

George R. Lewis

Devoted to the Hampton family

Without a doubt, he's powerful. One of the 12 Most Powerful Blacks in Corporate America, according to *Ebony* magazine. Despite tremendous success, George R. Lewis has not forgotten from whence he came.

"As you take control of your professional career, remember to stay in touch with your community," advises the president and CEO of Philip Morris Capital Corporation, one of five operating companies of Philip Morris Companies, Inc., the world's largest producer and marketer of consumer packaged goods. "Become involved in activities that help others who need a lift. Hampton has always stressed the obligation we have to share our resources and ourselves with others for the privilege of having an education."

It has been more than 30 years since Lewis graduated from Hampton, armed with a degree in accounting. Now a distinguished member of Hampton's Board of Trustees, Lewis is actively involved in investment strategies and fund raising projects, often using his influence to arrange meetings between industry representatives and University officials. He has also had occasion to lecture and speak with stu-

dents, being equally impressed with them as they are with him.

"The students have been an extraordinarily mature, bright, and articulate group of young adults, with a strong sense of gratitude to Hampton," compliments Lewis, who holds an MBA from Iona College in New York.

Through his involvement as a trustee and alumnus, Lewis recognizes the leadership role Hampton has taken over the years. Since his undergraduate days in the 1960s, he has also seen the school's acreage increase significantly, as well as the size of the student body. However, he still feels that the sense of community and shared values that he experienced still exists today.

With more than 30 years of experience at Philip Morris, Lewis knows the value of hard work and perseverance. He readily admits that his rise to the top began at home. "Whatever I have achieved was set in motion when I was young. My parents taught me the value of hard work, as well as the importance of believing in myself and preparing myself through education."

Coupled with a strong sense of right

and wrong, Lewis was given the perfect foundation for shattering the ever-present corporate glass ceiling.

A guest lecturer at prestigious universities across the country, Lewis has been able to share his philosophy with aspiring young executives. Filled with a passion for competition and an ambition to rise to the top early on, Lewis makes it clear that "no one owes you a career... take ownership of your career, your strengths, your skills, and the timing of your moves."

This Outstanding Twenty-Year Alumnus has certainly taken his own advice, developing a plan from day one that has kept him focused, disciplined and on track to achieving his goals.

Surely the walls of his office are graced with accolades Lewis has received for his contributions to corporate America. These same contributions have made him a "must-have" on the board of directors of well-known companies and organizations. But as he reflects on his successes and his ascent to the top, he will always be grateful for Hampton's helping hand. ■



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