

Gordon D. Greenwood '85 was recently elevated to the status of partner of the law firm Kazan, McClain, Abrams, Fernandez, Lyons, Farrise & Greenwood in Oakland, Calif. The firm represents plaintiffs in product liability and toxic tort litigation involving exposure to asbestos, benzene, lead, beryllium and other environmental contaminants. Prior to joining

the firm, Greenwood served as senior trial attorney at the San Francisco Public Defender's Office.

John Lewis Jr. '87 has been named senior managing counsel - litigation for The Coca-Cola Company in its global legal center in Atlanta. In his new role, Lewis manages the attorneys and staff responsible for litigation and disputes throughout

the 200-plus countries around the world where the company does business. Prior to joining Coca-Cola as litigation counsel in 2002, Lewis was a commercial litigator in private practice who specialized in bankruptcy, creditors rights and other related matters.

Christopher Cowan '87 recently received the Vice Chancellor's Achievement Award from the

University of the West Indies at its ninth annual gala in New York. The award honors individuals of Caribbean heritage who are rising stars within U.S. organizations. Cowan works for the Overseas Private Investment Corporation, where he executes infrastructure and other project financings in the emerging markets of Africa, Asia, Latin America and Eastern Europe.

Profiles in Leadership

Brewing Up Business in Historic King District

Willis Walker III '95 and Morgan Tucker '95

AS UNDERCLASSMEN, Willis Walker III '95 and Morgan Tucker '95 shared a love for Morehouse and very little else.

"We'd see each other at Piedmont Park and rollerblade together, but we weren't really tight friends," recalls Walker, a former English major from Little Rock, Ark.

Little did they know that nearly a decade after they graduated in 1995, they, along with their wives, would eventually become co-owners of a thriving business in the heart of the district named for a fellow Morehouse brother, Martin Luther King Jr. '48.

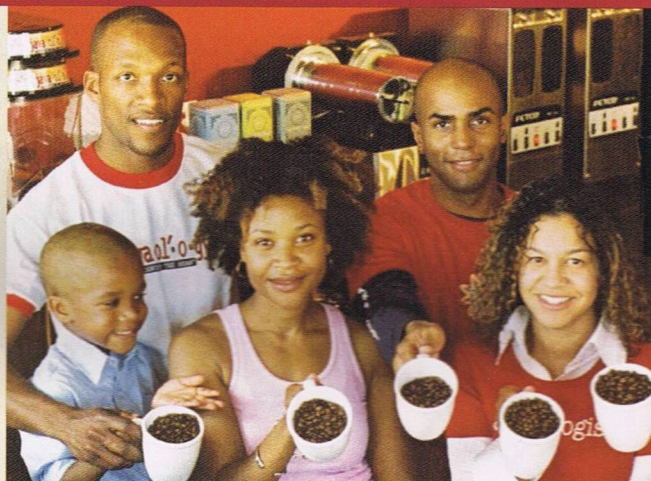
The couples co-own and operate Javaology, a cozy coffeehouse located at the corner of Edgewood and Boulevard near downtown Atlanta's King Historic District. Javaology offers light fare, spirits, wireless Internet access and a spacious upstairs loft that keeps customers loyal. The business is a welcome hangout for coffee connoisseurs in search of a java fix, as well as for nearby intown loft dwellers who live in this ever-developing neighborhood.

Businesses like Javaology are giving the community a much needed jolt after decades of crime and neglect in the Sweet Auburn district. A spate of new developments is planned for the historic neighborhood that was once the commercial and cultural heart of Atlanta's black community.

Willis, who spent several years working in the restaurant industry at Atlanta's airport, vividly recalls the day in April 2004 when he called Tucker, who then worked for the government in Washington, D.C., to pitch his brained idea of opening their own branch of the Florida-based franchise.

"He was the only person I knew who seemed crazy enough to do it," says Willis, laughing.

Adds Tucker, who has a master's degree in information technology: "It took me about five and a half minutes to decide. I knew in my heart I wanted to do this." He and his wife immediately relocated to Atlanta, and the new business partners jump-started their endeavor by each selling some rental



(From left) Owners Willis W. Walker '95 and Sonya D. Walker, with their son Willis W. Walker IV, and Morgan S. Tucker '95 and Jennifer W. Tucker

property to get the more than \$200,000 needed to transform a century-old brick building into their dream.

Since Javaology officially opened its doors in the fall of 2004, a steady stream of customers, many current and former Morehouse students, along with others from the extended Atlanta University Center family, have kept the business going.

"At just about any given time it seems like someone from Morehouse or the AUC is in here," says Tucker. "Early on, Dr. [Walter] Massey sent over a commendation for our efforts helping to revitalize the King District. His wife has even come through and brought people. Everyone has been so supportive."

Although business ownership comes with its share of challenges, including occasional disagreements, both men concur that lessons learned at Morehouse have been instrumental in their success.

"If anything, Morehouse taught me that you always have to be on top of your game," says Willis.

Tucker agrees. "We wouldn't be where we are today without the leadership and experience we learned at Morehouse" he says.

—Chandra R. Thomas