ENGAGEMENTS

Ewing-D'Angelo

Paul and Mary Sue Ewing of Franklin, formerly of Farmington Hills, announce the engagement of their daughter, Juliet, to Joseph D'Angelo of Long Island, N.Y.

The bride-to-be, a graduate of Mercy High School and the University of Michigan, is a musical-theater actress in New York.

Her fiance is a graduate of Holy Cross College and Columbia University and works for Price-Waterhouse.

The couple will be married in July at Holy Family Church in Detroit.

NEW VOICES

Christopher Paul Cordle was born March 21, 1995, at Providence Hospital.

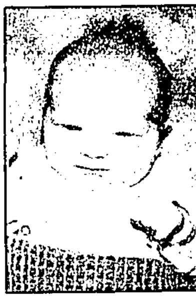
His parents are Michael and Catherine Bennett Cordle of Farmington Hills.

He has a sister, Brittany, 8.

Grandparents are Cecil and Karen Cordle of Livonia and Gerald and Mildred Bennett of Bradenton, Fla. His uncles are Bryan Cordle and Stephen Cordle.

His great-grandparents are Leatrice Fabian of Metamora; Mary Cordle of Flatwoods, Ky.; Evelyn Oberlin of Sarasota, Fla.; and Hattie Bennett of Hudson, Fla.

Christopher weighed 9 pounds, 5 ounces at birth and was 21¼ inches long.



Christopher Paul Cordle

'Good things happen'

Hills resident Grant wins Athena

She is truly an Athena among us, according to her nominator.

Farmington Hills resident Deborah Grant is this year's local Athena Award winner, sponsored by the Farmington/Farmington Hills Chamber of Commerce and Bob Saks Oldsmobile.

She was presented with the award during a May 11 luncheon at Vladimir's in Farmington Hills. The award honors "women who not only excel in their chosen field but who also open paths so that others may follow."

"Upon joining the Farmington Area Arts Commission in February of 1990, I heard the name Debbie Grant ring clear," Nanette Reid, chairperson of the Farmington Area Arts Commission, said in her nomination.

"Deborah was responsible for a 1994 Women's Day in downtown Farmington highlighting the accomplishments of women in history and women in the arts of the Farmington community," according to Reid in her nomination.

A partner in Gelman & Grant, an event management business hired by the Downtown Development Authority, Grant has been involved in projects to promote downtown businesses: the summer concert series, Holiday Happenings, Holiday Hunting, Mini Grand Prix, Winter Fun Series, and Summer Fun Series. "These activities have successfully presented Farmington as a positive, people-friendly place," Reid wrote in her nomination.

Athena Award

Grant, wife of Hills councilman Jonathan Grant, has served on the Farmington Area Arts Commission with the Artist in Residence program, Farmington/Farmington Hills Chamber of Commerce, as Farmington Founders Festival Parade chairperson, in Farmington Community Center fundraising events, Farmington Area Philharmonic, Farmington Area Volunteer Initiative, American Heart Association and Metro Detroit Girl Scouts.

"Since my first encounter with Debbie five years ago, my appreciation of her ability has steadily grown," Reid said in the nomination.

"Many kudos to a woman who can be a loving, supportive wife to prominent businessman and councilman, Jon, be an involved and caring baseball Mom and Girl Scout leader for her children, juggle her work at The Reliance Group of Michigan with her career in event development and management for the Downtown Development Authority, and still contribute volunteer services to her community," Reid wrote.

Deborah Grant said she is gratified and humbled by winning the Athena Award. "I feel there are many women in our community who are just as worthy of this award," she said.

She said handling her professional work, volunteer work and family work are a balancing act, but she enjoys it. "I find the most gratifying reward in all of this is being involved in the community."

She grew up in Farmington Hills and would like her children to see the benefits of community service. Her three children are Delores, 21, Jessica, 17, and Schyler, 12.

She plans to continue to work with the organizations she's involved with. Professionally, she works in credit and collections at The Reliance Group in Farmington Hills, along with her partnership with Bobbie Gelman in Gelman & Grant.

"For such as long time Deborah has been quietly going around our community making it a better place to live. She is so efficient one hardly knows she is there seeing that good things happen. Yet everything Deborah is responsible for is accomplished in the best possible manner," according to a letter to the award committee by Nancy Bates.

Grant is serving as chairperson of this year's Cardiac Arrest fund-raising program of the American Heart Association. Karen Kotila, regional director for the American Heart Association, wrote, ". . . I have seen first-hand her dedication and enthusiasm. We are fortunate to have her leadership, and I know I speak for many of those individuals in the Farmington/Farmington Hills community with whom she has worked."

" . . . Her community has always been foremost in her list of priorities and she gives of herself freely to insure its success," according to a letter to the nominating committee from Kathleen Bricker. "I can see Debbie's touch on nearly every event that takes place in our community, from the Founders Festival to the Artist in Residence awards to our summer fun program," she wrote.

The Athena Award was created for the Chamber of Commerce in Lansing in 1982. It is presented in the form of a hand-poured bronze sculpture symbolizing the strength, courage and wisdom of the recipient.

Previous winners in the Farmington area include Linda Mlynarek, of Botsford Continuing Care, and Beverly Papai, of Farmington Community Library.

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