

Gen 480: past, present and future paper

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I am the fourth of eight children born to Mr. and Mrs. Joe Johnson. I was raised in New Orleans, La. At an early age I developed a love to care for animals and my parents expectations of me was to one day become Dr. Jamie Johnson, Veterinarian. Growing up my parents always emphasized the church and education on the entire Johnson clan. Being raised in a Christian environment and focusing on the positives of life especially education, gave us a sense of morals and ethics. I guess from their experiences they felt that with God and an education we would not go wrong. I am a product of the public school system in New Orleans, Louisiana. While attending elementary, junior high, and senior high public school in New Orleans I did learn how to speak the Spanish language and I graduated with honors. However, my plans to further my education and become a veterinary was like I said my parents' plans for my life not mine. I wanted to become a Cosmetologist and have my own beauty salon. Immediately after high school, I talked my parents into letting me attend Beauty School with a promise that I would attend college and receive my degree, and they allowed me to go to beauty school. In the year 1984, I am 18 and the proud owner (with the help of my parents and god parents) of one of the finest salons in the city of New Orleans. The name of my salon was, " The Masters' Touch". Well, first of all, because I am a Christian and hearing all my life, " In all thy ways acknowledge Him and He will direct thy paths"; I knew I wanted to give God the glory even down to the name of my salon. So that is how the name of my salon came about. My family and friends were very supportive of my business and they are a big make up of my clients. Not only was my family a big makeup of my clients, but also the First Ladies of the churches and what is considered to be the " very important people" for the school board. In their presence I would feel

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inadequate and incompetent because these people was saying words that I can no longer remember the meaning of and I found myself going home at night and looking the words up in the dictionary. I realize that even though my business was very successful I had a need to in my life and this need was to further my education. I sometimes evaluate my circumstances on a want or a need basis and this for certain was the biggest need in my life. After seriously analyzing my situation I realized I had not been on a vacation in five years. I had worked numerous hours and I did not have a life other than being a shop owner. I knew nothing about paying my own taxes, or how to keep an inventory count other than a few boxes. I had to visit my godfather (who was the Dean of Business Studies at Delgado Community College) every time I had an accounting issue or a business decision and I decided to set a new goal for myself and start a new career. About 1990, I start to seriously reflect on my life. I had graduated with honors from high school but something was missing. I was beginning to understand why my parents pushed us so hard to further our education. I felt incompetent and knew I needed to make some educational decisions and pursue them in a hurry. This was probably one of the hardest decisions I had to make for myself because first of all, other than being a stylist I truly did not know what I wanted to do. Secondly, all my siblings except my only brother (who became a Doctor) worked in the school system. They had holidays off, summer time off, and they all had the one thing that I desired so much to have at that time...A family of their own. I share this new career thought with my family and, of course, they believe this is a good idea and start giving me ideas of what I should do next. At this time it is now 1993, one of my siblings is a principal at one of the junior high schools and offered me a job as a School

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Business Manager (SBM). I happily accepted this position. In taking the job, I worked as a SBM and a hair stylist. I began to in reality love this new job. I am attending all the training classes and even at a point where I am helping others in the classes. My supervisor is starting to tell other SBMs to call me when they have problems. About two years later my supervisor approaches me to apply for a new position of Itinerant Business Manager. I apply and get the position. I love this new position because I am not assigned to one school. I float from school to school closing out the student activity accounts and helping other SBMs to close his or her monthly reports and reporting to finance for new assignments. I excelled so much in this position that my job gave me a cell phone and a laptop. Another two years pass and I realize that I have reached the glass ceiling with being able to advance with the school system. I have no education beyond high school. I talk with my supervisor over the finance department about what I felt. She advises me to go back to school. I thought to myself, here I am again back at the drawing board. I ponder with the idea of going back to school for a while. I started at Delgado community college in 1997. When the counselor asked me what was my area of interest I started crying. Why? Because all I knew was I wanted to attend college, I did not have any idea of an area of study. With that, I decided enroll anyway. Here I am an IBM'er with the school board, a stylist, and a college student. After four semesters of electives and pre-requisites, I realize that I was a business minded person and chose Accounting as my career choice. After completing that Fall 1998 semester I decided that I wanted to transfer to a larger university. I registered at Dillard University where I attended two semesters and had to stop because on January 18, 2000 I experienced a disaster that turned my whole world upside down. My house

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burned down. Everything I worked so hard for banished right before my eyes. Time moves on, I starting to feel like the old person again. The year is now 2002 and I am thinking about school again to continue working toward the goals I set for my life a long time ago. I am now determined to return to school. I call the University of Phoenix. I have an appointment scheduled for the next day. My counselor showed me the available programs and the Metairie campus was definitely offering the Accounting program. The class started immediately. I begin attending class on Monday night and meeting with group members on Wednesday nights to discuss our group projects for the next class. This is different for me but I am so excited. My brain cells are firing again. I am now writing a paper on a weekly basis and doing presentations. I am absolutely appreciating the Learning Team because it gives me a chance to hear other opinions on the same topic. I have learned a great deal at the University of Phoenix. Especially being able to speak in public and give presentations. This pass summer I informed my supervisor, the area superintendent and human resources that I applied for a job in Atlanta with Dekalb County School District. The job offer in Dekalb County was basically the same job description of what I was doing in Orleans Parish. The only difference was the job title and paid much more. While interviewing with this school system I found myself so very confident and I felt very knowledgeable. I owe this competence and confidence to the education system at University of Phoenix. I am thankful to the University of Phoenix for improving my presentation, communication and organizational skills. I am however coming to the end of my bachelor's program. It is time to set a new goal. I would like to continue at the University of Phoenix for my MBA. This program fits into my very busy lifestyle. By now my parents have given up

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on the idea of me becoming a Doctor. I have debated between getting a master's in Public Health and Health Care Administration. Besides the satisfaction of obtaining my MBA in either field, the educational experience is priceless at the University of Phoenix. I am also a member of the Alpha Kappa Alpha (AKA) sorority. I pledge while attending Dillard University. I am also a new member of the Independent Women Association. I work with the youth and college ministry for my church back home in Louisiana and presently am working with the youth ministry for my new church here in Houston, TX.