

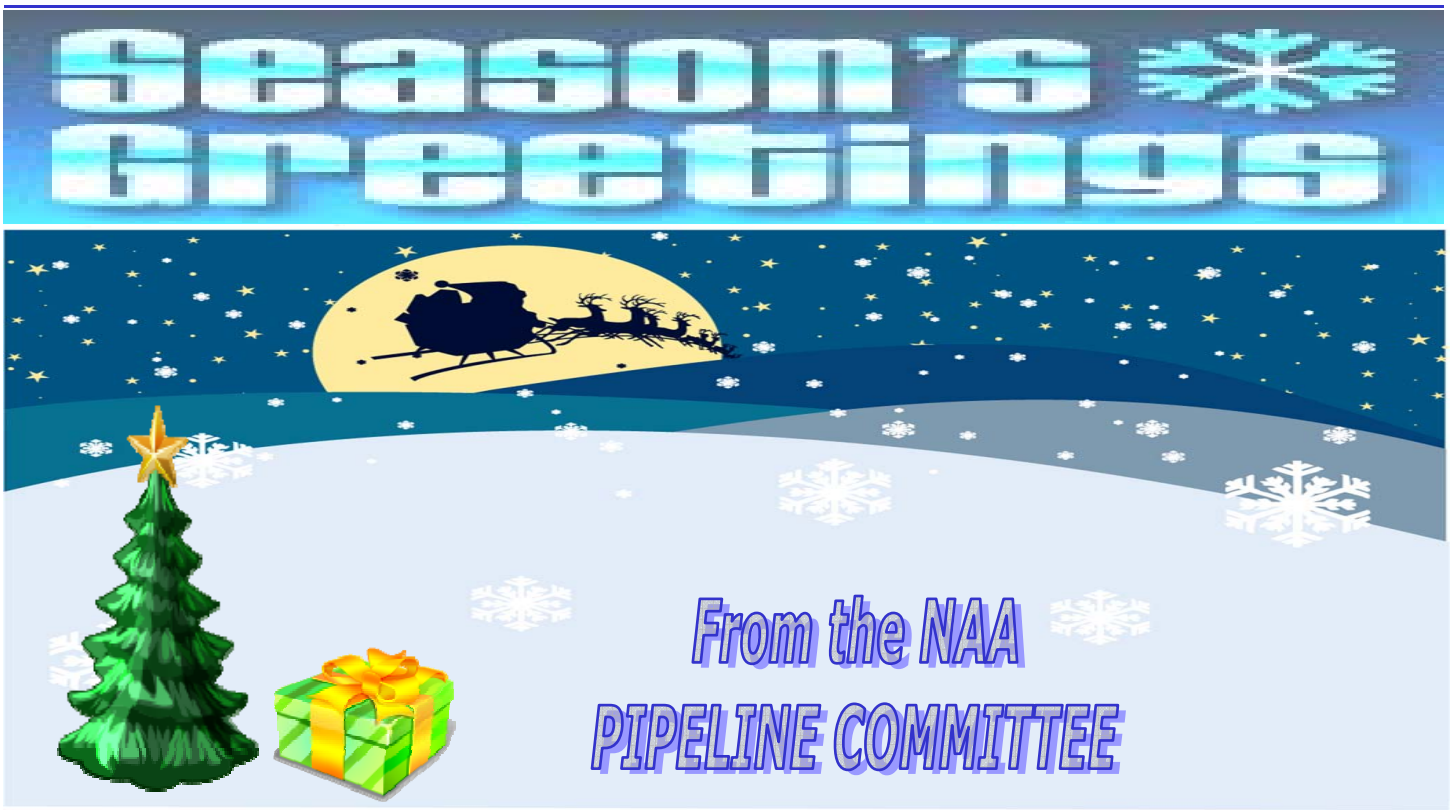


ASU
ALABAMA STATE UNIVERSITY
National Alumni Association



NAA PIPELINE

INFORMATION CHANNEL FOR ALUMNI



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RENAISSANCE, REUNION AND RIVALRY

How appropriate is the aforementioned theme: Renaissance, Reunion and Rivalry for Turkey Day Classic 2008. It best describes the atmosphere at the oldest black college classic in America. Turkey Day Classic is a game that many alumni refuse to miss. If you missed it, then you missed a delightful treat. This year was truly a reawakening or renewal of that Ole Bama State spirit. From the activities planned for alumni to the game itself, the air was filled with so much excitement. And, no one could have asked for the weather to be any better than it was on gameday. The ASU Hornets football team put the cherry on top as they dethroned the Tuskegee Tigers 17 - 13, which was Tuskegee's first defeat since October 2006. No one left this game early. Tuskegee fans were sitting quietly in shock. Hornet fans celebrated like ASU had just won its first national championship. How sweet it was.



PRESIDENT'S PAGE

Greetings:

With the holiday season close at hand, let me take a moment to thank you for your commitment to the National Alumni Association and your support of its leadership. The NAA had a great year, ripe with victories and accomplishments. Your continued support is so important to the success that we enjoy as we embrace a new vision and agenda to strengthen the NAA.



Let me also take this opportunity to express my appreciation to you for making the NAA Raffle Program a success over the years. The Raffle Program began in 1976, as the ongoing “bread and butter” for the organization and to increase the net worth of the ASU NAA through a major fundraiser project. A total of \$54,964 was raised this year and rebate checks have already been mailed to your chapter president. Congratulations on a job well done!

If you were able to join us for this year’s Turkey Day Classic, I hope you enjoyed the various activities that were planned in honor of the alumni returning to the campus for Homecoming. It was truly a renaissance, reunion and rivalry. You can look forward to more Homecoming activities to be held on the campus in the near future. We are especially excited about the outcome of the gridiron competition between the Tuskegee Golden Tigers and Alabama State Hornets. Winning the game was the “icing on the cake”, so to speak, because the thrill of victory is sweet. It’s always exciting to win your Homecoming.

As we prepare for another year, I encourage you to reactivate your membership now for the year 2009. We need your continued support because you are the very foundation of our organization, and your continued participation ensures both our future and success. Make plans now to attend the 2009 Biennial Convention in Detroit, Michigan in July.

Again, thank you for your confidence and cooperation. We send season’s greetings and best holiday wishes from my family to yours!

Brenda Kahn-Spells

Board of Trustees--- What's Going On?

by: La-Tanya Dunham

At the time of this interview, Trustee Herbert Young was resting in a Birmingham hospital. I did tell him that it was his turn to rest and be a good patient but he insisted on keeping the concerned alumni informed on what is happening at our beloved alma mater. I had the opportunity to ask questions ranging from the Athletic Department to the dream and mission of the Board for 2009.

LD: Starting with our new Administration, or leaders, what does the Board actually think of this change that you implemented?

HY: The new Organizational Structure is moving in the right direction and it allows the campus to run smoother. Dr. Harris (Interim President) has been doing a good job with moving the campus in the right direction. The Provost (Dr. Gunn) and the Executive Vice President & Chief Operating Officer (Dr. Knight) are also doing great jobs. This allows Dr. Harris time to focus on those items that we (The Board) feel are important. We believe that Dr. Harris should focus on Fundraising Efforts, Changing the Academic Standards and Improving Customer Service on campus. At this time, he has been doing a wonderful job at doing all three (3), and at the same time, the Provost and the Executive VP/COO are living up to the expectations of the Board.

LD: What are the dreams, vision or mission of the Board of Trustees for 2009?

HY: We are looking at working on our Master Plan (released at the September 2008 Board meeting), which includes the completion of buildings and the stadium. Not to mention we are still searching for the next President of ASU. Fall of 2009, the new Life Sciences Building, the Ralph David Abernathy Education Building and two (2) new dorms are due to open. The library expansion is due to begin in the Fall of 2009 also. The University has already started on the new parking lots that the students requested last year. We want to ensure that the campus is balanced and not have the east side of campus look better than the other.

LD: Let's talk about what a lot of the alumni are discussing and that is our Athletic Program. Starting with Coach Barlow, I am not sure if you know that Coach Barlow has done some more firing. "Sunday morning, Barlow notified defensive coordinator Tony Pierce that his year-to-year contract at the school wouldn't be renewed. Barlow also fired linebackers coach and assistant head coach Brian Williams." *Montgomery Advertiser*, December 8, 2008, Josh Moon

HY: Coach Barlow will be at the school for the duration of his tenure. I wasn't aware of the firings though.

LD: Do you think that our coaching search will be affected by Auburn University's coaching search?

HY: Our coaching search should be fine if he does it properly. The Board will not be involved at all in the hiring of coaches. We will allow Coach Barlow to hire his own staff.

LD: We did win the Turkey Day Classic this year, but are you aware of the missed call that is published in the *Montgomery Advertiser* and the *Birmingham News*?

HY: Yes, I did see it today in the *Birmingham News*. Even if we lost the game, Coach Barlow's position would not have been affected. I think that scheduling along with self-imposed sanctions and still waiting on the ruling from the NCAA, we just couldn't get the football recruits. Last year, he was only able to give thirteen (13) scholarships. This year, he was able to give a total of thirty (30) scholarships. As far as the Turkey Day game, the last year Tarvaris Jackson played, there was a touchdown call that we didn't get, and we (ASU fans) got over it. According to the terms of the Turkey Day contract, Tuskegee demanded that we use SIAC (Southern Intercollegiate Athletic Conference) officials only, where as, in the past we used split refereeing crews. So if they are trying to blame anyone, it would be the SIAC refereeing crew.

Did the alumni like the changes that the University made for homecoming this year? We wanted to make sure that the alumni came back to campus, and I think we accomplished that.

LD: I will let you know what the consensus was when you get out of the hospital.

Last question, was the board aware of Coach Dickerson's retirement.

HY: Yes, we were aware, and the Board did accept his resignation. His last day will be December 31, 2008

Thanks to Trustee Young for his time. I look forward to speaking with him and other Trustees in 2009. Get well soon Trustee Young.

The Verdict Is In

by Tessie Bradford

The NCAA has finally levied sanctions on ASU's football program and former head coach, L.C. Cole.

According to the *Birmingham News*, ASU was given the following penalties:

- 5 years probation
- Ban from 2009 postseason
- Reduction in recruiting activities
- Reduction in football scholarships
- Forfeiture of all wins from the 2000 and 2001 seasons, including vacating the team's 2001 SWAC championship.

ASU had already imposed a couple of the sanctions handed down by the NCAA. In 2003, the University reduced the number of scholarships from its football program for some of the same violations reported by the NCAA. Thirty (30) scholarships over a three year period were stripped from the football team.

But university officials still have the option of appealing the new penalties.

The *Montgomery Advertiser* reported: The university has 15 days to appeal, and ASU Executive Vice President John Knight said Wednesday evening that university officials still are debating whether to take that course.

"Obviously, this was not something you want to go through, but it was a learning experience for us," Knight said during an afternoon news conference at the school. "Now, we have this behind us and we can continue the process of improving our athletic department."

Additionally, any school that hires L.C. Cole within the next two years must justify its actions for doing so with the NCAA. This is what Stillman College will have to do since it recently named Cole as its head football coach. Cole must also attend NCAA regional compliance training seminars for the next two years.

Josh Moon (*Montgomery Advertiser*) reported that Cole was just happy to have the ordeal behind him. "I think it's good that it's over and I can move on

now," Cole said. "This has been a long ordeal for me and my family and it's been very hard on us. I'm happy to be back as a head coach here at Stillman and I'm ready to move forward with my career without this cloud hanging over me."

Stillman officials have already stated their support for their new head coach. In a news release, Stillman officials indicated they were standing behind Cole as their head coach and would meet all requirements requested by the NCAA.

The NCAA removed some of the charges against ASU it had issued in its Notice of Allegations to the University back in May 2007. There were 23 categories found on the Notice of Allegations, but the final list of charges had 17 categories of violations. This resulted in 12 individual violations being removed from over 600 violations cited.

As reported by the *Montgomery Advertiser*: The most serious violations -- lack of institutional control and academic fraud -- remained. The Committee on Infractions called the academic fraud that occurred between 1999 and 2005 "one of the most serious rules violations" and offered harsh criticism for the lack of oversight.

"A revolving door of administrators at the institution, including within the department of athletics, was a prime factor in the institution's inability to establish a viable compliance program, which ultimately resulted in the institution's failure to exercise institutional control," the committee stated in its report.

When asked if the school had concluded how the academic fraud had occurred, which resulted in eight football players receiving beneficial grade changes, Knight said portions of the matter were still under investigation.

According to a news release by ASU, the University stated the NCAA praised the school for "recent efforts to get its house in order and its decision to devote the necessary resources needed to establish a viable and effective compliance program."

Knight told reporters that the school has devoted about \$500,000 in the past few years to upgrading its compliance department. Half of that, he said, has gone for salaries for the three employees working in the department and the other half to various consulting agencies.

"We've taken this very seriously," Knight said.

ASU still has some concerns surrounding the athletic department. Ron Dickerson, Interim Athletic Director, announced his retirement at the end of December 2008. Plus, ASU is searching for a president to replace Interim President, Dr. William Harris, which could take approximately two years to complete.

Knight said ASU would immediately have a full-time replacement for Dickerson when he steps down.

ASU's head football coach, Reggie Barlow, appeared relieved by receiving the report. Barlow indicated that the report was welcomed. The *Montgomery Advertiser* reported: "These are things we can deal with," Barlow said of the penalties imposed on his program. "Now, our job is to go out and explain to kids and parents about what this all means. The biggest thing is the (five-year) probation because when people see that they think that we won't be able to play in the postseason for five years. This helps us recruit and helps get back to normal."

What are the next steps? Will ASU appeal the NCAA's sanctions? Who will be the next ASU Athletic Director? Who will be the next ASU President. We'll wait to see what happens next. The *NAA Pipeline* will deliver all of the answers to you.



Chapter President Receives State Honors

Mina L. Dickens, President of **Dothan Area Alumni Chapter** of Alabama State University, was recently honored by the Alabama Baptist State Women's Auxiliary as one of the 40 outstanding Women in the State of Alabama. This is what was written about our alumna.

Mrs. Dickens is the embodiment of what Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. spoke of when he stated, "Everybody can be great because everybody can serve. You only need a heart full of grace, a soul generated by love." Mina Dickens is sustained by God's love and she humbles herself to reach down to lift up. She is a mosaic of the human spirit, whose light shines before mankind, not for fame, but that through her, God's goodness is manifested.

As a dedicated member of North Highland Baptist Church she serves as Chairperson of the Finance Committee, a member of the Trustee Board, president of the Missionary Society and a Sunday School teacher. She is a faithful volunteer at the Southeast Alabama Medical Center CCU. She planted seeds of service on the Habitat for Humanity Board of Directors, the Girls Incorporated Board of Directors, and as a Life member of the NAACP. She continues to see her seeds come up through the young people who received scholarships under her leadership as Past President of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., and as President of the Alabama State University Wiregrass Alumni Association. She is still working in a community that loves and respects her.



CHAPTER CORNER

Velma J. Tribue

State Farm Insurance Agent/Owner

Speaker for B.C. Dickens Scholarship Banquet and Founders' Day

Velma J. Tribue was the speaker for the B.C. Dickens Scholarship Banquet and Founders' Day held by the **Dothan Area Alumni Chapter**. Her steps are ordered by God and her faith is revealed in her daily walk. She cares deeply for others and works diligently to help make life worthwhile for those who come in contact with her.



When asked how she is doing, her response is always "marvelous". If she is having a bad day, you will never know it. She is known by her bright smile. Her positive outlook is contagious. The 118th Psalm reminds us, "This is the day that the Lord hath made; we will rejoice and be glad in it." Each day provides countless opportunities to encourage others and to praise their good works. When we do, we not only spread seeds of joy and happiness, we also follow the commandments of God's Holy Word. Velma never misses an opportunity to lift someone else up.

Velma's dedication to her church and community is unparalleled by her willingness to serve where needed. She has been an Adult Sunday School teacher for more than 20 years, and a Vacation Bible School Worker. Also she is a past Trustee and Youth Department Director. She is a graduate of Alabama State University and the Ohio State University. Velma is a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.

Walking by faith led her to follow an uncharted course into an entrepreneurial venture that has proven to be a powerful manifestation of her belief in God and herself when she chose to start her business as a State Farm Insurance Agent. She is married to Donald Tribue who supports her as she involves herself in the following community-based and professional activities:

- Chairman Dothan Area Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors
- Wiregrass United Way Board of Directors
- Southeast Alabama Regional Planning and Development Commission Revolving Loan Administration Board
- Alabama A & M University Board of Trustees
- Leadership Alabama Class XVI
- Dothan Envision Steering Committee
- P-16+ Education Task Force
- Houston County Industrial Development Authority
- Wiregrass Region Health Committee
- Dothan Area Alumni Chapter of Alabama State University

Turkey Day Raffle 2008 Winners

1st Place — \$1,000

San Francisco Bay Area Alumni Chapter
San Francisco , CA

2nd Place — \$500

Edith Richardson
Beachwood , OH

3rd Place — \$250

Roderick Gadson
Pleasant Grove, AL

4th Place — \$50

Ottis Johnson
Atlanta , GA

5th Place — \$50

Margaret Jones
Union Springs , AL

6th Place — \$50

Pat Beaton
Philadelphia , PA

7th Place — \$25

Valerie Pettaway
Birmingham , AL

8th Place — \$25

Julian Anderson
Birmingham , AL

9th Place — \$25

Georgia McCall
Montgomery , AL

10th Place — \$25

Lera Lewis
Lynette , AL

Congratulations to all of the winners. Thank you for supporting the NAA.

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We're on the web!
www.asunaa.org

Save the Date

The 30th Biennial Convention will be held in Detroit, Michigan.

Date

July 28, 2009 -
July 31, 2009

Location

Greektown Casino
& Hotel (Downtown Detroit)

Details Coming Soon!