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### WEBSITE

[www.networkexecwomen.com](http://www.networkexecwomen.com)

Our website is updated monthly and provides information about upcoming programs. For updates to the website or to submit information about your upcoming events please submit all your information to Debbie Denton at [debbie@2designstudio.com](mailto:debbie@2designstudio.com) by the 15th of the month. If you'd like to post your photo in the member directory listing on our website please provide Debbie with headshot in a jpg, pdf, or tif file.

## Speaker: Emanuel Leto

Community Relations and Outreach Manager  
Tampa Bay History Center

Tuesday, April 12th 11:30 am - 1:00 pm  
Centre Club 123 Westshore Blvd.  
Members \$20 Guests \$25

### Menu: Blackened Salmon Salad

(Veggie plate available; please request when reserving)

RSVP by noon Friday, April 8th through NEW website,  
phone (813) 251-9172 or [Ewhubbard@aol.com](mailto:Ewhubbard@aol.com)

Please join us and learn more about Florida's history. Emanuel Leto, Community Relations and Outreach Manager with the Tampa Bay History Center will be speaking at our April 12th luncheon.

The Center grew out of a Historical Museum Task Force created by Hillsborough County's Commissioners in 1986. The Center's exciting mission is to educate visitors about the important history that has shaped and continues to shape the Tampa Bay area.

The use of modern museum technology highlights countless artifacts. Parent-child learning opportunities abound, both on and off premises, through permanent and changing exhibitions. Over 40,000 items are already in the History Center's collections.

## President's Message

Dear Members and Friends:

What a great turnout for the scholarship luncheon event where scholarships were handed out to four deserving women. Keynote speaker Betty Castor provided information about women and higher education and Laura Moody kept the room filled with excitement.

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Learn how you can become a member by visiting our website and downloading a membership application.

Join us on:



Network of Executive Women  
P.O. Box 320834, Tampa, FL 33679  
[www.networkexecwomen.com](http://www.networkexecwomen.com)

## Events This Month

### Get Acquainted Luncheon

Check website calendar for update  
www.networkexecwomen.com

Enjoy lunch and conversation while you meet with new and prospective members. Learn how you can impact the lives of other women by joining the various committees available.

### After Hours Networking

Check website calendar for update  
www.networkexecwomen.com

Enjoy socializing with members in a relaxed atmosphere with cocktails and appetizers.

### Monthly Board Meeting

Wednesday, April 27th, noon - 1:00 pm  
1344 W. Fletcher Ave.

## President's Message continued from pg1

Once again I thank Haley Maple and her committee for all their hard work in putting together an outstanding event!

Well ladies...we made it through another major event and now we look forward to our upcoming retreat at the Grand Hyatt. Barbara Heineken is coordinating this event and has some exciting activities planned. There are plenty of things to do around the perimeter such as: sun bathing, jet skiing, dancing to the calypso and reggae tunes at Bahama Breeze or walks by the beach and boardwalk.

If you recently joined our network and have not had an opportunity to attend one of our retreats, this is an opportune moment to get to know everyone and develop new friendships. During my years at the network, I have had the privilege of meeting some of the most exceptional women. Our members come from diverse backgrounds and professions which provides for a wealth of information and lasting friendships.

I hope to see you there and I wish you a happy Passover and Easter Sunday!

## Upcoming Events

### April

Join us for a cooking class at **Aprons Cooking School (at the Citrus Park Publix)**. Below are two great sounding Aprons cooking classes in April.

#### FIRST CHOICE - Taste Of Mexico

**Instructor** - Rene Valenzuela  
Chef and Owner Taco Bus

**Date & Time** - April 21 at 6:30 p.m.

**Description** - The Taco Bus delivers only the most authentic, most original, most true-to-Mexico taste in their meals. The ingredients are always fresh. You will taste the difference in the food, all made with care and made fresh daily for you.

**Menu** - Guacamole con Salpicon de jaiba y camaron (Seafood Guacamole); Costillas de puerco en salsa verde (Baby Back Ribs Braised in Tomatillo Sauce); Arroz blanco a la Mexicana (Mexican-Style White Rice infused with Onion and Green Pepper Sofrito); Pina flambe en Tequila (Tequila Flambeed Pineapple served with Vanilla Ice Cream).

**Cost** - \$40 per person

#### SECOND CHOICE - Sassy Souffles

**Date & Time** - April 19 at 6:00 p.m.

**Description** - One of the most elusive culinary delights is the soufflé. We want you to know that with ease you can achieve this culinary wonder and the acclamation that goes along with being a master of the soufflé.

**Menu** -Blue Cheese Soufflé; Carrot Soufflé; Cherry Lemonade Soufflé; Roasted Chicken, Garlic, and Spinach Soufflé; Raspberry White Chocolate Souffle. if you are interested, please email **Barbara Heineken at bjheineken@msn.com** with your choice of class. They are really fun, the food and wine is always good, and we have lots of fun.

### May

At our May 10th luncheon **Lisa Ford**, owner of **Invent your Image**, will be speaking on:

"Summer SAAVY"- Shorts, Swimsuits and Sunglasses

- Shorts Etiquette 101
- Swimsuits find your fit
- Sunglass Smarts
- And MORE!!!!

## Annual Retreat

The Network of Executive Women's **Annual Retreat** will be held on June 17-18 at the Grand Hyatt Hotel on the Courtney Campbell Causeway. Come out Friday afternoon - we'll have drinks by the pool and then go over to Bahama Breeze for dinner. Saturday morning will feature breakfast and a fun educational session (topic to be determined). Rooms are \$115 plus tax per night plus registration fee. Reservation forms will be emailed in late April.

## The Scholarship Recipients

In chronological age, **Farah Britto** is our youngest scholarship winner. In terms of her education and achievement, her adjusted age is 47.

Currently, Farah is a double major studying Mass Communications and Anthropology at USF. She earned a 4.4 weighted grade point average while enrolled in the IB program at Southeast High School in Bradenton and has continued to be a straight A student at USF. She is a member of multiple national honor societies and most recently served as the Vice President of Community Service and later Executive Vice President for the National Society of Collegiate Scholars. Farah has been honored for her production, writing and her photographic skills as well.

**Maria Forlivio** won first place in Extemporaneous speaking, opening statement, parliamentary procedures, closing argument, and overall advocacy which were all state level competitions. While still in high school, she competed for and was awarded Ms. Public Service. As an undergraduate at Stetson University, she served as the President of the Pre-Law Society and Secretary of the Theater Arts Honor Society. Now at Stetson School of Law, Maria was selected to compete on the prestigious Trial Team and is Vice President of the Law and Order organization.

**Trista Mustaine**, an Army veteran, served two deployments in Iraq where her work was recognized by her superior as playing a major role in the demonstrable success of the mission. During her

tenure seven medical clinics were opened, where none had previously existed, multiple women's groups were formed that were inner linked together, bringing together the various tribal communities, provincial Iraqi Government Leaders were connected with the women's groups and provided connectivity to GOI assistance programs and multiple schools were expanded to afford young girls the opportunity to attend beyond primary school.

Trista achieved a 4.0 GPA while obtaining a B.S. in Political Science and currently has a 3.39 GPA at Stetson Law School.

**Valeria Obi**, a single mother, came from a household of five children under the care of their Nigerian immigrant mother. During her undergraduate years at Florida State University, her list of accomplishments was long. Some of the highlights are: Senator of the student government association, Ambassador for the Black Student Union, Secretary for the Tallahassee Vote Coalition and Volunteer Team Leader for Jumpstart Tallahassee (where she fulfilled an astronomical 1000 hours of service).

Her list of awards is long as well and includes the Garnet and Gold Society, Dean's list and President's List.

## Significance of Scholarships

As many of you know, N.E.W. hosted our annual scholarship luncheon on March 8. This year, we changed our focus from the Executive Woman of the Year award towards scholarship. Many people may be wondering: Why the change? Although numerous reasons support the change, my personal story shows why our scholarship program matters so much.

Flash back about eleven years. A recent college graduate with a degree in Secondary Education left her home town of Akron, Ohio and headed off to Washington, DC with dreams of pursuing a career in law. Nobody in her immediate family had ever graduated from college, and she had never met a lawyer in her life. She grew up in a lower middle-class family with a dad who worked his tail off

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in steel mills and salt mines as a millwright and a mother who served on the PTA. She knew she wanted to make a difference and study the law in DC, often considered "Hollywood for Lawyers," where opportunities for students were plentiful.

That person was me. Now, thanks to my quality education, hard work and student loans, I'm an equity partner in a mid-size law firm here in Tampa. But, how did I get here? Law school, like all other types of higher education, is really, really expensive. As a first year law student, I was prohibited from working. To pay for tuition, living expenses, books, medical expenses, parking, food, and everything else, I borrowed money. A lot of money. Money I will be paying back for thirty years. Even with the boatload of money borrowed, money was still very tight, as I borrowed as little as possible. I lived in a tiny apartment that was far from my school (living in the Maryland suburbs was cheaper than living in DC). I did without cable and internet and made other similar sacrifices. I also worked as a dean's fellow (essentially a teacher's assistant) in exchange for a slight reduction in tuition. It was still hard.

There was a period of time that was particularly difficult during my second year of law school. I was broke. For two straight weeks, I drank nothing but tap water and ate nothing but grilled cheese (or toast or bread or just cheese). I visited the financial aid office, applied for scholarships and tried to figure out how and where to find more financial aid. Finally, finally, I learned that I was receiving a scholarship of a couple thousand dollars. And when I found out, I sat down in my tiny kitchen in Beltsville, Maryland and cried.

Education used to be more affordable. Lawyers about a decade or two more experienced than me were able to pay off their loans in about one third of the time it will take me. The fact that higher education is expensive is true across all types of colleges and advanced degrees. If we want to help the next generation of executive women and have our nation turn out the best and brightest students possible, we have to be willing to reach out a hand and connect with someone "coming through the ranks." What a shame it would be if remarkable students, like

the ladies who received our 2011 scholarships, were unable to go to school. How terrible is it that students who work hard and dedicate themselves to their studies are worried about which bill to pay and whether they can buy their books this semester?

The Network of Executive Women, through the scholarship program, is making a real difference. All you had to do was listen to the stories of the women who received the scholarships.

Haley Maple, Chair  
Scholarship Luncheon & Auction

## Business Highlight



### Business Name

Due to our Scholarship Luncheon & Auction, we did not pick a business for April. Remember to bring your business card and drop it into bag for the Business of the Month.

A short description of your business will be in the newsletter and on the website. This is a chance to promote your business. Don't miss out!

**Network of Executive Women NEWSletter**  
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**Creative Ideas and Quality Designs**

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