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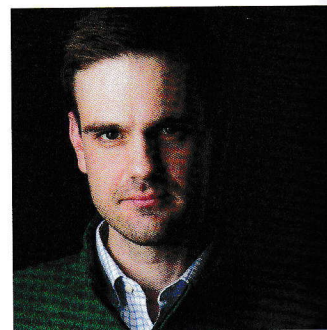
CONTRIBUTORS DECEMBER 2018



PAIGE JACOB / WRITER

After taking a break from the writing profession and working in various positions, Jacob took the plunge and returned to freelance to pursue her love of writing.

She lives in Apex with her husband and two sons. When she's not searching for a writing gig, Jacob stays busy keeping up with her family. In her downtime, she usually has her nose in a good mystery book or tries her luck cooking healthy recipes in an attempt to convince her boys that broccoli tastes great.



SMITH HARDY / PHOTOGRAPHER

A lifelong creative and North Carolinian, Hardy grew up loving two things: ACC sports and visual art. He got his first pro camera in 2002 and went on to study media communications at UNC Wilmington. One camera grew into several as he slowly built a robust equipment and technology collection to deliver the best results. After eight years of freelance shooting for CBS Sports Network, Endurance Magazine, and Fox Sports Network, Hardy opened his North Raleigh photography studio in 2015.



JULI LEONARD / PHOTOGRAPHER

Leonard has been a photojournalist for 18 years and has spent the majority of her career at *The News & Observer* in Raleigh. She resides in Raleigh with her daughter, partner, and two naughty dogs. Juli delights in the serendipitous so to get a dog, a vintage fire truck with Santas, and a live musician all on a Christmas tree shoot was assignment ecstasy!



JOE GIGLIO / WRITER

Giglio covers N.C. State and ACC sports for *The News & Observer* and first starting working at the paper in 1995. He lives in Garner with his wife, Jessaca, and their two sons, James and Jackson. Giglio wrote this month's Profile on N.C. State legend Dereck Whittenburg. "The actual NC State hall of fame is upstairs in the lobby of Reynolds Coliseum. However, the good stuff is in Dereck Whittenburg's office. He has many cool pictures and pieces of memorabilia, each with its own story. Whittenburg has a real gift as a storyteller."



“When you’re dealing with people you enjoy and they enjoy you and what you’re selling, it’s like going to a tea party everyday. It’s fun.”

—Charlotte Harris, owner, Charlotte's Inc.

Even though the name is singular, Charlotte's is a full-on family affair. Charlotte Harris began selling jewelry out of her home roughly 30 years ago. Combining priceless advice from trusted friends with cleverly timed marketing around a jewelry trend known as twist-a-beads, orders poured in. Due to high demand, it wasn't long before clients asked for more products and she opened her first store near Five Points.

Harris has a keen eye for fashionable goods and an attentive ear for her customers' tastes. A move from her Five Points location to Cameron Village proved lucrative and established strong Triangle roots. She's since expanded to North Hills, and her daughter Stephanie has joined as the store's manager. Just three years ago, she added a Charlotte, North Carolina, location, operated by her son and daughter-in-law. As the business grew, her husband joined in to help, as well.

Today, her stores remain current and feature new, up-and-coming designers and artisans. One recent and well-received addition to their product line is ladies clothing. “We try to create an exciting place so people will come in and find just

the perfect gift or a piece of jewelry, whether it's fashion jewelry or our fine jewelry, and now stationery. Our biggest thing right now is ladies clothing. That has really succeeded,” says Harris. Adding clothing to their merchandise selection also brought a fresh approach to unveil new products. Harris recently hosted her first fashion show, and due to its success, stores will now host fashion shows twice a year.

During the holidays, stores are adorned like a winter wonderland to highlight the festive season. Harris says her stores are a happy place to shop, and when decorated, the atmosphere transforms and brings about a special energy for clients and employees. She says that in early December, shoppers are eager to be the first in the stores to purchase a unique piece before it sells out. This December also includes a highly anticipated vintage handbag show.

When you talk to Harris about her stores, you hear her passion for not only working with her own family, but building strong relationships with vendors, their families, and dedicated clientele. It's not difficult to see why her stores are a beloved Triangle mainstay. —Paige Hachet Jacob

photograph by EAMON QUEENEY