ABC World Weekend News *interviews*
JDWC - Jon D. Williams Cotillions

Washington D.C. - ABC World Weekend News featured the Jon D. Williams Cotillions which has been an institution for families throughout the United States for over 50 years. This nationally acclaimed program offers classes in ballroom dance and social education to young people from elementary age to the university level. Dressed in their best, students learn to foxtrot to the tunes of the Big Band era, jitterbug to the Rock 'n Roll of the 50's, and swing hustle to the strains of the latest TOP 40 music. Currently the Williams' direct over 50 Cotillion programs, to over 7,000 students annually throughout the United States.

| The "Maestro" Jon D. Williams II | Jon & Vivian Williams 1940's | The "Protégé" Jon D. Williams III | Jon D. & Moira Williams 1970's |

The ABC News program featured the family business comprised of five full time instructors and Jon D. Williams III, president of the national organization, who owns and operates his late parents Jon and Vivian Williams legacy. They founded the business in 1949 after starting their illustrious careers with Fred Astaire (Vivian was one of his dance partners!). At their prime, the resemblance of father and son is uncanny. Not only are they a spitting image of one another, in addition, after many years and generation gaps, they have a similar belief and philosophy. Simply put, by Jon D. Williams III, "Having good manners is timeless, and should be an integral part of our education. In a time when our world is surrounded by adversity and conflict, perhaps a little bit of dancing is a relief."

The premise of the story, presented by ABC correspondent Tom Foreman, was not necessarily on the subject of dance. Rather, as ABC pointed out, "good manners are always in order" and may be helpful in assisting young people in "getting into the schools they want, and eventually landing better jobs."

Mr. Foreman also pointed out that the Jon D. Williams Cotillions are not exclusive to any particular socioeconomic group. As he stated, "If you think this is all for high society kids, you may want to think again. The fact is, kids come to this class from all sorts of families. They're white-collar kids; blue-collar kids.... some kids pay up to $200, while others pay whatever they can afford." Jon D. Williams Cotillions offers a limited number of full and partial scholarships to their programs and make contributions to community charities where they instruct.

The ABC crew discovered, in over two days of interviewing and taping in San Antonio, TX, Denver, CO and Middleburg, VA, that the Williams take their job very seriously. As stated by Jon D. Williams III, "Our programs are not about punch and cookies. This is a great opportunity for a girl and boy to have social contact.... in a healthy, positive, structured environment. It removes inhibitions, creates confidence, and makes them comfortable with each other in any social situation. This is a learning ground where young people can actively practice socialization skills, courtesy and respect to others, which may very well influence their futures. These young people are going to be interviewing for jobs some day. The manner in which they conduct themselves and present themselves can, indeed, be an influencing factor."

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Over three generations of students in the Jon D. Williams Cotillions seem to agree based on the fact that they have waiting lists into the 21st century. It should be noted that Jon D. Williams Cotillions are open to any student who wishes to participate, limited only by the size of the classes and determined exclusively on a first-come, first-served basis.

Considering all of the alternatives that today's youth have, and looking at these young, happy faces, the ABC program illustrated that certain traditions and values never go out of style — they just get better!