

The BATTERING RAM



Winston-Salem State University National Alumni Association

Issue 80

Fall 2023

*"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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Historically Black College and University Living Legends

By Dr. Patsy O. Squire

Congratulations to WSSU alumni inducted into the 2023 Class of HBCU Living Legends on Saturday, Aug. 19, 2023 at the HBCU Living Legends

Scholarship Gala held at the beautiful Le Meridian Hotel in downtown Charlotte, North Carolina.



Pictured from left, are Donna Montgomery, owner of Youth Care Services and CEO of Montgomery Care Services and Total Entertainment Inc.;

Dr. Sharon Kelly West, nurse manager of Women Veteran Services at the VA Medical Center in Asheville, freelance columnist and international speaker; and Debra Jeffers-Evans, president and CEO of Nehemiah USA, a construction company that is 100 percent minority woman owned. She is also a lifetime member of the WSSU National Alumni Association and the WSSU 1000 Horns.



The gala hosted by Founders, Mr. and Mrs. William Hairston recognizes the accomplishments of HBCU graduates while raising scholarship funds for students enrolled in North Carolina HBCUs. Dr. Patsy Squire presented awards to students from each of the eleven NC HBCUs including Winston-Salem State University Scholarships recipients Denaya Reynolds and Juscin Filmore.



UPCOMING EVENTS

Homecoming Events: <https://www.wssu.edu/about/chancellors-office/division-of-strategic-communications/oimc/homecoming/index.html>

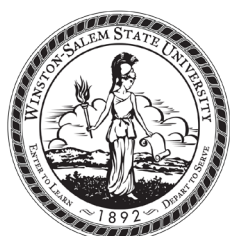
Nominating Committee Policy and Procedures Meeting

Time: Nov 14, 2023 07:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada) Join Zoom Meeting <https://zoom.us/j/92848670567?pwd=TG50c2VNVWtadk5tckhLUHBjNGxGdz09>
Meeting ID: 928 4867 0567 **Passcode:** 655680

2024 Winter Board Meeting – January 26th – January 27th, 2024 | Charlotte, NC

2024 Annual Meeting / Alumni Weekend – April 19th – April 20th, 2024 | Winston-Salem, NC

Stay in the know! Visit www.wssunaa.org



WSSU HOMECOMING '23!

LEDISI DRU HILL EU SKILLZ

THE OFFICIAL WSSU HOMECOMING PARTY



SCOLA NOKIO TAO SISQO SMOKE BLACK JAZZ

SCHOODAZE
E D I T I O N

RAMS MUSIC SUPER LOUNGE

FRIDAY - OCTOBER 20

Exclusively
produced by:



Benton Convention Center - 9 p.m. www.wssu.edu/tickets



★★★ ANNUAL GIVING CAMPAIGN ★★★



**SUPPORTING
WILLFUL
ALUMNI
GIVING**

**Annual Giving Campaign,
support us today!**

Text 24SWAG to 71777
(Message & data rates may apply)

Visit us at <https://fundraise.givesmart.com/vf/24SWAG>



ALUMNI RETURN TO SERVE

Thursday, October 19, 2023



Alumni Arrival: 7:30 a.m. – 8:30 a.m.

Continental Breakfast: 8:00 a.m. – 8:45 a.m.

Welcome/Program Overview: 8:50 a.m.

Class Visitation: 9:30 a.m. – Noon (schedules will be provided during check-in)

Luncheon/Panel: 12:30 p.m. - 1:45 p.m.

(ARTS participants only; Lunch is Invitation only)

**Registration deadline is
Saturday, September 30th, 2023**



Congratulations in Order

Honoring Timothy A. Grant, '80 Graduate



On Friday, September 8, 2023, a Renaming Ceremony of The Quarry at Grant Park in Winston Salem was conducted to honor the City's first African American Recreation & Parks Department Director, Timothy A. Grant. Mr. Tim Grant is an Class of 80 alum! He was inducted into the C.E. Gaines Athletic Hall of Fame for basketball in 2008. He is also a former WSSU Coach and Assistant Athletic Director. In 1999, Grant received the City of Winston-Salem's Employee Excellence Award for Staff Support and received the City of Winston-Salem's Employee Excellence Award for Leadership in 2013. In 2015, Grant's vision became a reality with the construction groundbreaking of Quarry Park. Congratulations, Ramily!



WINSTON-SALEM STATE UNIVERSITY NATIONAL ALUMNI ASSOCIATION BY-LAWS

2024 is an Election Year

- ARTICLE V - ELIGIBILITY FOR OFFICE To qualify as a candidate for an office of the Association, the candidate:
- a. Must have graduated from or been a former student at Winston-Salem State University by any prior known names.
 - b. Must have attended a minimum of two National Alumni Association Board Meetings, and one Annual Meeting within the two years immediately prior to submitting an application for candidacy
 - c. Must have been financial and in good standing for the previous two fiscal years, with all dues paid by September 1st of each year.
 - d. Must have contributed to the NAA Endowed Scholarship Fund or any other scholarship fund administered by WSSU or the WSSU Foundation, for the two fiscal years immediately prior to submitting an application for candidacy.
 - e. Must have demonstrated and documented experience in accounting and/or finance to serve as Treasurer, in addition to above qualifications.

Chapter News

Henderson

The Henderson Chapter awarded three scholarships to the following students that attended WSSU for the 2022 / 2023 school year: Danielle Glover, NakiJaha Judkins, and Camron Myers. These students had a very successful year!

Also for the upcoming 2023 / 2024 school year, the chapter awarded five scholarships to the following students: Shamar Baskett, Tayjah Cooper, Layla Francis, Saniyah Perry, and Camron Myers. We wish these students a successful RAMily school year!

We joyfully extend our support and congratulations to our former president, Lanisha Daye Hinton as she draws closer to completing her doctorate in School Administration.

Membership Alert!! If there are any RAMS in the Vance, Granville, Warren, and Franklin counties that would like to join the chapter, please contact president Janice Perry @ (252) 767 – 8260 or Vice – president Jerome Watson @ (434) 774 – 4188

SAVE THE DATE

THE INAUGURAL
SIMON GREEN ATKINS

Gala

APRIL | 20 | 2024

Creating a Legacy of Giving and Service

Celebrate distinguished faculty, staff, and alumni.

www.wssufoundationgala.org

 WINSTON-SALEM
STATE UNIVERSITY

WSSU ALUMNUS KENNETTE FEATURED GLOBALLY FOR FASHION LINE

Kennette J. Burgess is a Winston-Salem State University Alumnus, class of 2009 a Sport Management Marketing Major. Many of you may remember her as our WSSU 2022 Alumni Achiever Award winner or a 2015 Winston-Salem State University 40 Under 40 Alumni Award recipient, or even during her tenure 2005 to 2009 as co-founder of Campus Life Marketing Committee who helped to improve and run Homecomings and all student events on campus. Many may not know that she was an International student while at WSSU, originally from the island of Bermuda. Recently, Kennette was selected and recognized by her island home as the official clothing designer for the Bermuda Special Olympics Association where her designs were seen from Germany by millions around the world as deemed by sports announcers that Bermuda had one of the most outstanding uniforms in the Games during the opening ceremony. The athletes and their parents were so amazed and thanked Kennette because they looked amazing and performed better this year, winning 11 medals, two gold, one silver and eight bronze medals. Kennette's passion for sports, design and mental health combined fostered this unique opportunity to represent her island home on the global sports stage through fashion design. We are always proud of our alumni and their achievements and are glad that WSSU helped to ignite the passion and/or foster the development of our students.



More about her brand- Distinct Apparel

With over 19 years of combined marketing and business experience, heightened by years of international business experience, Kennette is the CEO of FOCUS Marketing & Development Solutions which has operations in Bermuda and the USA. Her business FOCUS not only has launched hundreds of businesses and products locally and globally focused on the minority entrepreneur, but with FOCUS Marketing, being a design powerhouse, she also launched in 2019 an empowerment clothing line called Distinct Apparel. Within just 4 years, Distinct Apparel has become a successful brand in Bermuda which also focuses on empowering the black diaspora (which includes HBCU gear), women's empowerment gear, also faith-based apparel. You can see Distinct Apparel sold in Bermuda's newest LF Wade International



Airport, sold globally online and in stores on the island. At WSSU, she partnered with the Chancellor's office in 2022 to design WSSU items. Kennette's dream is to continue to expand globally.

Read more **DISTINCT APPAREL CREATES FOR THE BERMUDA SPECIAL OLYMPICS KITS** (mydistinctapparel.com)

Contact Info: www.mydistinctapparel.com www.getwithfocus.com | kennette@getwithfocus.com | info@mydistinctapparel.com | www.linkedin.com/in/kennettejburgess | Social Media handles @GetWithFOCUS | @MyDistinctApparel (336) 355-1059 (USA Office)





NIGHT OF ELEGANCE

On Friday October 20, 2023

Anderson Center, Dillard Auditorium

6:30-7:30 PM ~ Hall of Distinction Induction

7:30-8:30 PM ~ 2023 Miss & Mr. Alumni and Court

NIGHT OF ELEGANCE GALA

Featuring ENVISION BAND

The Benton Convention Center Gaines Ballroom

9:00 PM-12:00 AM ~ A Night of Elegance Gala (Ticket Info Below)

Formal Attire/ Breakfast Served

Tickets~ \$50 | Reserved Tables For 9 ~ \$450

EVENTBRITE INFO:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/wssunaa-presents-a-formal-night-of-royal-elegance-tickets-693754948727?aff=oddtcreator>



“Let’s Try This Again”

**WSSU Freshman Class of 83 /
Graduating Class of 87**

35th Reunion 2.0

Homecoming 2023
(October 20-22, 2023)



To Register

Use the link or scan the QR Code to register.
Registration ends August 30th.





70th Anniversary

Celebrating 70 Years in Nursing!



Winston-Salem State University
Annual Nurse Alumni Gala

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 19TH | 6:00PM

Donald J Reaves Center
601 S Martin Luther King Jr Dr
Winston-Salem, NC 27101

Tickets are \$75
Available on Eventbrite
(WSSU Nurse Alumni Gala)

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:

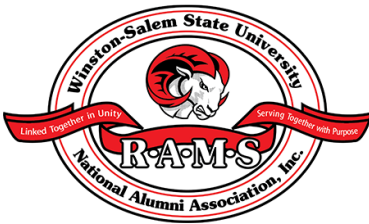
WSSU National Alumni Association
Post Office Box 890670
Charlotte, NC 28289-0670

Membership Cards

Existing NAA Members,
If you would like to order a replacement membership card, please complete your contact information to order your membership card for \$10 + fee. Visit: <https://fundraise.givesmart.com/vf/22NAAJOIN>
** Due to rising printing costs, we're looking to go to digital cards after this fiscal year.



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

Issue	Due Date
Winter	December 1
Spring	March 1
Summer	June 1
Fall	September 1

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S. G. Atkins House
Winston-Salem, NC 27110
336/750-2122

C. Regina Cason, President
Catherine Pettie Hart, Editor
Natasha Young, Graphic Designer



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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