

life's **PASSION** *Cosmetology teacher opens up about journey from salon to classroom*

step by **STEP**

Henley Duffy, 11, performs her hair washing routine on her mannequin

RINSE:

"I am rinsing my mannequin in order to prepare her for a shampoo before her cut."



WASH:

"Now, I am shampooing and conditioning her hair to make it easier for me to cut."



CUT:

"I am now giving her a one length haircut to get the dead ends and layering her hair around her face, which is called the nape."



COOL HAIR DON'T CARE: Helena Bowling, 10, takes pride in her brightly colored hair off. "I was trying to show all of my colors in my hair and how great my hair looked for cosmetology. I feel really cool and happy with my hair," Bowling said; photo by a. mcloed

Each year high school seniors look forward to the movie moment when they finally get to throw their cap in the air. This toss of a hat is filled with so much relief and hope. Everyone is picking out the next chapter of their lives. For **Mary Smith**, faculty, this decision was not entirely her own.

"My parents did not want me to go to beauty school. 'Go to college, go to college'. We made a deal. I would go to college for a year and then had the choice to drop out and go to beauty school," Smith said.

At the age of 18, Smith knew that in order to fulfill her dreams of studying cosmetology, she would need to play by her parents' rules. But this doesn't mean she didn't mess with the situation.

"I did everything in my power to not do well in college. You also take a lot of core classes which are courses that I was not a fan of anyway," Smith said.

After trying the standard college experience Smith knew that her calling was cosmetology. She finally was able to enroll in a cosmetology school.

"I went to a school in North Charleston called Art Beauty College. It is no longer in business; unfortunately, they shut down," Smith said.

This was Smith's first real introduction to the

industry, despite the fact that her learning experience was atypical. There were a few instances that made her schooling process different from others.

"Normal beauty schools take about 9 months. I missed a few days here and there so it took me a little under a year to go through beauty school," Smith said.

After Smith's hard work and dedication, she had finally graduated from Art Beauty College and was ready to begin her professional career. In the beauty industry, Smith formed relationships that she still values today.

"I finished school in 1981 and got my first job at a little salon in West Ashley, and I was there for about 9 months," Smith said.

Throughout Smith's career, she has had a multitude of setbacks, she said. These setbacks, however, have not stopped her from pursuing her dreams. She has simply reinvented her dreams. This alteration guided Smith to her job at Wando 14 years ago, and now head of the cosmetology program at the East Cooper Center for Advanced Studies.

"This has been the best opportunity of my lifetime. Starting this program from scratch has

been very rewarding, I learn things from my students all the time," Smith said.

Smith came to Wando with an idea and the passion to make that idea a reality. Through her guidance and teaching, students like **Selina Daughtery**, 12, have been able to figure out and plan what their own futures.

"I just love doing hair, makeup, and nails... I plan to go straight to work after I graduate," Daughtery said.

After graduation, Daughtery will be taking the unique skills she has learned in the classroom straight into a professional career where she can support herself. Her peer, **Ava Stockton**, 12, will be applying her knowledge in a different way.

"I wanted to get my license and be able to work in college," Stockton said.

Stockton is using her license in a different capacity. Something that Smith tries to teach her students is that their futures are their own decision. She supports students in whatever way she can.

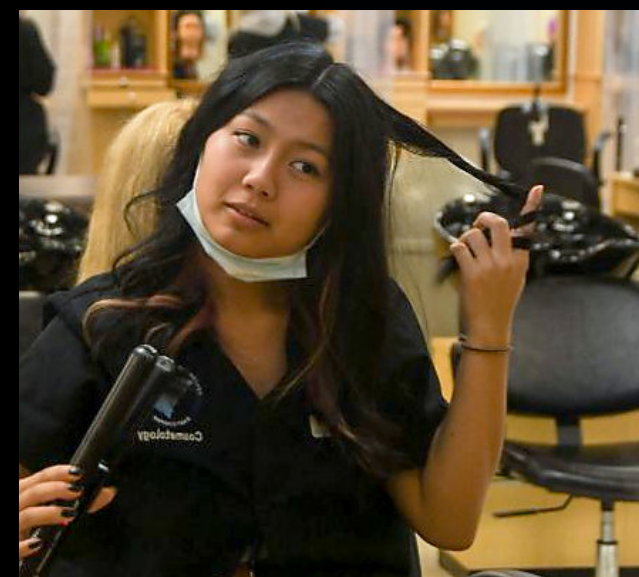
"It's your journey, not mine. Choose what will make you happy and excited. That's what matters," Smith said.

**Story by Keiriaki Firilas
Designer Harper Duffy**

"It's your journey, not mine. Choose what will make you happy and excited. That's what matters."



CREATIVITY CREATIONS: (left) Using learned processes, **Evan Dunlevy**, 12, works on a classmate's nails. "I really like cosmetology because it is fun and I feel like I can use my creativity from it in a future job, so that is nice," Dunlevy said; photo by b. schwinne



ARTISTIC OPPORTUNITIES: (far left) Using class materials, **Anna Le**, 12, styles her hair. "I am practicing curling my hair. In the future I am planning to do nails but I might do some hair also," Le said; photo by l. danher

PASSION PERFORMANCE: (left) Focused on cutting, **Jailynn Boatman**, 12, practices her skill. "I am doing a increased-layered cut for the people who like layers, this is the cut for you. I really like cosmetology because I can finally express my passion," Boatman said; photo by b. schwinne