



© 2011, Veronica Adams Yon.

Roosevelt Wilson and the *Capital Outlook* Newspaper: Agents of Social Change for Florida A&M University and its Community

Veronica Adams Yon, Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University

- Roosevelt Wilson is the former owner and editor of *Capital Outlook*
- newspaper and a former Professor of Journalism at Florida Agricultural
- and Mechanical University (FAMU). This interview with Van Wilson
- investigates Roosevelt Wilson's commitment to FAMU and the African
- American Community. The *Capital Outlook* newspaper bridges FAMU
- and the black community as a service-learning site, and links the
- black community to the university as an African American Community
- literacy partner. As such, Mr. Wilson is an "agent of social change" in
- the African American community.

As one of the largest, single-campus Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) in the nation, Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University (FAMU) is a pioneer in producing a record number of African American baccalaureate degrees. With a record-breaking enrollment of 13,089 students in the fall semester of 2010, the university has been recognized for its "excellence with caring" by a number of organizations, one of the most





impressive the *Time Magazine-Princeton Review*, which named the institution “College of the Year” in 1997.¹

Indeed, throughout its 123 years of existence, Florida A&M University has celebrated a number of highs. However, as with many institutions of higher education, the school has also encountered some lows. Budget management, accreditation challenges, and presidential turnover have been three major issues in its most recent history that have tested the strength and determination of the university community.

Despite the turbulent bumps in the road, Florida A&M University has managed to overcome many obstacles that have caused others to falter. Survival can be attributed in part to the support of its community, with one of its staunch advocates the *Capital Outlook* newspaper. Founded in 1975, the paper has continuously offered support to the school through ground-breaking stories, internships for students, and a mutual respect for the both the school’s and newspaper’s missions (or mandates) to give voice to the community they serve.

In the *Capital Outlook’s* thirty-five year history, its ownership has changed hands six times. And although the paper’s focus has always been on the black community, including Florida A&M University, most would agree that its impact and level of advocacy for the university reached its heyday from 1991-2009, when former FAMU Journalism Professor, Roosevelt Wilson, assumed ownership. His background in journalism, ties to the university, concern for the community, and respect for his students enabled him to build a network of support and ultimately effect change within his community.

To borrow terminology used by rhetorician Ellen Cushman, one could say that Wilson and the *Capital Outlook* have been “agents of social change outside the university” (7). As she suggests ways in which rhetoricians and composition scholars can “empower people in our communities, establish networks of reciprocity with them, and create solidarity



with them,” Cushman also explains that “activism begins with a commitment to breaking down the sociological barriers between universities and communities” (7, 12). While one could argue that traditionally, the relationships between HBCUs and their immediate communities are not as distant (or unapproachable) as the ones alluded to in Cushman’s study, one can still see, in the interview that follows, the mission Roosevelt Wilson set for the *Capital Outlook* extending to a broader constituency, thereby enabling him and the paper to empower people, establish networks, create solidarity, and breakdown a number of sociological barriers.

On January 21, 2011, I interviewed Roosevelt Wilson’s son, Van Wilson, as the professor was unable to participate in the interview for medical reasons.

YON: Well, thank you so much for taking time out of your busy schedule to talk to me a little bit about the *Capital Outlook* and your father’s involvement in it as well as your involvement. Could you just start off by discussing when and how your family became involved in the *Capital Outlook* and what exactly is the *Capital Outlook*?

WILSON: Well, my father was a journalism professor here at FAMU, and he’s had a background in sports information and publications at FAMU. In addition, he had been athletic director. And before that he actually was a reporter in Ocala, FL. As a matter of fact, he was the first black officially hired as a reporter there where he covered sports for the local high schools. He has been involved in sports and mass media throughout his career. As a matter of fact, he got his master’s in mass communications. So there’s been that connection there. In 1991, the former president of Florida A&M, Dr. Walter Smith, and his wife owned the *Capital Outlook* newspaper here in Tallahassee, and they were going to sell it. They asked dad if he was interested in it, and he was. He had done some work as a Fellow



with, I believe, the *Winston Salem Chronicle*, and he really, really enjoyed it. And that kind of enhanced him working at FAMU as a journalism professor. He's always understood the value of the black community being able to tell its own story--because you can get the same incident covered in a black publication and in the mainstream white publication, and get two different views. So he felt that it was important the black community have that voice.

The *Capital Outlook* was started by Steve Beasley in 1975 as mostly a photo journal. He's a photographer, and he used it as a photo journal for a lot of the events that he covered. Through that, it sort of evolved through different owners. But when my dad got it, he was the first journalist to really have the paper and have control of it. So his immediate goal to make it an established newspaper and make news the center of the publication, and then have that news be focused on the black community—cover the black community in ways that the other media didn't or wouldn't cover. That philosophy is really the basis of everything that we would do in subsequent years with the *Capital Outlook*. And it evolved...

YON: So as far as when your family became involved in the *Outlook*, you would say the 1990s?

WILSON: Yes.

YON: And would you go so far to say that your father changed the direction of the paper or added a new dimension to the paper?

WILSON: Only journalistically. The *Capital Outlook* has always been focused on the black community. But he was the first publisher and editor who had a solid journalistic background. So he understood the standards and practices of the media industry when it came to newspaper publication. In that respect, he was the first journalist who brought it into being a full-fledged news journal rather than



something that just covered the black community. Our centerpiece was news, hardcore news, and all the other things sprang off of that.

YON: I understand from reading and talking to a few other people that it wasn't just your father intimately involved in the paper, but also you, your mother, and siblings as well. Could you explain or talk about the whole family's involvement and roles in the *Outlook*?

WILSON: It was a true family business. All of us at one point or another worked there. I think probably my sister Tiffany did a lot of work, but she didn't necessarily have a position there, but she did a lot of work helping out wherever she could. My mother, of course, was the general manager. The day-to-day business office functions she oversaw that. She also did some social coverage and some other things, although she really wasn't a writer, but she went to enough events to take some photos. I have worked in office management, advertising, layout, photography, and some writing—just a little bit of everything Dad's needed from time to time. I actually had about four different stints with the paper. It's always nice to come back to the family business. Of course, my brother Vaughn worked in advertising. He also did some desktop publishing and a little bit of reporting as well, particularly sports reporting.

YON: Now this experience—you mention, layout design, publishing, writing, and so forth... Did you have any formal training or was most of it on the job training? Did you go to school in any of these areas?

WILSON: Most of it was on the job, although ironically, now that I'm back in school to finish up, I'm minoring in Journalism. But no, none of us ever had any formal training in journalism. But Dad is a teacher at heart, which plays into what he tried to do with the *Outlook*. He wanted to inform and teach the people about the issues—all the things that went into a particular issue, not just the



black perspective, but other perspectives as well. But he just wanted to formulate that. Well, one thing he always said [about the paper]: “It’s written about the black community, but written for the whole community.” So even though he focused on things in the African American community, he never excluded anyone in that coverage or at least in the reporting.

YON: Since this was a family business, and I’m sure you all devoted much time to the business, can you discuss how ownership of the paper affected your family life? Did it change your family life in any way, alter it?

WILSON: No... One of the true blessings is that we have always been a tight family. It was almost a natural thing; it was almost an extension of home life that when we’d come there we’d only have different tasks to do.² Everyone got along well, and we understood because we all felt ownership, and we all clearly understood the mission, which wasn’t simply to provide a publication or have a thriving business. The main mission was to keep our community informed because we all had a very fundamental belief that the better informed the community is the better it acts, the better it reacts, and the better it’s able to protect and conduct its own day-to-day functions. So in family life, we all had that understanding, so we saw the *Capital Outlook* as a natural extension for us to help provide that kind of knowledge that the community needed.

YON: And your comments tie into the next question I wanted to ask you about the paper itself. How do you see the paper as being of service to the community? And I want to break that down into the community in general? The black community specifically? And then, even more specifically, Florida A&M University?

WILSON: One interesting thing is at various points it fluctuated. Between 10 to 15% of our subscribers, not readers, but subscribers



were not black. These were other people in the community who were interested in our points of view. They were interested in the information and the way we presented it. And they felt like it helped them understand the whole community much better.

The black community... There has been a historical deep distrust of some of the coverage of the black community when it comes to the *Tallahassee Democrat*, the major daily, covering us. Historically, blacks felt that the only time they got coverage was only when something negative occurred. And then that would be blown out of proportion, and they didn't feel that they got fair reporting, not completely accurate and sometimes biased reporting. So one of the things the *Outlook* sought to do was to step in and fill that particular need for fair and balanced reporting of the issues that the black community was concerned with. And by doing that, that became the core of what we were trying to do.

YON: And then with regard to the University—because I know that a number of stories in the *Outlook* have featured Florida A&M University. Can you speak directly to the connection between the paper and the University?

WILSON: Well, FAMU is basically the cultural hub of the African American community in this area. There are a number of people that work for the state, Florida State [University], and other entities; however, a huge portion, no matter where you work or live in this community, if you're African American, a lot of your cultural things come through the University or will come here because of the University. FAMU, in that point, is almost like the heartbeat of the African American community here. Even though I don't think it is the largest employer of African Americans here, still there's so much influence. We have professors, staff, and students [who] have a tremendous economic impact that the community would sorely miss if they were not here. I feel very safe in saying that Tallahassee



would not be as developed and as developing as it is if Florida A&M University were not here... Plus, all of us attended at one point or another. My father worked here. We came to Tallahassee because of Florida A&M University, so with our knowledge of the school and our understanding of how important it was to the community, we just felt like that needed to be highlighted wherever it popped up.

YON: It's interesting that you mentioned FAMU being "the hub," even if the majority of the community is not employed by the University. We all come out. One of the events I'm thinking of is homecoming and the homecoming parade, how it is open to everyone in the community. It's not just university centered. Are there any other events perhaps that the paper covered or any other examples you can think of that illustrate what you were just speaking of regarding that connection?

WILSON: There was an Economic Impact Report done by Leon County, and I can't remember the year, but at that point, keeping in mind that this was before FSU [Florida State University] expanded Doak Campbell Stadium's seating capacity. At that point, it showed that a FAMU home football game had a greater economic impact on this area than a Florida State game. Reason being... Black Culture.

When someone comes to a Florida State game, a lot of times, they may come in the night before. They'll get a hotel room, they buy dinner, then they do a little shopping or something, and the next morning, they go to the stadium and tailgate. When the game's over, they gas up and go home. With the FAMU games, they come in on Friday, they pay for a hotel room for Friday night; they get dinner Friday night. Saturday morning—because most FAMU games, except for homecoming were being played at night then—Saturday morning, they get up, buy breakfast, go to the malls, go to the stores. They buy all types of paraphernalia, local stuff; you have to buy lunch. They go to the game, buy from the street vendors, go to the



game, have a good time. After the game, they go back to the hotel, get dinner, go to a club, spend money at the club. Next morning, they pay for another hotel night's stay, pay for breakfast, get gas, and go home.

So you see, there's a much larger impact of people staying here a day longer and buying a day's more worth of stuff here from FAMU games as opposed to the Florida State games... And when I mention economic impact, I'm talking about other than buying tickets and other stuff at the game. So we wanted to make sure people knew that—that a big game in Tallahassee with FAMU is huge for this community economically... And it wasn't a secret; it was just the type of thing that people needed to know about the black community. And that was one of the things we found out and we wanted to make sure everyone knew it.

YON: So how did you represent that in the paper? Do you recall any particular articles or photo pieces that went along with that, or did your father perhaps write those types of articles?

WILSON: I don't recall him using that specifically as a story, but he would use it as a point of reference when talking about things like... whenever the discussion came up as to whether FAMU should be merged with Florida State University or should the State spend more money to expand FAMU, should they have more programs, and things like that. Dad was pointing out that FAMU is a big part of this community, and if you enhance FAMU, you are enhancing the Big Bend area. So it became one of those things that we would use as a point of reference. It's not that anyone was barred from that information, but we looked for it to make sure people knew it.

YON: Do you see any other influences of the paper and your father's involvement in politics or any other types of decisions that may have been made with regard to the black community or with regard to the



University... In other words, [did you see] the *Capital Outlook* and its coverage of particular issues seriously impacting the University in some way or the black community or a politician in making a certain decision?

WILSON: The biggest and most obvious and most recent was during the time when FAMU was going through a tumultuous time in the wake of the resignation of Dr. Humphries. We had various changes in high-level leadership, a lot of changes in some of the key programs here and administrative structure, and the University was pretty much in turmoil. Also at that time, the legislature did away with the old Board of Regents, which used to be kind of like a buffer between the legislature and the University system. Well, they did away with the Board of Regents, so the legislature itself could deal directly with the universities, which made us susceptible to political whims.

So people started floating comments in the press like, “Is there a need for two universities in Tallahassee. Why not have just one university. Florida State is not having trouble with their books and everything...” which we subsequently found out they were. It just wasn’t making news, but we found out that Florida State had more violations within their bookkeeping and accounting than FAMU. The University of Florida had more violations. Put it this way, of the fourteen colleges and universities in the state system at that time, FAMU was not the worse, but they were the only one getting press. So naturally everything focused here. What we did was try to keep this argument in perspective. It’s not that FAMU was so bad; it’s just that you are finding all the skeletons in our closet while everyone else was very good at hiding theirs. So our coverage of that coupled with the fact that my father had such a good relationship with so many people around the university, and confidence was one of our main issues.

There are some things that I told him that I never gave the source, but he believed me. There are some things he told us and he never



gave the source. There are some things we reported where we would never reveal the source. So people felt like they could come to any of us in confidence and give us information, and once we were able to verify it, then we would use the information.

And that went a long way, particularly during the administration of Dr. Bryant. There was a lot of turbulence, university morale was low, and people just didn't know basically what was going on, and they were very worried about what was going to happen to the University. With us being able to get a hold of key pieces of information about some of the things that were being considered for the University and things that would be happening regarding certain programs and key personnel, our ability to publish that and make it public, and being able to back it up, there were certain political moves and some other things that were not able to be done. And this also spurred our Board of Trustees to accelerate their efforts to get a permanent leader in place, who could add some stability to the situation. Dad kept saying, "If we get a good president to get things stable, first they are going to have to give him time to get things straightened out, and if he/she brings in good people, the university would be okay." So that was one of the things we pushed in the paper and we pushed in the reporting.

And I'm not going to say the Board of Trustees took their cues from us, but I will say that there were several...my father had daily lengthy conversations with several members of the Board who were really, really concerned about the future of the University. I have to say that. And so the results of that were we saw a push to get a permanent president in here, which ended up with Dr. Ammons being hired. And almost immediately, things started to turn around, so we were happy with that.

There have been some people who have said, and you would never get us to look at it this way, but some people said, "Look, ya'll saved



FAMU.” We heard at least two legislators say, “If we didn’t find out what was going on from ya’ll, we wouldn’t have known what was going on. And we would have been caught off guard by all that stuff.” And that is probably the best example of what we put as our goal for the paper: to make sure that the information was put out there so the people can make intelligent decisions... no matter what your opinion is, it’s informed, so from there we can all find some common ground.

YON: So we can’t say officially the paper influenced political decisions, but we can say that some of the issues covered in the paper, the suggestions made in the paper, wound up in-step with the decisions that eventually were made?

WILSON: Well, I’ll put it this way... This is a two pronged fork because during this time, and I don’t know why I haven’t mentioned this before, but my father was writing an opinion column. A lot of people put a lot of stock in his opinion column because, number one, whether they agreed or not with his opinion, they could never dispute the facts that he based his opinions on... As a matter of fact, there were a number of people, and they didn’t mind telling us, who subscribed to the paper only for his opinion column. So that coupled with the information that we provided and the news reporting itself gave a lot of people good basis for making informed decisions, and some of those people happened to be people in positions of influence. In that respect, just say we kind of helped the process.

YON: Now you mentioned your father’s opinion column, and you also mentioned that you and your siblings may have written a little here and there. What other people comprised the staff? Did your father use any students at the University as interns?

WILSON: From day one when he got the paper, he got with, I think at that time it was Dean Ruggles, and told him he wanted to offer internships for students to write, for them not only to develop but



also to have some things in their portfolio for when they got ready to get permanent jobs. I cannot name names, but there is something I want to mention about the School of Journalism. They have produced some excellent journalists. I can't tell you how many came through, but almost every semester, there was somebody there. Even during the summer, there was someone there [at the *Capital Outlook*] writing. And whether my father was the one coordinating with them or in later years the associate publisher staying in touch with the school, my father always ensured that the *Outlook* kept a close relationship with the school and the students. He was always a teacher and with the students he was always going over stories or how things should be... They would go over the stories. The AP stylebook was the bible. He wanted to continue developing journalists because face it: a black journalist can cover a story totally different from a white journalist when it hits close to home. That's why he was very adamant in helping develop new journalists to go out into the media world.³

YON: These internships your father offered... Did he continue to offer them after he retired from the university [in 2003]?

WILSON: Oh yes!

YON: Did he keep an ongoing relationship with the School of Journalism?

WILSON: Yes. Also, even today, don't quote me on this, but I believe that the new owners are still getting interns as well. It's a long-standing relationship.

YON: So your father owned the paper from 1990 to when?

WILSON: To the fall of 2009.

YON: Do you recall any other groundbreaking stories regarding the University as far as the *Capital Outlook*'s coverage?



WILSON: When Governor Jeb Bush was here, he absolutely did not like affirmative action. He issued an executive order that did away with affirmative action and all university admissions and state procurements. All the things he could do away with without legislation, he did. And so, naturally African Americans and other minorities didn't like that. There were a couple of legislators, Kendrick Meek, who was a FAMU alum, and Tony Hill out of Jacksonville, who one day went to speak to the Lieutenant Governor. They weren't expecting to see the Governor; they wanted to see the Lt. Governor, and asked him if there was any way to get a sit down with the Governor to discuss this and the impact that it would have. And while they were in the meeting, the Lt. Governor stepped out, and then the Governor pokes his head in and said something to the effect, "Oh, you're still here. Well, if you're looking to get me to repeal the One Florida Initiative, you may as well get some blankets because I'm not going to."

Now these are two elected officials. Not even the Governor talks to them like that. So they called their staff and had them bring some blankets, and they also called one of our reporters, Ms. Yanela Gordon, and she went down there. Now this story has been reported since then that they [Meek and Hill] went down to stage a sit-in. They didn't. It was a reaction to some flip remark that the Governor made. So she [Gordon] went down there and some other media went there, and they were doing the sit-in. At the time, I happened to own a local radio station, and she called my radio station and said this is going on. Would you guys mind doing an on-air interview with one of the legislators? They called me; I was at home at the time, and I said, "Well, Yeah! Go ahead." So I started listening to it, and hearing what was going on. Meanwhile the Governor, he didn't know he was on, but he happened to make this comment: "Get their asses out of there!" When he did that, suddenly other people swooped in. Well, we had already, not only had them on the air, but Representative Carrie Meek had called into the radio station,



and other radio stations around the state were calling in to us trying to find out what was going on. We had a huge student listenership and so the students began calling around telling others what was going on because they didn't like the One Florida either.

The word started spreading, and capital security came in and said everyone had to leave the office. Anyone who didn't leave the room had to be arrested. Ms. Gordon called my parents and said, "They said if we don't leave the room, we'll be arrested." My dad said, "Well... We have bail money." So she stayed there for the whole thing. She was reporting on the radio station with other people live from inside of that room what was going on.

The next day was very interesting. If you listen to that reporting and then look at the news coverage the next day, they didn't match up. The news coverage was basically stating there were these two mad black legislators who wanted to make this grand statement about One Florida, so they staged this sit in. Whereas our reporting was saying, "No, the Governor had a flip remark that ticked them off, so they are staying there because 'you don't talk to us like that.'" The next morning, there were hundreds of students from FAMU, FSU, TCC [Tallahassee Community College]. Some drove up from Gainesville, some from Jacksonville. I mean, they all swamped on the capitol. Now, this is a story that can't be ignored. So that was one of the ways that coverage—I had the radio station then, but I knew what the *Capital Outlook* was doing—so that was one way our coverage made an immediate impact, and the results of that is it ended up resulting in the largest peace time demonstration in the history of this state.

Things like that we are proud of. It's not what we set out to do for grand demonstrations, but it just illustrates when people have accurate information, they will act. It kind of flies in the face of an apathetic public. What's happening is in many ways our media is



failing our public now by going for the sensational instead of the substantial. That's why people have become kind of apathetic. But when they get the unbiased information, the public will act. And that's one of the things we really, really hold dear.

YON: That's a wonderful example you shared. I remember when all of that happened and the student involvement. So it really does speak volumes about the newspaper's influence, not only on the community in general, the black community, the university system, but also the entire state was very involved in that. We really do applaud your family, your father for having the vision to establish the same direction but delivered, I guess you could say, in different format to make the public aware of the types of issues that were going on.

WILSON: And I have to say that the people who owned the paper before did cover the community and issues, very important issues. Fortunately, my dad had a relationship with the media. For instance, my dad's column appeared simultaneously in the *Capital Outlook* and *Tallahassee Democrat* for years. There was a respect for him from the media as well. Between us and the *Democrat*, there wasn't this evil competition between the two. But of course, we wanted to get the story first, yet we understood each other's role in the community. And we did what we did best, and that was the biggest thing he [my father] brought to the *Outlook* that it didn't have before. Him having worked with the media before brought another level of credibility...

YON: Before we close our discussion today, I do want to go back to the University, back to Florida A&M University. Was there ever a formal agreement at any time between your father and the paper—and the university, or was there an understood agreement as far as the paper's coverage of it [the University] or the way in which or even the breadth to which the paper would cover the issues concerning the University?



WILSON: No... There was never any formal agreement. In fact, the only formal agreement we ever had with the University was with the Student Government Association. They had established a readership program where they bought “x” number of papers per day of the *Tallahassee Democrat* and just provided them to the students for free to read, you know, to keep up with current events. And they [SGA] decided to do that with the *Capital Outlook* as well. So that was the only formal agreement we had with the University.

Our knowledge of the University and community dictated what we sought to cover. That confidential and respect component that I talked about before granted us access to certain sources that others couldn’t get. I will say that. It’s because the University realized that it could get information out through the *Outlook* that it would not be able to get out—well, they could get it out, but it wouldn’t be as beneficial to the University. They felt like information through the *Outlook* was more believable than other sources. It wasn’t a coordinated effort. There were people at the University who were smart enough to realize the value of media, and we were very fortunate to be on that end.

We’d be in a meeting with my father; his phone would ring, and he’d be like, “Hello. Oh... yes sir, how are you doing?” Now we’re in a meeting...and he’d say, “Hold on a second...” Then he’d turn to us and say, “I’ll get with ya’ll later” and kick everyone out, close the door. We’d have no clue as to who he was on the phone with. Now he didn’t do that for everybody. And I think whoever was on the other end of the line really appreciated that as well. That was the value of the *Capital Outlook* to FAMU. The fact that they could get truthful information, however good or bad; at least if the truth is out there, it’s easier to deal with.



YON: It sounds more like it was more of a familial relationship, a family relationship between the *Outlook* and the University where it's understood that we have your back and you have our back.

WILSON: Right, right... We came to Tallahassee in 1969 because of the University. Every day that he [my father] worked, he worked for the University until he retired 30 years later. When my mom went back to school, she went to FAMU. All the kids went to FAMU. So we all had connections to various parts of the University. And it really worked to our advantage that they trusted us. And, knock on wood, we never did anything to endanger that trust. So we feel good about it.

YON: I do want to just thank you so much for taking the time out, and I want to express my heartfelt sincere prayers for recovery for your father.

WILSON: He's doing much better.

YON: Please tell him thank you so much just for everything he's done for the University, for the students here, for the community at large. Is there anything else you would like to share before we close out?

WILSON: Well, one thing. We set a goal that hopefully by the summer he would get back to writing his column. Hopefully, that will come out.

YON: And we look forward to reading it!



Endnotes

1. “Excellence with Caring” is the motto of Florida A&M University.
2. On January 21, 2011, I also interviewed Yanela Gordon, a trusted intern of the *Capital Outlook* who met Wilson as a freshman in one of his journalism courses. In 1993, she interned for a year, and her salary included room and board with the Wilson family, as the paper was unable to fully pay her monetarily. Gordon’s stay in the Wilson home further supports Van Wilson’s comment that the paper was an “extension of home life” for his family.
3. Eventually, Gordon became a senior reporter during Wilson’s ownership. While enrolled at FAMU, she went on to write her master’s thesis on the history of the newspaper; thus, she was, perhaps, a bit more versed than Wilson in providing additional details on internships at the paper. Noting that she was Wilson’s first paid intern, she shares that “there had been a ‘string’ of interns at the *Capital Outlook*,” dating back to its first owner. According to Gordon, “the *Capital Outlook* and FAMU literally go hand-in-hand. All of the owners have had direct connections with FAMU” and “all the owners have had students work at the paper to write articles, shoot pictures, layout pages, even printing.” Listing a few names of former interns who have gone on to make names for themselves, Gordon continues, “and all those who came through the *Capital Outlook* really went on to do well. I can’t say it’s because of the *Outlook*, but the *Outlook* really helped to train and develop their skills. It helped them to network with people in the community, with politicians, local leaders, churches, even Ms. Jenkins down the street.”



Works Cited

- Cushman, Ellen. "The Rhetorician as an Agent of Social Change."
College Composition and Communication. 47.1 (1996). 7-28.
JSTOR. Web. 14 Jan. 2011.
- Gordon, Yanela. Interview. 21 January 2011.
- Wilson, Van. Personal Interview. 21 January 2011.

