



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

In This Issue

- 1 -- Continue to Support Miss/Mr. Alumni Contestants
- 2 — President's Letter, p. 1
- 3 — President's Letter, p. 2
- 4 — Eastern Region, Southern Region I
- 5 — Chapter News
- 6 — Chapter News,
- 7 — Chapter News, In Memoriam
- 8 — Thanks to Amazing Alumni
- 9 — WSSU Department of Athletics
- 10 — Hotel Accommodations
- 11 — Association Lock Box, How to Contact Us
- 12 — Quote, Mailing Label

CONTINUE TO SUPPORT OUR MISS AND MR. ALUMNI CONTESTANTS

Miss Alumni Contestants 2021

ANTOINETTE CERISE GREEN

Email: agree403@gmail.com. Donations accepted at www.missalumni21.com



KIMBERLY D KELSEY

Email: drkelsey52@gmail.com. Donations accepted through Cash app: \$kelsey4missalumni, PayPal kelsey4missalumni, Apple Pay 704-245-7166, and Google Pay kelsey4missalumni@gmail.com



DONNA RENEE MONTGOMERY

Email: donnareneem@gmail.com. Donations accepted through CashApp: \$DonnaMont and paypal.me/donnamont



Mr. Alumni Contestant 2021

JIMMY L. HESTER

Email: jlhester66@yahoo.com. Donations accepted through CashApp: \$Hestersix and paypal: www.paypal.me/hester90



**DEADLINE FOR ALL DONATIONS
September 20, 2021**

UPCOMING EVENTS 2021

September 17, 18

- WSSU Rams Alumni
- Weekend, Durham, NC

September 17

- Alumni Meet and Greet

September 18

- -Fall Board Meeting
- -WSSU vs. NCCU

October 21-24

- Homecoming

From the desk of

the *President*



Fellow Alumni,



Our Mission states: The WSSU National Alumni Association is a platform for alumni to share their knowledge and to forge a lifelong relationship with their alma mater. Let us recommit ourselves and our efforts to support our great institution.

The 2020 – 2022 Winston-Salem State University National Alumni Association, Inc. (WSSUNAA) Executive Leadership team is grateful to the dedicated alumni that continue to utilize their time, talent, and treasures to serve our students, university, and the Association. The strength and growth of the Association depends on solid leadership and the alumni's commitment to serve within this organization.

We appreciate your financial support and are honored by your commitment to foster the continuing growth of the WSSUNAA. It is with your support that we are able to award 20 student scholarships annually, award additional scholarships by individual chapters within NAA, and manage the funding of the NAA Endowed Scholarship fund. Additionally, we recognize and honor WSSUNAA members for their contributions to the university, their professional careers, and their communities through the induction into the Hall of Distinction. The Association also collaborates with and supports the programs, events, and annual fundraising of Winston-Salem State University.

Our vision is to further grow the Association through the following Engagement Opportunities, Branding and Fundraising Initiatives, and Membership Goals:

Engagement Opportunities – We look to develop a centralized platform where alumni can share their ideas and support, strengthen the relationship between alumni and the university, and encourage greater collaboration and focus on strategic ways to gain alumni involvement and engagement. One way that this can be achieved is by developing a comprehensive membership recruitment/retention strategy such as hosting meet and greet forums and “What’s on Your Mind?” Chats. We look to launch the “*Get Up SU*” project to update contact information for all alumni and design and deploy alumni surveys (e.g. membership, desired events, engagement opportunities, giving/contribution motivations).

Continued next page...

Branding/ Fundraising Initiatives – We seek 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 through supporting student scholarship funding, efforts to assist the university’s programs, and development of partnerships with corporations and government agencies to foster student internships. As dedicated alumni, we continue to support our communities and assist with college and recruiting fairs, local NAA chapter programs, and partner with other affinities to serve in areas of need. We are also continuing to seek new and innovative ideas to raise funds in support of NAA’s operations and scholarship efforts.

Operational Center of Excellence / Membership Growth – The Association is actively recruiting a new and diverse generation of RAMS to support our mission. Having a strong NAA begins with growing our base of membership. A key part of this strategy is assessing our technology needs that will improve operational efficiencies. Greater use of technology and engagement best practices, support our desire to raise additional student scholarship funds, lay a strong foundation to support the NAA Endowed Scholarship, while also keeping operational expenses in line with our current capacity. In addition, we support greater transparency to encourage more alumni to join and support the Association. We will continue to offer an annual Executive Board Training Retreat, develop social media plans and distribution schedules by developing a content team, and recruit other Alums to donate their talent to the association (e.g. social media, graphic design, video editing, technology).

Please stay connected via our website: www.wssunaa.org for alumni news, scholarship opportunities, and events. Also, unite with fellow Rams through our social media platforms:

Instagram- www.instagram.com/wssunaa

Twitter- www.twitter.com/wssunaa

Facebook- www.facebook.com/WSSUNAlumniAssociation

Ram Love,

2020 – 2022 WSSUNAA Executive Leadership

C. Regina Cason, President

Mary Weaver, Treasurer

Vic Bruinton, Immediate Past President

Mo Wright, Vice President

Dr. Sharon H. Porter, Secretary

CaVette Buford, Parliamentarian

EASTERN REGION

It is an honor to serve as the Eastern Region Coordinator. I am excited to have the opportunity to work beside committed and caring alumni members as we live up to WSSU's motto, "Enter to Learn, Depart to Serve".

The *Annual/General Membership Meeting* was held virtually on April 3, 2021. The governing document of the region, *Standard Operating Procedure (SOP)* was adopted during this meeting. Its purpose is to clarify processes and practices by which the Eastern Region operates. Thank you to all who attended!

We successfully raised over \$1,700 in t-shirt and mask sales during March. Funds raised will be used to support scholarship efforts for WSSU students. Thank you to all who purchased items for donated funds!



Chapters continued to operate efficiently during the pandemic. Chapter meetings and fundraising activities were held virtually and in a creative manner.

Thank you to chapters and members of the Eastern Region for your support as I complete my first year as Coordinator.

Be blessed, stay safe, enjoy your summer, and I will see you in September.

In the Ram Spirit,
Velma C. Hicks
Eastern Region Coordinator

SOUTHERN REGION I comprises 18 active WSSUNAA chapters in North Carolina. The Executive Board has bridged the gap to maintain record for accountability in accordance with the requirements for each chapter. The 18 chapters are divided into three geographical clusters to maintain better support within an area, convey better communication, messages, projects and assistance to WSSU and WSSUNAA. We had two regional meetings during the winter/spring terms. Highlights from several chapters are:

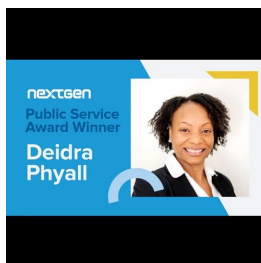
- Charlotte QC Rams - supported the Adopt a Highway program; Charlotte QC Rams and Cabarrus and Stanly Counties Chapters fed and distributed toiletries to the homeless through a partnership with "Block Love" local Ram's organization.
- Pitt County - participated in "Giving Tuesday" and Founder's Day Program to celebrate 5th year
- Greater Fayetteville Area Chapter - scholarship committee distributed two \$1000 scholarships
- Durham Chapter hosted a virtual meet and greet and distributed scholarship between \$750 and \$1,500. Chapter participated in the Belk Charity fundraiser
- Duplin-Sampson Chapter provided COVID packets and recognized retired educator Jackial Swinson, Class of 1977, who published a book, "An Educator's Legacy: The Teacher Next Door."
- Vance County Chapter recognized WSSUNAA's oldest member Henrietta Clark who is 103 (sadly, she passed March, 2021); established a scholarship in honor of Ms. Sneed
- Rocky Mount Chapter supported students at WSSU

- **Raleigh Wake Chapter** awarded scholarships to area freshmen; donated school supplies to an elementary school; assisted with tuition for a current WSSU student.
- **Roxboro / Person Chapter** adopted two (2) families during Christmas and contributed to the Miracles and Giving Charity Group.
- **Salisbury Rowan Chapter** presented care packages to WSSU students donated to the Rowan Helping Ministries.

Respectfully submitted
Barbara Williams Pollard,
Southern Region I Coordinator

CHAPTER NEWS

BALTIMORE CHARM CITY



Deidra (Artis) Phyll, an IT Security Specialist in Cybersecurity, currently the co-lead for the Strategic Hiring Initiative and Employee Learning and Development (SHIELD) Program and

POC for the Cybersecurity Management Analytics Portal (CMAP) for SHIELD, has been selected as one of this year's NextGen Public Service Innovator of the Year Award winners.

As Innovator of the Year, Deidra has been recognized for her co-lead role implementing the SHIELD Program between 2019 and April 2020. The Cybersecurity SHIELD Program, a key component to producing the next pipeline of Cybersecurity talent, is a strategic, structured developmental program designed to obtain maximum performance from career ladder employees to build critical skills and abilities in the Cybersecurity workforce.

Deidra is a 2005 WSSU graduate with a Bachelor of Science in Management Information Systems. Deidra is a member of the Baltimore Chapter and serves as the Corresponding Secretary. She is currently a life member of the WSSUNAA. In addition, Deidra is also the co-chair of the WSSU Young Alumni Council (YAC). Her community service record shows her unquenchable thirst for giving back. She truly believes the more you give, the more you will receive so she is always volunteering to improve the world around her.

DUPLIN-SAMPSON

The Duplin-Sampson Chapter recently awarded its 2020 scholarship to Brittney Rayner. Ms. Rayner, the daughter of Andrea and Dylan Rayner, is a graduate of Clinton High School and a junior nursing major at Winston-Salem State University.



The Chapter is very impressed with Ms. Rayner's character, scholastic achievement, and her involvement as a community volunteer. The members congratulate Ms. Rayner on this achievement as she continues to accomplish her personal and academic goals.

The chapter invites Duplin-Sampson County high school graduates accepted to attend WSSU or students enrolled in WSSU who graduated from Duplin or Sampson County high schools to apply for the scholarship. For more information, please contact Jackial Swinson, 910-271-1524.

Jackial L. Swinson
Duplin-Sampson Chapter
Scholarship Chairperson

GOLD-WAYNE

Dr. Damesha A. Smith, '03, was named the Wayne County Public Schools (WCPS) 2021- 2022 Principal of the Year, as part of the Wells Fargo North Carolina Principal of the Year program. The announcement was made May 6, 2021 during a special virtual WCPS Assistant Principal, Principal & Teacher of the Year Celebration. Dr. Smith will represent the district in the regional Principal of the Year program, and possibly the state competition next spring.



Dr. Smith is an 18-year educator. She is a 2003 graduate of Winston-Salem State University, where she received her Bachelor of Arts degree in History Education. She received a Master of School Administration degree from East Carolina University, and a Doctor of Education degree in Educational Leadership from North Carolina State University.

Currently, Dr. Smith serves as the Principal of Brogden Middle School in Goldsboro, NC. She has also served as the District Federal Programs Coordinator, Assistant Principal, District Beginning Teacher Mentor, Literacy Coach, and 8th grade language arts and social studies teacher.

Dr. Damesha Smith is a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. She was initiated into the Gamma Lambda Chapter at Winston-Salem State University in the Fall of 2001. She is also a part of the national alumni and the Gold-Wayne Chapter.

*Never stop learning, because
life never stops teaching.*

VANCE COUNTY

Two former undergraduate students that attended Winston-Salem State University received their graduate degrees in May. Both are recipients of scholarships from the Vance County Chapter.

Ms. Ashley Burwell graduated from WSSU in 2018 with a business administration degree. Ashley furthered her education and recently graduated from NCCU in Durham, NC with a master's degree in business administration.



Ashley Burwell



Whitney Brown

Ms. Whitney Elizabeth Brown graduated from WSSU in 2016 with a degree in economics. Whitney received a Master of Arts degree in Economics from Howard University in Washington, D.C. Whitney will continue her

WASHINGTON DC METRO

2021-2023 Officers

Congratulations to the new
WSSU NAA DC/Metro Chapter Officers



Antonio McKoy '89
President



Candice Helton '15
Vice President



Sandra Carter '03
Secretary



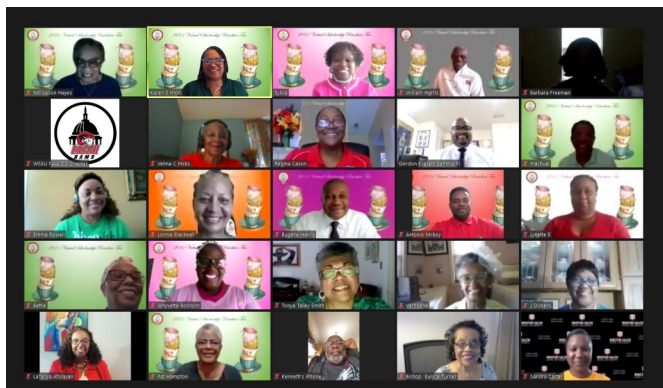
Whyvette Bonhom '03
Treasurer

2021 Virtual Scholarship Rainbow Tea
The chapter held its most successful single fundraiser, **2021 Virtual Scholarship Rainbow Tea** on May 15, 2021. The fundraiser raised close to \$13,000 in scholarship opportunities for students from the Washington, DC metro area to attend WSSU.

Members of the chapter were divided into eight teams, the seven colors of the rainbow, plus an additional color. Each team was challenged to raise a minimum of \$500.

Special guests included, Dr. William Harris, WSSU Board of Trustees, Dr. LaTanya Afolayan, Vice Chancellor for University Advancement, and C. Regina Cason, WSSU National Alumni Association President.

This was the chapter's 4th year hosting a Scholarship Rainbow Tea.



IN MEMORIAM



ROOSEVELT BENNETT
Class of 1978



SAMPSON WILLIE JONES
Class of 1955

FIRST HBCU-BASED PHYSICAL THERAPY RESIDENCY PROGRAM RECEIVES ACCREDITATION

Winston-Salem State University, in partnership with Novant Health, is the first HBCU to offer a physical therapy residency program.

Launched in 2018, WSSU and Novant Health partnered to create a 12-month residency program that combines the academic resources of WSSU while providing hands-on clinical training with Novant Health. It gives licensed physical therapists an opportunity to elevate their clinical practice and advance their careers.

Recent Doctor of Physical Therapy (DPT) graduates are required to have three years of experience working with a defined population before they can take the Neurologic Certified Specialist (NCS) exam. However, with a residency, new clinicians can take the exam after just one year – moving the process up by two years.

The residency program has a strong diversity, equity and inclusion focus, especially in health care disparities. Each residency participant performs a research component about health equity, diversity and inclusion.

For more information, please visit our website at NovantHealth.org. You can also follow us on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#).

THANK YOU TO THESE AMAZING NAA MEMBERS FOR YOUR UNWAVERING SUPPORT AND SERVICE THROUGHOUT THE YEARS!



William Berry	Barbara Williams Pollard	Leonora Robinson	Donald Henderson
Wanda Scott Weeks	Robert Weeks	Kelvin Walton	Carolyn Closs Walford
Myra Waddell	Gordon Everett	Vic Bruinton	Patti Sanders Smith
Karen Hicks	Patsy Squire	Darlene Sowell-Darby	Burnetta Johnson Smith
Kimberly Sherrill	Clayton Scott	Al Mitchell	Veronica Jackson
Cassandra Herndon	Shirley Wright	Mae Godette	Valeria Edwards
George Jaggars, III	Anthony Pace	Cory Williams	Chris Wilson
Gwen Wilson	Annie Sherard	Stanley Harding	Claude Page, III
Debra Hart	Calsine Pitt	Frank Bumpass	Richard J. Nixon
Karen Pearson	Bonita Martin	Robert Rawls	Mo Wright
Brian Davis	Sandra McCoy	Cheryl Johnson	Clyde Caudle, Jr.



Amazon Smile

Support Winston-Salem State University National Alumni Association
Shop at **smile.amazon.com** and we'll donate to your favorite charitable
organization, at **no cost to you.**

WSSU DEPARTMENT OF ATHLETICS

2021 WINSTON-SALEM STATE UNIVERSITY FOOTBALL SCHEDULE

SEPTEMBER 4



VS. UNC PEMBROKE

SEPTEMBER 11



AT CATAWBA

SEPTEMBER 18



AT NC CENTRAL

SEPTEMBER 25



VS. ELIZABETH CITY ST.

OCTOBER 2



AT CHOWAN

OCTOBER 9



AT JOHNSON C. SMITH

OCTOBER 16



VS. ST AUGUSTINE'S

OCTOBER 23



VS. LIVINGSTONE

OCTOBER 30



AT SHAW

NOVEMBER 6



AT FAYETTEVILLE ST.

SEASON TICKETS ON SALE NOW STARTING AT \$100

LIMITED QUANTITIES AVAILABLE

 @WSSUAthletics
 @WSSU_Athletics
 @WSSU_Athletics

WSSU TICKET OFFICE
(336) 750 - 3220
WWW.WSSURAMS.COM



HOTEL ACCOMMODATIONS:

HOMECOMING 2021

- **Marriott Hotel Link:**
Hotel Winston-Salem, NC | Marriott Winston-Salem

group code: WIN. The name of the block is listed as WSSU National Alumni Association
- **Embassy Suites Link: (Book directly)**
- **Embassy Suites Hotel Winston Salem - Guest Reservations**

CIAA Tournament 2022

- **2022 CIAA Hotel Link:**
Baltimore Marriott Inner Harbor at Camden Yards:
<https://book.passkey.com/go/CIAA22WSSUAL>



ASSOCIATION LOCKBOX

Reminder...

Please mail only checks to the Association's lockbox for membership dues and payments. All correspondence should be either emailed to officemanager@wssunaa.org or mailed directly to the NAA office.

Note: Please do not mail extra documents to the lockbox as the bank charges per each scanned item.

Dues and all other monies should be mailed to:

**WSSU National Alumni Association
Post Office Box 890670
Charlotte, NC 28289-0670**

HOW TO CONTACT US



Please submit articles, suggestions, or comments to:

wssunaa@aol.com

Website

www.wssunaa.org

E-Mail

alumni@wssunaa.org

<http://twitter.com/WSSUAthletics>

Due dates for *The Battering Ram*

<u>Issue</u>	<u>Due Date</u>
Winter	December 1
Spring	March 1
Summer	June 1
Fall	September 1

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Winston-Salem, NC 27110
336/750-2122*

*C. Regina Cason, President
Catherine Pettie Hart, Editor*



Dear Ram Alumni,

Thank you for supporting the activities of the National Alumni Association through your membership.

Regular membership renewal date is July 1. Alumni taking advantage of the installment plan for Life Membership must

make four (4) consecutive payments to maintain eligibility without starting over.

Thank you for demonstrating RAM PRIDE through your affiliation with the National Alumni Association. Please make sure that we have your current mailing and email address so we can keep you updated with Association news.

Please renew your membership today: [Membership/Pay Dues Online](#)

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