier, healthier life.

Dr. Howard created this plan in conjunction with a cardiologist and nutritionist after he began experiencing cardiac problems due to a 65-pound weight gain. Now, patients in five centers across the Southeast have an easy-to-follow diet during the week that allows you to eat the foods you crave on the weekends. The diet also promotes exercise as a factor in healthy, effective weight loss that will increase your chances of success.

"We address our country's obesity problem by helping people look better, feel better, and be healthier in a safe

way," says Dr. Howard. "This approach is a change in lifestyle you can live with forever." The Howard Diet offers several advantages over other weight-loss programs. Created and directed by a physician, the specialists are able to prescribe medications to help control hunger and boost the metabolism. The trained health professionals also make sure patients stay healthy during weight loss through regular labwork. Best of all, there is no contract required and one flat fee covers all of your expenses, including your examination, all lab tests, medications, injections and vitamins and minerals.

Call The Howard Diet today at (706) 353-7103 or visit them at Mission Square, Atlanta Highway, Athens, across from Georgia Square Mall, to schedule an appointment. What do you have to lose other than excess weight?



Gur Agrawal

## JOY OF TRAVEL

Mrs. Gur P. Agrawal has a passion for traveling that shines through in her business, The Joy of Travel, Inc. Combining travel experience with friendly person-to-person service, Agrawal aims to make every excursion a trip to remember.

Specializing in international travel, The Joy of Travel provides services on international and domestic airline booking, cruise booking, package deals, tours, hotels, car rentals, and rail booking. Agrawal says her services have a step up on online travel resources because it offers one thing the Web cannot: Personal service from seasoned travelers.

"Because we specialize in international travel, we can provide cheaper fares than one can get directly from the airline," she says. "Good customer service does not have to be sacrificed since we have competitive

prices for air fare, cruises, package deals, and more."

Born into the travel business, Agrawal has provided people with the resources they need for a delightful travel experience for more than 35 years.

Agrawal's goal is to provide her clients with the confidence and ease of well-seasoned travelers. Her motivation comes from her own travels in the United States and abroad and from the joy of helping others experience new and exciting places.

"The motto of The Joy of Travel is giving First Class Service on any budget," she says.

Whether it's a quick trip up the Eastern Seaboard or a trek across the globe, give Agrawal a call at (706) 552-3300, or visit The Joy of Travel at 1307 Cleveland Road in Bogart, [www.the-joy-of-travel.com](http://www.the-joy-of-travel.com).