



# MDITR – Leadership Lunch

Material & Devices for Information Technology Research

**Thursday, November 14, 2007**

**12PM TO 1:30PM**

*Molecular Science & Engineering  
(New Chemistry) Bldg-2100F*

**Lunch is provided**



**Allison A. Aldridge, Ph.D.**  
**R&D Analytical Supervisor, Mikart, Inc**

Dr. Allison A. Aldridge is a Senior Scientist and R&D Analytical Supervisor at Mikart, Inc. She currently manages the project assignments and method development sectors in the laboratory.

Allison received her Bachelor of Science degree in biology from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, IL. She worked for Hercules Aerospace, Inc. as a Quality Control Laboratory Technician for five years and three years as an Environmental Laboratory Technician. She resigned to pursue a doctorate in analytical chemistry from Loyola University-Chicago. During her graduate studies, she performed nuclear magnetic resonance (NMR) studies on a biological buffer, as well as matrix-assisted-laser-desorption ionization- time-of-flight mass spectrometry (MALDI-TOFMS) experiments on amino acids and proteins.

In her previous positions, Dr. Aldridge served as an R&D Scientist for Unilever Home and Personal Care USA after graduating from Loyola. Her responsibilities included product development support and troubleshooting manufacturing issues. She began her career in the pharmaceutical industry at Abbott Laboratories. While there, she was part of the Specialty Products Division and the Global Pharmaceutical Research and Development Division.

She is an active member of the American Chemical Society. Dr. Aldridge currently serves as secretary for the Division of Professional Relations and is a member of the Committee on Minority Affairs.



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## **Celena Wright Cooks Director of Quality, Mikart, Inc**

Ms. Celena Wright Cooks is a Research Chemist and Director of Quality for Mikart, Inc. As the Director of Quality at Mikart, Inc. she oversees the Quality Department which encompasses the Quality Control Laboratory, the Quality Assurance Department, the Calibration/Validation's Department and the Microbiological Laboratory.

Celena graduated from Savannah State University with a Bachelor of Science in Chemistry with a minor in Mathematics. During her matriculation at Savannah State University as a MARC scholar (Minority Access to Research Careers) she participated in summer internships at the Medical College of Georgia SEEP (Summer Enrichment Educational Program) in Augusta, GA; University of California-Riverside in Riverside, CA; NIH/ National Institute of Diabetes, and the Digestive and Kidney Diseases Center in Bethesda, MD.

She received honors such as a Proclamation from Governor Joe Frank Harris; Magnum Cum Laude Honor Graduate; National Dean's List; Alpha Kappa Mu National Honor Society; Beta Kappa Chi Scientific Honor Society; Mario de la Guardia Scholar; Who's Who Among America's Colleges and Universities; Miss Senior; and Who's Who Among America's Teachers.

In her previous positions, she was employed as a research assistant in the Department of Pathology and Clinical Pathology at the University of Alabama-Birmingham. She taught High School Chemistry and worked as a chemical specialist at Carson Products in Savannah, GA.

She is involved in the Non-Profit Community Outreach Ministry; the Usher Ministry as well as the children's care ministry at her church. She is an on-going Chemistry and Mathematics tutor. She enjoys traveling, reading and playing the piano.

After her most recent quest of conquering Stage III Breast Cancer she is helping to support organizations to fight the disease, such as "Men Against Breast Cancer", and the "Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation".

She is married and has three children