



### **Focus on the Future**

#### **Guest Predictions: Deborah Cornwell**

*Guest Predictions is a regular feature in which we ask leaders in a number of professions a set of questions that affect us all.*

**Deborah is in the process of establishing “Living Silks Floral & Design Studio”**

*In many ways Deborah typifies the concept of “Converting Your Career”. Born to a family with multiple generations in the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia, Deborah will be retiring with esteem from a key facility management responsibility for the Vocational Education Center in Frederick County this summer. In July she will turn to her life’s passion, floral design, by opening a studio, with a range of clients already in place. Additionally, she will be making herself available to counsel the next generation of those who care about the quality of educational facilities throughout the nation. Look for more about the opening of her offerings through TRG’s and her own new website, to become active in July and announced in “The Agenda”.*

**Q: What changes in your professional environment in the past 3-5 years have you found to be the most beneficial?**

**A:** The quality of the elements to be used on floral display has improved significantly. Combined with a steadily increased confidence with my methods, the result has been continuously improved satisfaction. In the facility world, a range of specialized training has given me a better insight into not only how to improve myself, but also how to help those around me.

**Q: What changes have been the most troubling to you?**

**A:** I am concerned with the lack of training of the generation coming into place.

**Q: How will globalization affect your professional area in the near term?**

**A:** The prospect of being connected to like-minded professionals in other parts of America is very appealing.

**Q: What significant challenges might be anticipated in your professional area in the next few years?**

**A:** Continuous change, while most welcome, does provide a constant need for close attention to trends and methods.

**Q: What are the greatest challenges confronting young professionals in Western culture today?**

**A:** At this moment, the decline in the economy has reduced opportunities that should be there for young people who wish to advance.