

Inside Northside

BUSINESS & LEADERSHIP

- 62 **Leadership is a Doer's Game**
Noble-Bates-Young
- 64 **Ochsner Health and St. Tammany Health System**
A Team Approach to Care
- 66 **Bleu Med Spa of Covington**
Ewelina Szumski
- 67 **Blue Williams, LLC**
- 68 **Fleur De Lis Law & Title**
- 69 **MD VIP**
Live Healthy with Your Doctor Focused on You
- 70 **Honda of Covington, Covington Powersports and Mercedes-Benz of Covington**
Laurie McCants
- 72 **Northlake Veterinary Hospital**
Dr. Craig Gudry
- 73 **Secure Access, LLC**
- 74 **Vintage Market Days® of Southeast Louisiana**
- 75 **Adventure Pets**
- 75 **Creole Tomateaux**
Frank Annerino



One thing that immediately becomes clear when speaking with Noble-Bates Young is that she loves the Northshore. The 32-year-old Natchez, Mississippi, native, who moved to Hammond several years ago and found her heart's home, says "I feel like I want to put down roots here." The sunny warmth of her tone when you meet her makes you feel like if you're not already old friends, you may be well on your way to it. "The biggest joke is that people think I would talk to a wall and hope that it might talk back," she says. "I love people. A lot of times I will meet somebody and ask about them, and they'll ask me, 'what are you doing, are you writing a book?' Well, maybe, if I like their answers!" she laughs. "I love learning about people and different perspectives." The chair of the St. Tammany Chamber of Commerce Northshore Young Professionals Committee sees an openness to people and experiences as the keystone of her vision for the group and the community at large. "There are so many groups. Everyone is doing their own young leaders, young professionals. We wanted to bring everyone together."

Young first came to the St. Tammany Chamber with a mind to meet people and connect around a bigger picture of community connection and engagement. Coming from a background in nonprofits, she is used to seeing a duplication of efforts and the scarce resourcing that can sometimes make the best intentions fall short of their potential. The better approach, and the one she champions, is to bring everyone to the table together, and the best way she sees to do that is to talk to those she calls 'the doers.'

The Northshore Young Professionals Committee came into being with a vision of bringing young leaders across the parish together. But the group is about more than networking happy hours. Young says, "If we can come together as one community, with one voice, moving in one direction, we can be much louder, and more effective and efficient."

The committee has a founding commitment to giving back to the community through volunteerism, says Young, who became involved with the committee around five years ago. She notes that there aren't a lot of young professionals, either locally or in Louisiana in general. Many young people stay to pursue a college education through the TOPs program, but then end up leaving the state in search of work. The committee sees part of its role as equipping young professionals to stay in Louisiana, and St. Tammany in particular.

"There's a rap of being people who just want to hang out and get drinks," she says. And creating opportunities for young professionals to network with like-minded people is a key part of the committee's goals. "Really, who doesn't at the end of the day want to sit around and chitchat, meeting people in a relaxing environment?"

But Young and the committee want to give individuals the



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opportunity to develop themselves in different ways—to “expand the individual,” as she puts it. “Not being afraid to open your mouth and talk to the person next to you at whatever the event, is huge. And that was really where the Northshore Young Professionals started,” she says. As Young sees it, if young professionals are better educated, more well-rounded, that’s better for business, and younger professionals are literally the future of the organizations that make up the community. But there are a lot of things that local young professionals may not be exposed to.

With filling that need as their charge, the committee set to work researching young professional needs locally and in other communities, and partnered with Northshore Media Group and other local chambers to launch and promote the annual Northshore Forty Under 40 program.

LEADERSHIP IS A DOER’S GAME

by Kiyomi Appleton Gaines

Noble-Bates Young

But the committee also wanted to expand the vision of what a local young professionals group could be and connected with the St. Tammany Corporation and the Northshore Community Foundation to partner around what that could look like. “I’m all about working smarter, not harder,” Young says, crediting her nonprofit background. “If two people are trying to do the same thing, they’re going to go a lot farther if they do it together.”

This year, the partnership launched an economic development series to educate young leaders about what economic development is and what it means for the community and the region. Young is candid about not knowing how to set up an economic development class, but credits the importance of doing this kind of work in partnership. She says, “I’m not afraid to admit what I don’t know, and I don’t ask people to do something I wouldn’t do. Some the best bosses I’ve had weren’t the coach on the sidelines—they were the quarterback on the field with us.”

The best way she has found to be a leader, she says, is to be there, to know who and when to call on to get things done, and to connect people. “I’ve been in a world where I know ‘the doers.’ Knowing those people, I can pick up the phone in any situation and know who to call and make a connection for somebody.”

The best thing our community leaders can do to support younger professionals is to get to know what’s already here in our community, she says. A graduate of Leadership St. Tammany, she credits the program with opening her eyes to not only the challenges facing the parish, but also to the abundance of resources and “doers” right in her own community. The second thing more seasoned leaders can do, she says, is “don’t underestimate the power of just spending a day with someone. Let a younger person shadow you and see what your job is actually like.” And, lastly, “Encouraging young people to come out to Northshore Young Professionals events!”

She encourages chamber members, as well as other seasoned professionals, to send representatives from their organizations to the committee’s networking, learning and volunteer events. The committee hosts one volunteer opportunity each quarter, and an

education series once or twice each year. The next opportunity will be a board training class, geared toward teaching new leaders about how to serve on a nonprofit board.

She says there is a lot of diversity among young professionals in the area that may go unrecognized. There are young people just out of college, as well as those in their thirties, many of whom have children at home, so the committee tries to have different events and meeting times so anyone can attend.

The committee recently hosted its first morning breakfast meeting for those whose after-hours may already be committed to family or other obligations. Networking breakfasts will be added to the regular event calendar, as well as an upcoming board training and the annual luncheon. Details for all Northshore Young Professionals Committee events are shared on their social media channels and on the St. Tammany Chamber of Commerce events page.

“We want to find people who are committed to continuing this vision of a bigger picture,” Young says. “Having more open minds and more open doors is what’s going to make everything better. If somebody can look at the Northshore Young Professionals and look at the bigger picture that we’re trying to serve and want to be a part of that, then we’ve done something good. We’ve done the right thing.” 🍷



A Team Approach to Care

**OCHSNER HEALTH AND ST. TAMMANY HEALTH SYSTEM
WORK TOGETHER TO SHAPE THE FUTURE OF CANCER CARE**

In June, Ochsner Health and St. Tammany Health System opened St. Tammany Cancer Center - A Campus of Ochsner Medical Center, a new state-of-the-art cancer center bringing innovation to the fight against cancer. Located on the campus of Ochsner Health Center - Covington and near St. Tammany Parish Hospital, the new center provides patients with access to world-class cancer care close to home.

This new space is home to a multidisciplinary team of expert providers, clinicians, allied health and support services specialists working together to evaluate patients, deliver a treatment plan and work together as a unit to execute that treatment plan. This team approach means that you have a whole network to lean on and each member of the team knows what the other is thinking and doing.



"Cancer can be extremely complex, daunting and frightening to our patients. There are many factors that come into play and multiple doctors and specialists that are needed to provide excellent care. With our multidisciplinary approach, we hope to make this easier for patients. Our goal is to allow patients to have multiple visits coordinated in one location to optimize their care," said Dr. Angela Buonagura, St. Tammany Health System breast care specialist and surgeon.

As part of this approach, the team participates in tumor conferences to collaboratively discuss individual cancer cases on a routine basis. This approach enables the combined clinical expertise of each team member to coordinate and facilitate an individualized treatment plan for each patient using nationally recognized clinical guidelines that promote evidence-based care.