

Bonaventia Turnquest Culmer, (Bonnie), is a Medical Laboratory Scientist, Owner of Bonaventure Medical Laboratory (BML), Immediate Past President of The Caribbean Association of Medical Technologists (CASMET) and an entrepreneur. She is a graduate of the Big Red Machine Great and Awesome Class of 1980! Bonnie is an avid sports enthusiast, and was an athlete in softball, basketball, and high jump while at SAC. From her beginnings as a junior girl until graduation, she was a member of numerous SAC championship teams every year.

Her favorite memory of SAC was catching a hail Mary' game winning fly ball in right field and being carried out on the shoulders of her teammates.

It was on the campus of St. Augustine's College that she developed a passion for science and nurtured her skills as a team leader and a competitive entrepreneur. In 1985 she graduated from Old Dominion University with a Bachelor of Science degree in Medical Technology and joined the staff at The Rassin Hospital, now called Doctors Hospital. While there, she assisted in developing Doctor's Hospital Laboratory into a premier facility and lead as Assistant Laboratory Coordinator. In 1995 she was elected from among her peers to lead and reactivate the Bahamas Branch of CASMET, now called, The Bahamas Association of Medical Technologists (BAMT). She has served as Chairperson of BAMT on at least 4 occasions. Bonnie was an active part of the team of seasoned Laboratory professionals that contributed to the law adopted by the Health Professions Council to govern the licensing of Medical Lab Professionals in the Bahamas. In 2001 she was elected as President Elect of The Caribbean Association of Medical Technologists and served on the Regional Council twice as President and many years as a Regional Council Member representing The Bahamas. She has also served on the Board of the Health Professions Council of The Bahamas.

After almost 14 yrs at Doctor's Hospital, Bonnie left to fulfill her dream of becoming an entrepreneur and opening Bonaventure Medical Laboratory on August 31, 1997 with 4 staff members and an \$80,000 dollar loan. The Lab continues to grow with a passion for improving healthcare delivery for all patients by providing accuracy and rapid turn-around of results with new emerging technology constantly being offered. BML is a recognized NHI LAB (National Health Insurance Agency Lab) and also conducts a registered Phlebotomy Program where students are trained to become internationally certified Phlebotomists to draw blood and process samples in the Lab according to ISO standards. Today Bonaventure Medical Lab is well known and respected in The Bahamas and around the Region and has grown with cutting edge technology to become a multimillion dollar business with branches in Sandypport, Wulff Rd, Carmichael Rd, Freeport, Deadman's Cay Long Island and Georgetown Exuma.

Bonnie is married for the past 38yrs to her classmate and high school sweetheart, Edwin Culmer, a construction management engineer and together they have built businesses that include numerous home and apartment rentals, a restaurant (CFOOD SHACK), a dress store and uniform manufacturer, a construction business and most recently have partnered with a fellow SACER to open Native Arts and Crafts Gallery on Bay.

They are proud parents of 4 children who work in the family businesses and 4 grandchildren who are all expected to attend SAC one day!

To God be all the Glory.

