

The BATTERING RAM



Winston-Salem State University National Alumni Association

Issue 83

Summer 2024

*“Linked together in unity.
Serving together with purpose.”*

This newsletter is an official publication of WSSU National Alumni Association
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Inside THIS ISSUE

2—Welcome to Our New Chancellor

4—Chapter News - Salisbury/Rowan

5—Chapter News-Richmond Metro

6—Alumni Making Moves

7—Foundation Gala

8-WSSU Grad Publishes Book

Class of 1982 News

9-Recognizing Excellence in Education

10-In Memoriam

11—Association Lockbox &

How to Contact Us

12—Membership Reminder

Welcome New NAA President, Reginald McCaskill

I am both honored and thrilled to greet you as the newly elected President of the Winston-Salem State University National Alumni Association. Our association has a rich history of fostering community, supporting our alma mater, supporting students and ensuring that the legacy of Winston-Salem State University thrives through each and every one of us.



As we embark on this new chapter, I am filled with optimism and enthusiasm for the journey ahead. Our university has laid a strong foundation for us, and it is now our responsibility to build upon it, creating a more connected and vibrant Alumni community. I look forward to working closely with each of you to strengthen our bonds and support our beloved WSSU.

My vision for the future of our Alumni Association is rooted in three key principles: **Engagement, Growth, and Support.**

Engagement: It is essential that we foster a sense of belonging and pride among our Alumni. I encourage you to participate in local chapter events, attend reunions, and connect with fellow Rams through our various platforms. Together, we can create a dynamic network that offers professional and personal growth opportunities.

Growth: Our association thrives when we bring in new members and ideas. I aim to increase our membership by reaching out to recent graduates and those who may not yet be involved. By expanding our ranks, we can introduce fresh perspectives and innovative approaches to our initiatives.

Support: As Alumni, we have a unique opportunity to give back to our university. Whether through mentoring current students, contributing to scholarships, or supporting university programs, our collective efforts can make a significant impact. Let us continue to champion WSSU and ensure that future generations benefit from the same opportunities we did.

I am excited about the possibilities that lie ahead and confident that, with your active participation and support, we can achieve remarkable things. I am eager to hear your ideas, address your concerns, and work together to propel our association forward.

Thank you for your continued dedication to Winston-Salem State University and our Alumni Association. Let's make this a memorable and transformative time for our community.

Rams, let's rise and thrive together!

Warm regards,

Reginald D. McCaskill
Reginald D. McCaskill, '84

UPCOMING EVENTS

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 6, 2024

- 6:30 pm-7:30 pm | S.T.A.R. Training, WSSU Campus; D.J. Reaves Center, Room 100
Registration: www.tiny.cc/wssunaastar

- Ram's Red & White Social
8:00 pm-11 pm | RED & WHITE SOCIAL AT SIMPLY SONYA'S
(2101 Peter's Creek Pkwy., WS)
Cost: \$10.00

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 7, 2024

- Fall Board Meeting, WSSU Campus; D.J. Reave Center, Room 100
Registration: www.tiny.cc/wssunaafall24

- WSSU vs. NCAT, 7pm, Greensboro, NC

Stay in the know! Visit www.wssunaa.org



WELCOME NEW WSSU CHANCELLOR

Bonita J. Brown



Bonita J. Brown has been named the 14th Chancellor of Winston-Salem State University. She was elected by the University of North Carolina Board of Governors, following her nomination by University of North Carolina System President Peter Hans.

Brown will assume her role on July 1, 2024. She will succeed Interim Chancellor Dr. Anthony Graham, who was appointed in July 2023, and who previously served as the provost and vice chancellor for Academic Affairs at Winston-Salem State University.

Brown recently served as the interim president at Northern Kentucky University. During her tenure, she led the campus through a leadership transition and in navigating significant financial challenges and declining enrollments.

Bonita Brown

Prior to being interim president, she served as the vice president and chief strategy officer for Northern Kentucky University, where she led the campus in implementing Success by Design, the university's strategic plan solely focused on student success. From this work, retention and persistence rates increased by over five percent.

She previously worked as the vice president of network engagement at Achieving the Dream, a national nonprofit leader that champions evidence-based institutional improvement in community colleges across the country. In this role, Brown was responsible for supporting a network of over 220 community colleges in 41 states as they work to implement sustainable, campus wide student success efforts.

She also served as director of Higher Education Practice with the Education Trust in Washington D.C. At the Education Trust, she created and led an initiative entitled Optimizing Academic Success and Institutional Strategy (OASIS), which was a national network of regional, comprehensive, minority-serving institutions that enroll large numbers of low-income students and students of color. She also worked with the institutions in assessing data and implementing national best practices for improving student success and closing completion gaps.

Previously, she served as the vice chancellor and chief of staff, and as assistant secretary to the Board of Trustees at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro.

Over the course of her career, Brown served also as chief of staff at the University of North Texas, general counsel at the University of North Carolina School of the Arts and assistant attorney at Winston-Salem State University from 2004-2006. She also served as assistant to the president and attorney at two private HBCUs in North Carolina – Livingstone College in Salisbury and Johnson C. Smith University in Charlotte.

She was most recently chosen as one of 11 national Designers in Residence to reimagine the role of Higher Education in closing racial and economic opportunity gaps by the Education Design Lab.

In the past, she served on the boards of United Way of Denton County and Presbyterian Hospital in Denton, Texas, and on the board of the Greensboro History Museum in Greensboro, NC. She has participated in the HERS Leadership program, the AASCU Millennium Leadership Initiative and is a graduate of the Harvard Institute of Educational Management.

Brown's parents, Bern and Freda Hairston, are both WSSU alumni. Her mother was a junior at WSSU when she married her father, who later graduated from WSSU as an adult learner.

Brown received her Bachelor of Arts in history from Wake Forest University and her Juris Doctor from Wake Forest University School of Law. She is married to Wesley Brown, and they have two children, Joshua Brown and Myliah Brown, and one granddaughter, Angelic.

WSSU NAA

★★★ ANNUAL GIVING CAMPAIGN ★★★



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Annual Giving Campaign,
support us today!

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

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



WSSU 2024 FOOTBALL SCHEDULE

SEPTEMBER 7
GREENSBORO, NC



SEPTEMBER 28
WINSTON-SALEM, NC



OCTOBER 19
SALISBURY, NC



SEPTEMBER 14
WINSTON-SALEM, NC



OCTOBER 5
RICHMOND, VA



OCTOBER 26
WINSTON-SALEM, NC



NOVEMBER 9
WINSTON-SALEM, NC

SEPTEMBER 21
PETERSBURG, VA



OCTOBER 12
WINSTON-SALEM, NC



NOVEMBER 2
RALEIGH, NC



HOMECOMING



HOME
AWAY

Chapter News

Salisbury Rowan Chapter



Salisbury Rowan WSSU Chapter gave Care Packages to local students currently attending WSSU.



Salisbury Rowan WSSU gave 2 scholarships to N'kyvia Sifford and Jazmine Sankey. Each Recipient's mother accepted the award on behalf of their child.



Salisbury Rowan WSSU Chapter Fundraiser for Scholarships with Winston Salem EnVision



Chapter President Jeanette Rankin receives the Cleveland, NC Lions Club Ambassador Award



Salisbury Rowan WSSU Chapter gave Blessings Bags to the Rowan Helping Ministries Local Homeless Shelter



Salisbury Rowan WSSU Chapter mourns the loss of chapter member Mrs. Linda Knox-Rippy on June 6, 2024

Chapter News

Richmond Metro Chapter

RICHMOND METRO CHAPTER

Richmond, Virginia

»» GIDDYUP RAMS



Chapter Members, Joshua Lockhart and Ca'Vette-Latrice Buford



Chapter President, Brian Davis and Chapter Member, Jaime Porter



The Richmond Metro Rams danced the night away showing off their Line Dancing skills at River City Roll. Rams always have a great time together!



»» RAMS SUPPORTING RAMS

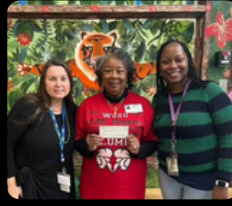
CHICO BEAN IN RVA

Richmond Metro Rams supported fellow alumnus, Anthony Bean. Anthony is better known as comedian, Chico Bean, on stage. He performed at the Richmond Funny Bone Comedy Club.

»» READ ACROSS AMERICA



Chapter Members: Brittany Blanks & Clara Russell



Chapter Members: Lynda Webster



Chapter Members, Brittany Blanks and Clara Russell read, a Caldecott Honor winning book, "No David" by David Shannon. They read to thirteen preschool classrooms at Maymont Preschool of Richmond City Public Schools. They also donated a copy of the book to each of the classrooms. Chapter Member, Lynda Webster made a donation to Maude Trevett Elementary School and Harvie Elementary School in the Henrico County Public Schools District.



»» CONGRATULATIONS

Chapter Member, Ca'Vette-Latrice Buford, is the new Winston-Salem State University National Alumni Association Eastern Region Treasurer 2024-2026! Richmond Metro Rams are so proud of Ca'Vette and can't wait to support her in her new position!



»» ROBERT TRENT CURRY SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT

Kaylor White, graduating senior, was awarded the Robert Trent Curry Scholarship in the amount of \$500. Robert Trent Curry was a former member and past president of the Richmond Metro Chapter.



»» PLAY BALL 1892

Several chapter members attended HBCU night at a Richmond Flying Squirrels Baseball Game in April. It was a fun night with Ramily, HBCU love, baseball, and fireworks!



Chapter Members: Cortez Smith, Brittany Blanks, Ca'Vette-Latrice Buford, & Joshua Lockhart

»» Congratulations to our 2024 WSSU Graduates from the Richmond Metro Area



Kaylor White



Shanijah Alexander



Kayla Nelson



Earl Robinson



Ajiana Coleman

Alumni Making Moves

Terrence Graves, Head Coach, Southern U



(Article from HBCU Gameday)

The Southern University football program has entered a new era under the leadership of Terrence Graves, a seasoned veteran of the HBCU ranks.

With nearly 35 years of experience as both a player and coach, Graves is no stranger to the landscape of Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs). His extensive career includes stints at various HBCU institutions, and his commitment to the SWAC (Southwestern Athletic Conference) is unwavering.

Graves' journey began in the mid-90s when he joined Southern University under the legendary head coach Pete Richardson. Graves played for Richardson at Winston-Salem State University, helping WSSU win back-to-back CIAA titles in 1990 and 1991. After cutting his teeth as an assistant at his alma mater for a season, he joined Richardson's staff at Southern and helped turn into a multiple-time HBCU champion.

He is now the head coach for the Southern University Football team. Congratulations Coach Graves!

More Alumni News



Ayonna Sutton-Chaplin



Christie Brown



Walter Johnson

Congratulations to our alumni members who have been appointed as the newest principals in the Winston Salem Forsyth County School System!

Ayonna Sutton-Chaplin was named as the new principal of West Forsyth High School.

Christie Brown was named as the new principal of Rural Hall Elementary School.

Walter Johnson is now a Co-Principal of Parkland High School.

More information can be found at <https://www.wsfcs.k12.nc.us/>. Again congratulations and continue to serve!

WSSU Foundation's Simon Green Atkins Gala



The Winston-Salem State University Foundation honored several recipients for education, community business and philanthropy at its inaugural Simon Green Atkins Foundation Gala held at Saturday, April 20, 2024 at the Benton Convention Center in downtown Winston-Salem.

The WSSU Foundation created the gala to celebrate distinguished faculty, staff, alumni and community partners in the categories of Champion of Education, Community Business Partner, the Simon Green Atkins Philanthropy Award and the Lifetime Achievement Award.

The following is a list of the inaugural award recipients who were selected by WSSU Foundation members, the WSSU Office of University Advancement and the Office

of Undergraduate Research.

Champion of Education

The Champion of Education Award recognizes individuals who have made significant contributions to the advancement of education over an extended period of time. The award seeks to honor, encourage and reward an individual that has exhibited excellence, innovation and effectiveness in teaching, and a commitment to student success.

Dr. Patsy O'Neal Squire, Retired Educator/Administrator and a lifetime member of the WSSU National Alumni Association and the Winston-Salem Alumni Chapter was recognized as a Champion of Education. Other honorees included:

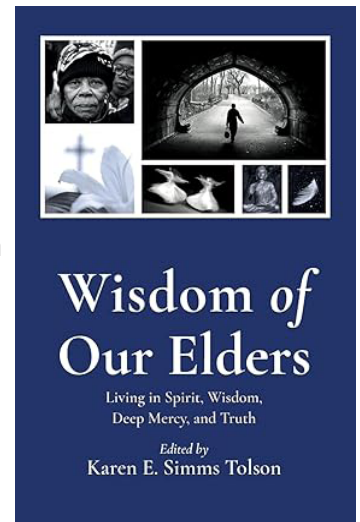
- **Cantley Alexander**
- **D'Walla Simmons-Burke,**
- **Raquel Richardson-Ingram**
- **Daniel Rose**
- **Dawn Tafari**
- **Cassandra Wineglas**



WSSU Grad Publishes Book



Karen Simms Tolson (Class of '76), recently published a book entitled "Wisdom of Our Elders: Living in Spirit, Wisdom, Deep Mercy, and Truth", a collection of 22 essays that reflect, explore, and expand on wisdom and sustainable truth. Each chapter in Wisdom of Our Elders focuses on an aspect of a wisdom tradition with an application for modern knowledge. The chapters are based on relevant and relatable lessons and concepts using experiences, poetry, scripture, and sacred text. The content represents a mosaic of several cultural and religious experiences, wisdom traditions, and many vibrant voices. When asked about the purpose of her book, she wrote, "Writing has always been at the core of my passions. It is why I became an English teacher who later moved into the work of diversity, equity, social justice, and spiritual direction. All three of my professional areas of training have natural connections. Secondly, I wanted to create an anthology that explores the application of wisdom as a paradigm for empowering and changing perceptions or, at the very least, will stimulate conversations around the topic of wisdom." Her book can be found on Amazon.



WSSU Class of 1982



We would like to start preparing for our **50th Class Reunion** from Winston Salem State University. We are hoping our classmates are ready to unite and participate in different activities as we begin to raise a minimum of \$50,000 for our donation to the University in 2032.

Our goals for this year are to connect with our classmates, start preparations for our 50th class reunion, and to begin our fundraising efforts to reach our \$50,000+ goal.

We would like to use a newsletter as a quarterly communication tool to keep us connected. To distribute the newsletter, we need updated email addresses for classmates. Please share your contact information by clicking this link: <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1foRokuy2UGbzZlKtaffCpoxKPY4GpoUHoGp8PolgATU/edit?usp=sharing>

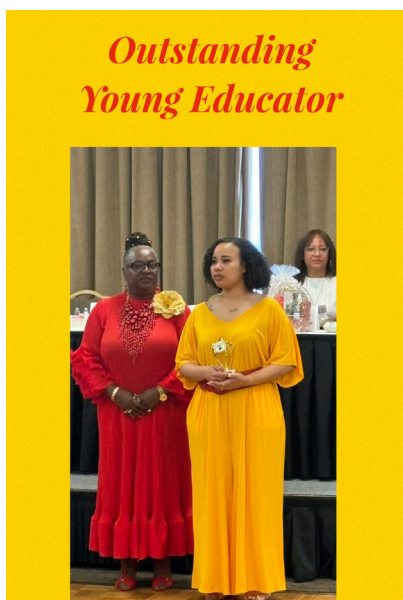
If you have questions or would like to work with the planning crew, please send an email to wssuclassof1982@gmail.com.

Recognizing Excellence in Education

The National Sorority of Phi Delta Kappa Incorporated, Beta Lambda Chapter hosted their 12th Biennial Excellence in Education Vital Issues and Scholarship Breakfast on June 15, 2024 at the Village Inn Event Center located in Winston-Salem, NC. The local organization led by alumna Mae Burner is comprised of female educators dedicated to promoting a spirit of sisterhood among educators while promoting the highest ideas of the teaching profession.

During this event, we saluted unsung heroes and sheroes in the field of education while focusing on a vital issue within the community. This is also an opportunity to raise funds to support student scholarships. The speaker, Minister Tembila Covington elaborated on the

theme: "Educators Saluting the Past and Embracing the Future." A Lifetime Achievement Award from the Office of President Joseph Biden was presented to Dr. Patsy O. Squire for over 25 years of continuous service to the organization. Several of the members of the organization and the honorees are proud alumni of Winston-Salem State University. We thank each of them for their dedication and service to education, youth, and families.



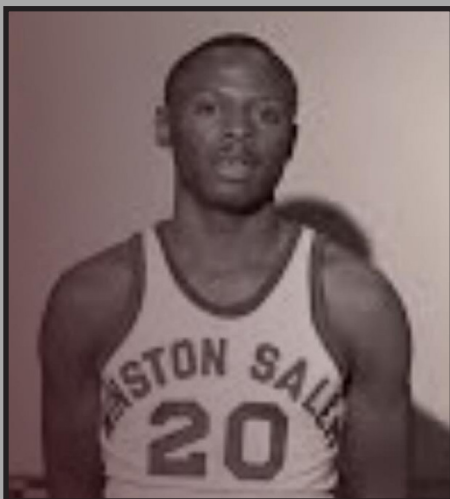
In Memoriam



Diane Spicer
March 17, 1963 ~ July 16, 2024



Picasso Elijah Keaton
July 5, 1997 - July 9, 2024



Min. Reginald "Dandy" Leonard
February 28, 1970 - July 1, 2024



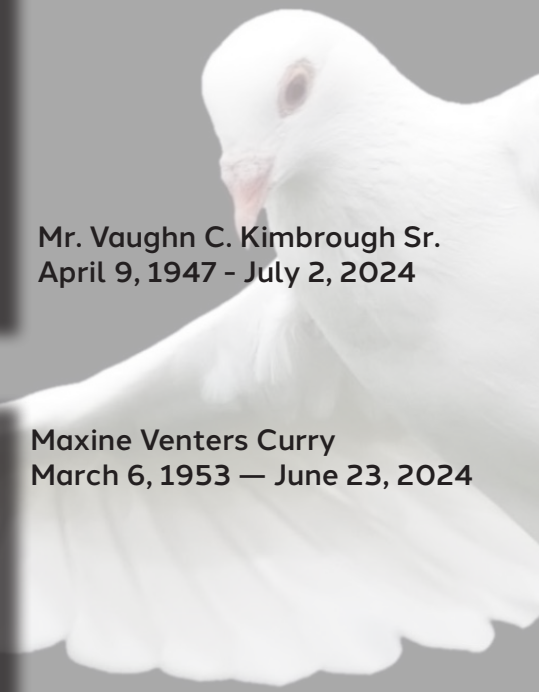
Mr. Vaughn C. Kimbrough Sr.
April 9, 1947 - July 2, 2024



Maxine Venters Curry
March 6, 1953 — June 23, 2024



Christopher J. Hinton
Sept. 23, 1952- June 25, 2024



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 28389-0670

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

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

This newsletter is an official publication of:

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

Reginald McCaskill, 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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