

**Portrait: Modern Faces of Black Paris
August 2003**

The screenshot shows a web browser window displaying the Café de la Soul website. The page has a dark background with a central photograph of Carolyn Davenport-Moncel, a Black woman with short dark hair, wearing a black sleeveless top and a grey skirt, standing in a garden. To the left of the photo is a navigation menu with links like 'home', 'paris living', 'single in the city', 'portrait', 'paris: my story', 'quoi de cool', 'this month in paris', 'soul on the seine', and 'travel resources'. Below the menu is a 'SPOTLIGHT: CAFE GEAR' section featuring a white t-shirt with the text 'CAFÉ DE LA SOUL' and 'GET YOURS NOW!!'. To the right of the photo is a text area titled 'portrait' with the subtitle 'the new faces of Black Paris' and the name 'CAROLYN DAVENPORT-MONCEL'. The text describes her as a Paris resident, President and Founder of MotionTemps, LLC, and provides a brief biography. At the top right, there is contact information for MotionTemps. At the bottom, there is a navigation bar with icons for Home, About the Café, Paris Resources, Forum/Message Boards, Café Links, and Contact Us.

bienvenue à...
Café de la Soul
your black paris portal

For more information, visit MotionTemps online at: www.motiontemps.com
Or email Carolyn at: info@motiontemps.com

portrait
the new faces of Black Paris
CAROLYN DAVENPORT-MONCEL

Read all about Paris resident Carolyn Davenport-Moncel, President and Founder of MotionTemps, LLC

CAFÉ: Carolyn, tell us a bit about yourself.

CDM: Truthfully, Im a Chicagooan from head to toe! Im 34 years old, married, the mother of two little girls and a huge sports fanatic. Before opening MotionTemps, I started my career in Internet marketing and public relations. Ive spent time both in the private sector - in agency, corporate and nonprofit environments, and also in the public sector developing strategies for local political campaigns. I graduated from Loyola University Chicago with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Organizational Communications and a minor in political science. When Im not working or running behind my two little ones and the family pets, I could spend the entire day browsing through records and CDs in a mom and pop music store or reading in a old bookstore.

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Interview conducted by **Robin Bates, President and CEO** of Café de la Soul * Your Black Paris Portal, August 2003

For additional copies, please email: blackparis@cafedelasoul.com

CAROLYN DAVENPORT-MONCEL
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August 2003

Read all about Paris resident Carolyn Davenport-Moncel, President and Founder of MotionTemps, LLC

CAFÉ: Carolyn, tell us a bit about yourself.

CDM: Truthfully, I'm a Chicagoan from head to toe! I'm 34 years old, married, the mother of two little girls and a huge sports fanatic. Before opening MotionTemps, I started my career in Internet marketing and public relations. I've spent time both in the private sector - in agency, corporate and nonprofit environments, and also in the public sector developing strategies for local political campaigns. I graduated from Loyola University Chicago with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Organizational Communications and a minor in political science. When I'm not working or running behind my two little ones and the family pets, I could spend the entire day browsing through records and CDs in a mom and pop music store or reading in a old bookstore.

CAFÉ: When did you first move to Paris and what brought you to the City of Light?

CDM: I moved to Paris in October 2002. Although I'm American, my husband is French and originally from Lyon. We met, married and lived in Chicago, but after being there for 10 years, my husband was getting a little homesick. When he completed his Masters degree in Information Technology at Northwestern University, he received a job offer that required the family to move to Paris immediately. We packed up our apartment and moved to Paris with two kids (ages five and 2 weeks), our dog and cat!

CAFÉ: Tell us about MotionTemps, the business you run and operate from Paris. How long have you been in business and what services do you offer?

CDM: I launched MotionTemps from my home in Chicago back in 2001 after leaving a job as a communications manager with a PR agency. MotionTemps provides back-office administrative support (PowerPoint presentations, copyediting, copywriting, desktop publishing, data entry, answering services, word processing, etc.), but also marketing and public relations consulting services to home-based professionals, non-profits, frequent global business travelers, and small to mid-sized consulting firms.

I love working with small businesses, and I personally take a real hands-on approach to working with them. MotionTemps is a virtual company, which means we can work with clients in almost every part of the world via e-mail, instant message, fax and phone. Most of the time we can complete work while our clients are sleeping. Because we gain such an intimate knowledge about the ways in which our clients work, we consider ourselves partners in their success. We provide services on an as-needed basis. Some clients only require our services on a project basis, but the majority of them retain a fixed amount of hours per month. Our involvement allows clients to delegate daily tasks to us so they can concentrate more on strategy and

expanding their businesses, but my background in marketing allows me to assist them in business development as well.

CAFÉ: How different is it doing business in France vs. the US? Any tips you'd like to share with others interested in starting/running a business in France?

CDM: I'm finding that networking with the French is a little different than networking with other Americans. As Americans if we were interested in meeting someone, we phone or e-mail the contact to arrange a meeting. You don't have to know the person personally to make an introduction. Here, you really have to develop a relationship first before you can actually engage in business networking and that means direct involvement.

That's why I've opened the Paris chapter of World Women in Technology (WorldWIT) called, OuiWIT. This e-mail discussion list is in English and allows all professional women and students both French and English-speaking, to come together and network, share resources and mentor. I also participate in well-established local business organizations for face-to-face contact, and I'd recommend anyone interested in starting or running a business in Paris, to do the same. That's how you begin to forge necessary relationships. In addition, get to know the French and American embassies because that's where you'll find a lot of resources needed to actually operate a business in France, and its how you learn to avoid red tape.

The other aspects of running a business in Paris are the same as in any other location. I still recommend that new business owners find a niche for their businesses. Really take the time to research your industry and your location to discover what truly make you different from the competition so you can showcase your talents. Study your competitors and pay attention to what they do well, and try to learn from their mistakes.

CAFÉ: What do you love most about living in the City of Light?

CDM: Being in Paris allows me the opportunity to travel to so many other places throughout Europe and even North Africa. I'm looking forward to doing a lot of traveling while we're here. For now, shopping is another favorite past time. I'm also a real history buff, and I love the fact that I can visit some the world's most renowned museums in minutes by metro.

CAFÉ: What do you find the most challenging?

CDM: Learning a new language and the cultural nuances associated with that language.

Also, I know for my business the two most challenging tasks have been finding American clients in a country where everyone speaks French, and trying to explain to French business owners how the virtual assistance industry works, and how having an English Mother Tongue assistant can vastly improve their ability to communicate more fluidly with their American counterparts.

For example, I find that a lot of French companies have web sites with content written in English. This is obviously done to attract more English-speaking candidates as employees or to attract more business in America. However, sometimes while the content is intelligible, it is not necessarily written in a way that a native speaker would communicate the same idea. MotionTemps helps business owners to express those ideas more fluidly.

In the end, we're making great strides because MotionTemps has become the premier American Style Virtual Assistance practice in Paris. We've even added a new service -- emergency administrative and marketing services for American business travelers in Paris. Now English-speaking small-business owners as well as local French businesses are very interested in what we do.

CAFÉ: What impact, if any, has living in Paris had on you?

CDM: I've always considered myself quite open to new ideas always thinking outside of the box. Living in Paris reminds me that there is more to the world than just what is available inside of the United States. Having access to news in so many different languages English, French, German, Italian, Portuguese, Arabic, etc., has been quite beneficial. I love the U.S., but here's an opportunity to interact with people whose lives may be quite different from my own. I'm hoping the exposure will help me to better understand others their cultures, religions, and their lives in general.

CAFÉ: What is a typical day for you?

Every day is a busy one when you have two small children. Our 11-month-old daughter, Jillian, is our alarm clock, and she wakes at 7 a.m. each morning. I make breakfast for my daughters, and then I must whisk my oldest off to school or summer camp.

I check and write my e-mails and make my local business phone calls during my baby's morning naptime. If she's in a particularly playful mood, I can also get my housework done and dinner made, also. My babysitter arrives in the afternoon and then my workday for the U.S. really starts. I only stop during the late afternoon to pick up my oldest daughter, Chloé, from school or camp. I break again in the early evenings to heat and serve dinner. My husband handles bath and bedtime duties while I work. We take turns reading bedtime stories in English and French. My workday ends around midnight. Even though my schedule is pretty hectic, it's great having the option of not working on any given day. When I can, I take the girls to the park or on other adventures if it's nice. Our weekends are spent exploring the city as a family.

CAFÉ: There are a number of individuals with families who would like to make the move from the US to France. Any advice?

CDM: Yes, plan your move if possible. We moved to Paris 14 days, and I would strongly caution against anyone doing this because it's tough! Red tape is terrible enough for French natives, so imagine what it's like if you are coming here from another country. Therefore, it's imperative to do as much research as possible prior to your move. Use the French and American embassy sites and your local French

Café de la Soul * Your Black Paris Portal
Taking You BEYOND the Eiffel Tower

<http://cafedelasoul.com>

consulate offices back in the U.S. to find out all the information you'll need to make your stay as hassle-free as possible. Also network and try to meet people who are currently living in Paris or who have lived there for long periods of time. They can help you tremendously in preparing for your move. Heck, e-mail me because we've seen it all. ;-)

CAFÉ: Thanks so much Carolyn! We wish you continued success with MotionTemps!