



# *The Battering Ram*

*"Linked together in unity. Serving together with purpose."*

This newsletter is an official publication of WSSU National Alumni Association  
S. G. Atkins House ■ Winston-Salem, NC 27110  
TheBatteringRam@wssunaa.org

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*Almighty God, we know that everything is in Your sovereign control. We ask that You keep this new coronavirus from continuing to spread. Give government officials the ability to safely handle people arriving from other countries. Help people decide to stay home instead of traveling or going out needlessly. Holy Spirit, remind people to wash their hands properly. And while it may be heartbreaking, comfort families as they decide to keep their distance from elderly or other high-risk family members.*

## NEW OFFICERS 2020-2022

**President - Regina Cason**

**Vice President - Mataryun "Mo" Wright**

**Secretary - TBD**

**Treasurer - Karen Hicks (interim)**

**Regina Cason**  
President

**Mataryun "Mo" Wright**  
Vice President



## Coordinators

**Southern Region I - Barbara Williams Pollard**

**Southern Region II - Kelvin Walton**

**Eastern Region - Velma C. Hicks**

**Western Region - Veronica Carter Jackson**

# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Dear Alumni,

It is indeed an honor and pleasure to serve as your 2020-2022 President of the Winston-Salem State University National Alumni Association, Inc. (WSSUNAA). I am grateful to the legacy and leadership of this organization and look forward to continuing to build on the core values that we have grown to rely on. I am inspired by the dedicated

alumni that continue to utilize their time, talent, and treasures to serve our students, university, and the association. This is a new decade that brings us not only challenges but renewed opportunities to tap into our source of strength which allows us to better serve humanity. The strength and growth of the association depends on solid leadership and the alumni's commitment to serve within this organization. I solicit your continued support and innovative ideas as we strive to move the NAA forward and address the needs of the organization. Our administration will demonstrate and operate on the core values of L.O.V.E.

Leadership/Develop Leadership  
Operational Excellence  
Value Added Membership  
Engagement of all Alumni

An overview of my vision entails to further grow the association in the following areas:

**Branding/ Marketing** – To establish a premier brand for WSSUNAA that is recognized locally, nationally, and globally. We want to tell our story of the impact we collectively have as an organization to support student scholarship funding, efforts to assist the university's programs, and assist to develop partnerships with corporations and government agencies to foster student internships.

**Support the Community** – To continue to support our communities and assist with college and recruiting fairs, local NAA chapter programs, and partner with other charities to serve in areas of need.

**Communication, Inclusion, and Collaboration** – To develop a centralized platform where alumni can share their ideas and support, bridge the gap between alumni and the university, and collaborate with the university to focus on strategic ways to gain alumni involvement and engagement, while increasing the membership of the association. We have to establish talks/forums with our Young Alumni Council (YAC) and those that they serve to understand their needs and work to include this alumni segment to help promote our mission. We look to bridge the gap between students and alumni and focus on understanding the needs of those students while capturing the innovative skills, mindsets, and resources to establish our brand within the UNC System and beyond.

**Operational Center of Excellence** – To review and evaluate the programs within the association so that technology is assessed in areas that will improve efficiencies, strategize fundraising efforts to raise scholarship funds, and keep operational expenses within guidelines. In addition, we support transparency to cultivate more alumni to join and support the association.

I am humbled and grateful for your trust in me to lead this association. I will maintain the dignity of the position of President and will uphold the office with integrity and respect. I look forward to working collaboratively to further promote the mission of the association while adhering to the needs of our alumni, students, community and university.

Ram Love,

Regina Cason '90

# NEWS YOU CAN USE

## ELECTION RESULTS

President

205 - Regina Cason

116 - Reginald McCaskill

Vice President

182 - Mo Wright

132 - Anthony Pace

There were a number of write-ins for the office of Secretary and Treasurer. The Executive Council will consider the names and appoint a Secretary and Treasurer.

In the Ram Spirit,

Velma C. Hicks, Chair  
Nominating Committee

## ATLANTA

The chapter had the honor of inducting its new elected officers for the term 2020-2022 during its June chapter meeting. The chapter ended its fiscal year with 31 financial members and formalized its Non-Endowed Scholarship for Georgia students through the University's Office of Advancement. Just like the rest of the world, the recent impact of COVID-19 halted the chapter's end of year fundraising plans and recruiting activities. The new officers will begin their term creating a new vision and strategy to continue the mission of the chapter amid what will be a new normal for us all.

Please join our Atlanta RAMily in congratulating our newly elected officers:

President - Marilyn Cruter

Vice President - William Horton

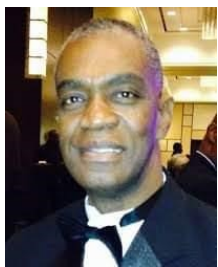
Secretary - Velma Johnson

Treasurer - Vanesha Lucas

For more information or to contact the Atlanta Chapter, please go to <http://wssuatlalumni.weebly.com/>

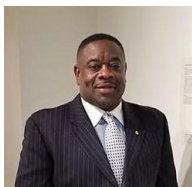
## ATLANTA CONT'd

The Atlanta chapter also experienced a great loss amid the COVID-19 pandemic with alumni chapter member Mike Murrell. Mike, a native of Trenton, NC, passed away at Emory Hospital on April 28 after a hard fought battle with complications from COVID-19. He was a member of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity Inc. Mike owned and operated Murrell's Cafe on the campus of the Interdenominational Theological Center in Atlanta. He was a great advocate for HBCUs and business ownership. The Atlanta



chapter held numerous meetings and events at his cafe, to include hosting our university sports teams when they traveled to compete in the Atlanta area. Mike spared no expense, as he was truly one of the most generous human beings we have ever known. The Atlanta RAMily was truly blessed to have Mike as part of its fabric always representing Winston-Salem State University and its students and alumni. We ask that you consider contributing to the Michael Murrell Scholarship Endowment at Winston-Salem State University. Make checks payable to WSSU Foundation and note in the memo line: Michael Murrell Endowment Scholarship. We continue to pray for the Murrell family.

The chapter congratulates its member, Kelvin Walton, in being selected as Southern Region II Coordinator of the association. Kelvin will be charged with the efforts of outreach to alumni in the southern states of Alabama, Tennessee, Georgia, Florida and the southern areas South Carolina to engage and activate their involvement to support the university and the NAA. Congratulations, Kelvin!



## WINSTON-SALEM CHAPTER

The Brown, Kimberley Park, and Kuandelea chapters in Winston-Salem have combined to become one chapter--the Winston-Salem Chapter.

The officers of the newly formed chapter are:

President - Reginal McCaskill  
Vice President - Mosé Belton  
Secretary - Tasia Wilson  
Treasurer - Sheryl Funderburk

What



is it?

It's

## MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL TIME

*Our new fiscal year starts  
July 1*

### TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP

1. Go to the association website:

[www.wssunaa.org](http://www.wssunaa.org)

2. Click on Membership tab
3. Scroll down to Membership Application
4. Select one of the two options:
  - a. Complete the form online and mail it to the lockbox
  - b. Pay membership online

**WSSU ALUMNI, WE NEED ALL OF YOU  
TO SUPPORT THE WSSU NATIONAL  
ALUMNI ASSOCIATION!!**



## **2020 HOMECOMING AND ALL RELATED ALUMNI ACTIVITIES ARE CANCELED**

Email received from Campus Activities Office at WSSU...

Based on guidance from public health officials, feedback from our alumni, and our overriding concern for the health and well-being of the Ram Family, we have made the difficult decision to cancel our 2020 Homecoming festivities.

The week-long celebration, originally slated for Sept. 13-19, was expected to bring more than 10,000 people to our campus to participate in nearly 40 events. The decision to cancel was made to proactively protect the health and well-being not only of our guests but also the individuals who study, live, and work on our campus.

Our goal is simple: to decrease the number of situations that require the campus community (and beyond) to gather in large groups. We wanted to make this decision early enough for people to change their travel plans for September.

We know that Homecoming is a treasured part of the WSSU Experience and we share your disappointment at its cancellation for this year. Covid-19 has had a tremendous impact on nearly every aspect of our lives; we regret that our traditional Homecoming festivities are among the casualties of this pandemic. Various offices across campus will be working to create some virtual experiences this fall; please stay tuned for updates. Depending on the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services guidelines, we hope to invite our alumni and friends to an event in spring 2021.

Regardless of whether we can meet in person this fall, always remember that you are a Ram for life. Although current circumstances are interrupting this year's event, our mission to provide our students with an exceptional education does not falter. We continue to **need your support** to execute that mission.

For the latest updates on our Covid-19 response, please visit our **Coronavirus website**.

Be well and stay healthy!



# CLASS OF 1970 50th REUNION MESSAGE

Dear Fellow Class Member of 1970:

This year 2020, is the year we celebrate our 50<sup>th</sup> Golden Jubilee Reunion. As we're sure you are already aware, the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic has meant that it's now vital to limit social contact and avoid large gatherings. For that reason, the Planning Committee has unanimously agreed to postpone this year's class reunion celebration until 2021, but be reassured that the committee is continuing to plan for our 2021 celebration.

We hope the postponement will not affect your generous commitment of \$1,000.00 to reach our goal of \$50,000.00 in support of the university. Knowing this is disappointing and we regret in having to do this, but, we hope you can understand the steps we're taking to help keep everyone safe.

We pray everyone stays safe and well. If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact one of the individuals on the attached committee list. Also, for your convenience attached is the Class Gift Form to support your generous giving.

The Class of 1970 Planning Committee

## HELLO RAMily!!!

### CLASS OF 1970 CELEBRATES **50** YEARS

#### PLEASE CONTACT ONE OF THESE COMMITTEE MEMBERS!

|                        |                |                           |
|------------------------|----------------|---------------------------|
| Gwen J. Brewer:        | (609) 865-8165 | elainejbrewer@gvtc.com    |
| LINDA BROOKS:          | (301) 659-0268 | brookslinda47@gmail.com   |
| JOYCE CARLISLE:        | (404) 409-2942 | 1silvadiva@gmail.com      |
| CAROLYN ROBERTS JAMES: | (704) 650-4481 | carolynrjames2@gmail.com  |
| JOHN LATHAN:           | (704) 591-0914 | jlathan403@gmail.com      |
| ALLEN MCMANUS:         | (248) 613-2443 | aqstarm@aol.com           |
| GLENDA SIMS:           | (864) 582-4062 | glendapsims@bellsouth.net |
| LYNDA HOLIDAY WEBSTER: | (804) 347-2126 | benz87@hotmail.com        |
| SARA HORNE WILLIS:     | (704) 578-2938 | swillis99@bellsouth.net   |

#### CO-CHAIR:

|                         |                |                |
|-------------------------|----------------|----------------|
| <b>DONALD WILLIAMS:</b> | (678) 517-6877 | donmw1@aol.com |
|-------------------------|----------------|----------------|

#### COMMITTEE CHAIR:

|                            |                |                        |
|----------------------------|----------------|------------------------|
| <b>TONYA TALLEY SMITH:</b> | (202) 399-4867 | tebunnie15@verizon.net |
|----------------------------|----------------|------------------------|



### Class Gift Form

#### WSSU Class of 1970 Endowed Scholarship Fund

Yes, I am very grateful to Winston-Salem State University for affording me the opportunity to pursue my educational goals. To show my appreciation, I wish to provide a financial gift to the 'Class of 1970 Endowed Scholarship Fund' to assist students in pursuing their educational dreams.

Name

*Last*

*First*

*MI*

*Maiden*

Mailing Address

*City*

*State*

*Zip*

Phone

*Home*

*Cell*

Email Address

☐ Yes!

Fund Name

Payments may be made by personal check, money order or payable online. **DO NOT SEND CASH!!!** ALL forms of payment **MUST** include: **Class of 1970 Endowed Scholarship Fund** in the memo line of your check or money order.

Payments are to be mailed to:

**WSSU Foundation, Inc.  
311 Blair Hall  
Winston-Salem, NC 27110**

If you choose to use the online payment option, please use the following link:

[www.wssu.edu/donate](http://www.wssu.edu/donate)

Please remember to put **Class of 1970 Endowed Scholarship Fund** in the "Comment" box.

**DEADLINE: September 16, 2020**

# *In Memoriam*



**Parphinia Hannon Ford**  
Class of 1946



**Larry Wiomble**  
Class of 1963



**Roscoe Brown**  
Class of 1970



**Sandra Phillips Walker**  
Class of 1967



**Michael Murrell**  
Class of 1976

**Annette Brevard**  
Class of 1970

**Albert Newton**  
Class of 1970



**Shirley Jackson Scott**  
Class of 1970



**Mary Catherine Reese Buford**  
Class of 1961



**Dr. Amy Anthony Jones**  
Class of 1970



TOO MANY OF US  
ARE NOT LIVING  
OUR **DREAMS**  
BECAUSE WE ARE  
LIVING OUR  
**FEARS.**  
LES BROWN

@LoveLynnGee

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