

Vicki Dugan • **Linda Cunningham & Sharon Batten** • Judge Karen Cole



Bradley Stookey

A fashion capital Jacksonville is not. But fashionable we are, thanks in large measure to people like **Linda Cunningham** and **Sharon Batten** and, entrepreneurs who have been helping Jacksonvillians dress their best for more than 20 years. Missoni, Vera Wang, Bernard Zins, Oscar de la Renta, Monique Lhuillier—designer labels fill the racks of their respective shops, both of which are favorite haunts for the city's fashionistas. Surprisingly, the two style mavens had never met until being introduced by 904.

**Full Name:** Linda Cunningham Woods

**Birthday:** October 8

**Occupation:** Fashion Designer/Retailer, San Marco

**Working in that capacity since:** Between the death of Grace Kelly and marriage of Princess Diana

**My day begins:** Orchestrating all of us out the door

**Fondest memory:** The birth of each of my girls

**Hardest lesson learned:** Overnight success takes about 20 years

**Business philosophy, in six words or less:** Work hard. Love harder. Believe hardest.

**Proudest moment:** Watching my disabled daughter walk again

**Person I'd like to meet:** Laura Bush

**Biggest personal challenge:** Making every moment count

**Jacksonville's biggest challenge:** Quality public education

**Jacksonville's biggest strength:** Quality of its citizens

**First job:** Popcorn popper at Regency Theatre

**Favorite movie:** Dial "M" for Murder

**What inspires me:** Laughter and the arts

**Final meal:** Dinner with a group of my best friends at Rosa Mexicana in New York City

**Female idol:** My mom

**Celebrity who'd play me in a movie:** Gilda Radner

**Favorite scent:** Cookies baking

**Makeup item I can't live without:** Mascara

**Best way to de-stress:** Swimming laps

**I feel my best when I'm wearing:** Black and white

**Libation of choice:** Diet Coke

**My trademark:** Passionate Creativity with faithful devotion

**Full Name:** Sharon Rae Batten

**Birthday:** November 14

**Occupation:** Owner of Sharon Batten, Ponte Vedra

**Working in that capacity since:** 1985

**My day begins with:** Licks and kisses from Louie, my baby Yorkie

**Fondest memory:** Spending time with all my grandchildren at our farm in Canada

**Hardest lesson learned:** I can't make everything perfect

**Wildest dream:** Breeding racehorses in Canada

**Proudest moment:** Walking into my new store - finished - full of flowers, with a beautiful new bridal room

**Biggest personal challenge:** Remembering the birthdays of my children and grandchildren—all 32 of them

**Jacksonville's biggest challenge:** To fulfill its potential

**Jacksonville's biggest strength:** Beautiful geography and people

**First job:** Car hop

**Perfect day at work:** Great clothes, great people and great sales

**Perfect day at play:** Reading and being quiet

**Favorite movie:** Amadeus

**Regrets:** That I didn't "grow up" earlier

**What inspires me:** My faith

**Final meal:** Potatoes-cooked every which way!

**Female idol:** Mother Teresa

**Celebrity who'd play me in a movie:** Julie Andrews

**Best way to de-stress:** Swim hard, 20 laps

**I feel my best when I'm wearing:** Oscar de la Renta

**Libation of choice:** A great Chianti

**My trademark:** Creating beautiful environments