

Dr. Umar Johnson's FD MG RBG Boys Academy

Last year, St. Paul's College in Lawrenceville Virginia closed its doors after one hundred and thirty years of service training and educating African-Americans. St Paul's College was founded in 1888 as a normal and industrial school by James Solomon Russell an Episcopalian priest to train African-American teachers. In recent times like many HBCU's, St. Paul's College suffered from low and declining enrollment, fiscal instability and it lost its accreditation forcing many of the remaining students to withdraw or transfer elsewhere. Despite earnest efforts to save the school, it closed its doors for good in June of 2013.

Local school psychologist, educator, author and lecturer Dr. Umar A Johnson who grew up in North Philadelphia has a vision and a plan to buy the remaining St. Paul's College property and turn it into an all boys residential academy to divert as many African-American males from the school to prison pipeline as possible.

Johnson who graduated from Millersville University and earned advanced degrees at Lehigh University has worked in the Philadelphia schools as a psychologist and has seen first hand how black boys are routinely marginalized, placed in Special Education classes, given labels and psychotropic drugs which all too often lead to dropping out, social stigma and ultimately to prison. "There is a war against Black boys that is sending more of them to the cemetery and into prison than to college or into business and that school to prison pipeline has a big piece in the middle called "Special Education" and ADHD. A lot of times people don't understand the role special education and ADHD plays in the psycho-academic war against Black boys. Being a school psychologist, getting my start right here with the school district of Philadelphia; I saw first hand how Special Ed was used as a weapon of mass destruction against Black boys. I saw how the learning disabilities, the ADHD and mental retardation were being used to suffocate our boys and deprive them of an adequate education. So I came to the realization several years ago while I was working as an assistant principal I had to open up my own school so I can give them the psychological support and the educational support that they need. So for me building the Frederick Douglass and Marcus Garvey Boys Academy was a logical step up from my work as a psychologist which was to try to save children who were already academically marginalized to being in a position to raise and socialize them appropriately so they never end up as canon fodder in the war against Black boys."

He has been negotiating with the President of St. Paul's College who is still charged with trying to pay off the creditors and debts the school accumulated which forced it to shut down. "I've met with the president and the reality company that represents the school. The president and I speak regularly and they're hoping that I can raise the funds so they can transfer it to me as opposed to somebody else who is not interested in education. They want to keep it in the hands of someone who will stay true to the purpose of the founder James

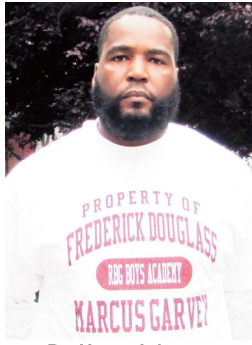
Solomon Russell who bought that land with the intention of educating African-Americans so they could be equipped to be successful in the world. They are compassionate to what I am trying to do but at the end of the day business is business. That's why I'm hoping the African and African-American communities will support what I'm doing by contributing funds, as much as they can not just once but come back many times."

Johnson sees a similar plight for other HBCUs. "Morris Brown College was purchased by the City of Atlanta for fourteen million dollars that's a pretty price compared to St. Paul's which is in the low millions. There are other HBCUs unfortunately in similar situations to St Paul's that may come up for sale in the not too distant future it's just that they have not gotten to the for sale stage yet. They (St. Paul's) are asking five million dollars which is doable."

"Because I wanted my school to be residential I was looking for a place that already had the dormitories, the athletic facilities and the academic facilities. And St. Paul's being in Virginia on the Eastern seaboard close to Maryland, Washington D.C., Pennsylvania, North and South Carolina is just the perfect location. The size is manageable small but large enough to see what we need to make happen for our young men. So it's the perfect place for many reasons."

Johnson plans to have a comprehensive and holistic curriculum which will also include limited programs for deaf children, blind children, autistic children and serious mental problems. His curricula will include: communication skills, mathematics, science, agriculture, agronomic science, aviation, a maritime academy, African Spirituality, entrepreneurship and military training. "I am working with an architect from Washington D.C. who has drawn up designs and plans that will transform the campus into a state of the art school. It will be nothing like anything we have seen in this country."

As a former employee of the Philadelphia School District Johnson knows the type of staff he wants and what he will need to make his school work once he is able to purchase the property. He is currently accepting resumes as he crisscrosses the country speaking to groups, organizations and potential donors to raise the money for the school and to secure his staff. "We are tapping every resource we can to get the money (to buy the land). I'm looking for the best teachers. I want people who are passionate and committed who don't necessarily have the credentials, people who are qualified but not necessarily certified educators. Some of the best



Dr. Umar Johnson

teachers are not certified, my staff will be based upon their expertise and their proficiency. We are going to offer a lot of non-traditional programs like natural food preparation, natural hair care preparation so there will be a lot of room for me to bring in people who are qualified but not certified by the mainstream educational system. Obviously in the core subjects you will have to be certified as a private school teacher which is different from public school certification. I'm studying the Virginia codes and legislation on that now."

For Johnson a quality staff is the key. "Teachers drive curriculum, education is not difficult or complicated. Students need to know that the people before them care, that they will be taken care of and held to the highest standards. Standard courses are standard courses that all children will have to participate in. I'm looking for qualified, passionate and committed teachers and staff."

Dr. Umar Johnson sees himself as a twenty-first century Booker T. Washington who developed Tuskegee Institute, Mary McLeod Bethune who worked to build Bethune-Cookman College and James Solomon Russell who founded St. Paul's College. Long term he plans to raise enough funds and create successful and sustaining entrepreneurial ventures on campus that will allow the school tuition to be free. "Tuition prices can't be determined until we get the money we need to purchase the facility. Long term I would like the school to be totally free. I would like to get enough sponsors and create businesses on campus that help the school to sustain itself so that one day the school will be totally free and the students can be chosen by lottery."

Dr. Johnson is one of the most sought after speakers in the country his YouTube video lectures are extremely popular and his Website heavily promotes the Frederick Douglass and Marcus Garvey RBG Boys Academy. He is determined to make his vision a reality but he only has a few months to raise the money. To contribute to this ambitious effort go to www.drumarjohnsonschool.com, or www.drumarjohnson.com to donate Online via PayPal. To send a check or money order, make it out to FD MG Academy and mail in care of Dr. Umar Johnson to PO Box 6872 Phila., PA 19132. Anyone interested in working at the FD MG Boys Academy please send your resume to fdmgresumes@gmail.com.

The comments in the column are the opinion of the writer and are not an opinion or reflection of the beliefs of the SCOOP U.S.A.

Family Day

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partment, BEBASHI, Covenant House, Choice, Health Promotion Council, Nursing Consortium, Affordable Care Information, Office of Senator Anthony H. Williams,..... Families will also enjoy entertainment for all ages that including Mr. Fantasy -DJ and magician, zumba dancing, clown (face painting and balloon art), free mildly used clothing, saxophonist, hula costents, games, free prizes, free snacks..... EVERYTHING IS FREE The mission of NCNW is to advance opportunities and improve the quality of life for families and their communities. Among the ways that NCNW fulfills this mission is through community-based services. If you would like more information about this event, please contact VERA WINN at 610-622-4240 or e-mail craigverna@comcast.net

FRIDAY • JUNE 6, 2014 Evening

	7 PM	7:30	8 PM	8:30	9 PM	9:30	10 PM	10:30	11 PM	11:30
CBS	Entertain Tonight	The Insider (CC)	Undercover Boss: Buffalo, Inc. (CC)	Hawaii Five-0: Hana Lokomaika'i (CC)	Blue Bloods: Drawing Dead (CC)	20/20 (CC)	Crossbones: The Covenant (CC)	News	Late Show (CC)	
ABC	Jeopardy! (CC)	Wheel of Fortune	Shark: Tank Kids and teens offer their ideas.	What Would You Do? (CC)				Action News (CC)	Jimmy Kimmel	
NBC	MLB Baseball Philadelphia Phillies at Cincinnati Reds from Great American Ball Park (LIVE)							NBC 10 News (CC)	Tonight Show (CC)	
PBS	Business Report	BBC World News	Washington Week	Friday Arts	Great Performances: The Dave Clark Five - Glad All Over (CC)				Pledge Programming	
MYN	Big Bang Theory	Modern Family	Monk: Mr. Monk and the Marathon Man (CC)	Monk: Mr. Monk Takes a Vacation (CC)	News at 10	Modern Family			The Arsenio Hall Show Betty White, (CC)	
FOX	TMZ (CC)	The Simpsons	24: Live Another Day: 4:00 PM-5:00 PM	Gang Related: Pecados Del Padre (CC)	FOX 29 News at 10			TMZ (CC)	Inside Edition (CC)	
TBN	It's Supernatural!	Potter Touch (CC)	Scenes (CC)	Hal Lindsey (CC)	Harvest with (CC)	Perry Stone (CC)	Praise the Lord Interviews and musical performances. (CC)			
CW	Family Feud	Family Feud	Whose Line? (CC)	Whose Line? (CC)	Hart of Dixie: Friends in Low Places (CC)	News	Alex Scott/Hope	King of Queens	King of Queens	
ION	Cold Case: It's Raining Men (CC)	Cold Case: Red Glare (CC)	Cold Case: Mind Hunter (CC)	Cold Case: Discretions (CC)	Cold Case: Discretions (CC)	Cold Case: Discretions (CC)	Cold Case: Blank Generation (CC)	Cold Case: Blank Generation (CC)	Cold Case: Blank Generation (CC)	
A&E	Criminal Minds: A Higher Power (CC)	Criminal Minds: Elephant's Memory (CC)	Criminal Minds: In Heat (CC)	Criminal Minds: The Crossing (CC)	The Game (CC)	The Game (CC)	The Game (CC)	The Game (CC)	The Game (CC)	
BET	The Message: The Birth of Hip Hop	A Thin Line Between Love and Hate ★½ (1996, Comedy) Martin Lawrence, Womanizer uses the wrong woman. (CC)								
DISC	Deadliest Catch: Falling Down (CC)	Deadliest Catch: Lost at Sea (CC)	Siberian Cut: Russian Roulette (CC)	Chrome Underground: Race to the Port	Siberian Cut: Russian Roulette (CC)					
DISN	Austin & Ally (CC)	Jessie (CC)	Up ★★½ (2009, Comedy) Widower takes trip using helium balloon. (CC)	Austin & Ally (CC)	Good Luck Charlie	A.N.T. Farm (CC)	Dog with a Blog	Jessie (CC)		
ESPN	(6:00) SportsCenter from Bristol, Conn.		X Games Austin 2014: Men's Moto X Best Whip Final from Circuit of The Americas in Austin, Texas (LIVE)	Write Swap: D'Elia; LaRoach (CC)	Little Women: La Little Women, Big Drama	Full House (CC)	Full House (CC)	Full House (CC)	Friends (CC)	Friends (CC)
LIFE	Write Swap (CC)	To Be Announced (CC)								
NICK	Jimmy Neutron: Boy Genius ★★ (2001, Family) Patrick Stewart. (CC)	SpongeBob (CC)								
TBS	Seinfeld: Ticket	Valentine's Day ★★½ (2010, Comedy) Jessica Alba, Mike Golic. Love is determined, sought and ignored. (PG-13) (CC)								
TLC	Dress: Atlanta	Dress: Atlanta	Dress: Atlanta	Dress: Atlanta	Dress: Atlanta	I Found the Gown	I Found the Gown	Dress: Atlanta		
USA	(6:00) Little Fockers ★★ (2010) Robert De Niro.	Modern Family	Modern Family	Modern Family	Modern Family	Modern Family	Modern Family	Modern Family	Playing House	
WGN	America's Funniest Home Videos (CC)	How Met Mother	How Met Mother	How Met Mother	How Met Mother	How Met Mother	How Met Mother	Parks Recre-ation	Parks Recre-ation	

**Don't Worry,
Be Happy
Stay in the Loop
with SCOOP USA**