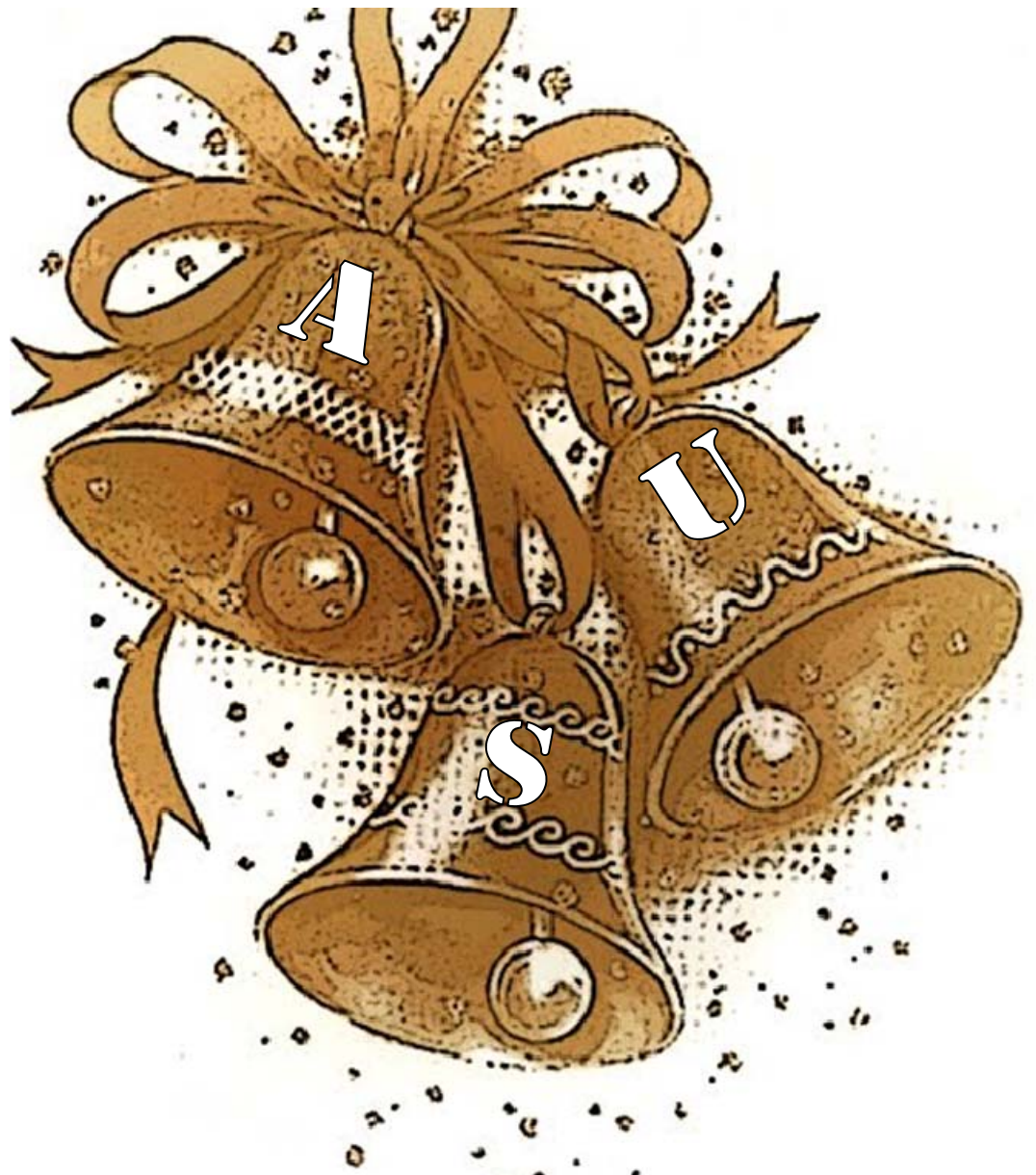




Hornet Buzz



Happy Holidays

from the National Alumni Association, Inc. of Alabama State University

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- *NAA Mini-Conference*
- *Membership Appeal*

President's Page



NATIONAL ALUMNI ASSOCIATION, INC. ALABAMA STATE UNIVERSITY

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Far West
Aquilla Scott

Midwest

Northeast
Howard Watkins

Southeast
Tammy Christian-Holiness

December 6, 2010

Greetings Fellow Alum,

The National Alumni Association, Inc. and its Executive Team extend Seasons' Greetings to our members, their families, our friends and our supporters. This is a Season of **giving and sharing**. We ask that you join us in the spirit of the Season by reaching out to other ASU graduates to **give and share** by: *joining an Alumni Chapter in their community; if an Alumni Chapter is unavailable, establish an Alumni Chapter; giving and supporting both the NAA and Alabama State University; and sharing the good news about Alabama State University and what the University has done for them!*

This year, the National Alumni Association, Inc. increased its Raffle Ticket sales from \$52,676 in 2009 to \$60,000 in 2010. This change reflects a significant increase in alumni involvement, and fuels our effort to sell even more Raffle tickets in 2011. It is your hard work that achieved this feat. The National Alumni Association, Inc. recognizes and acknowledges you for your dedication and commitment to both Alabama State University and the NAA.

We hope that your New Year will be prosperous and trust that you will use your prosperity to not only maintain your current chapter membership, but give to the NAA and ASU to sustain and increase the growth of both organizations; and ask others to join a local Alumni chapter in their community.

Yes, it's a great time to be an ASU Alum, and "it's a great time to be a Hornet."

Very best holiday wishes,

Lucius Black, Jr.,
President



Promoting the Interests of Alabama State University

Turkey Day Raffle 2010

The 2010 drawing for the Turkey Day Raffle was held on Friday, November 25, 2010 at 1:00 pm in the Office of Alumni Relations boardroom. Several members from different chapters were present along with Vice-President Bea Forniss who conducted the raffle and executive board members: James McFadden, Jocelyn Travis and Secretary Tessie Bradford. The raffle is a major fundraiser for the National Alumni Association (NAA) and over 56,000 tickets were sold in the 2010 raffle, making it one of the NAA's largest raffles. Many individuals and chapters sold a record amount of tickets. For example, the Columbus/Phenix City/Russell County Chapter sold 10,000 tickets. **The winners of the 2010 raffle are listed below.** Congratulations to all of the winners.

2010 Turkey Day Raffle Winners

1st Prize
\$1,000
James McFadden
Philadelphia, PA

2nd Prize
\$500
Dwight Russell
Birmingham, AL

3rd Prize
\$250
Eddie McGraw
Vincent, AL

4th Prize
\$50
King D. Crumpler, Jr.
Pearland, TX

5th Prize
\$50
Gloria L. Battle
Columbus, GA

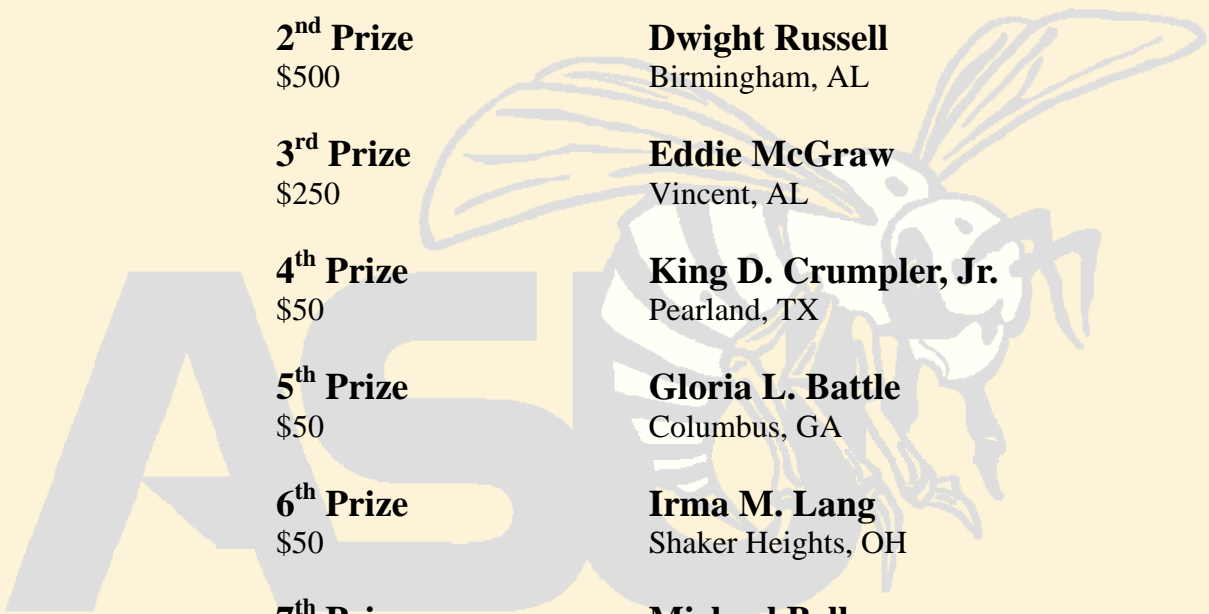
6th Prize
\$50
Irma M. Lang
Shaker Heights, OH

7th Prize
\$25
Michael Bell
Birmingham, AL

8th Prize
\$25
Rosetta Thompson
Huntsville, AL

9th Prize
\$25
Cherri Blankenship
Hartselle, AL

10th Prize
\$25
Hank Robinson
Anniston, AL



Are You Up for the Challenge?

by Tessie S. Bradford, EdD

On Wednesday, November 24, 2010, the first thing you noticed in front of the Renaissance Hotel Montgomery was the ASU Golden Ambassadors. If this did not give you a clue on which way to go for the Alumni Challenge Breakfast, then all you had to do was follow the powerful sound of the ASU Marching Hornets. The ASU cheerleaders were even standing to greet you as you entered the ballroom for the breakfast. No different than any typical ASU gathering, it was truly a festive, friendly environment filled with warm greetings and embraces from classmates and friends who had not seen each other since the last Turkey Day Classic.

Everything about the breakfast was fabulous, from the room set-up to the breakfast buffet to the program of speakers. Miss ASU, Angel Moore, began the round of greetings by opening with what was supposed to be a brief rendition of our school song. However, the audience began to rise and sing along, making the solo beginning to her speech a full version of the school song. Her opening remarks were powerful and acknowledged the rich history of the University. So did everyone's spirited words of greetings and admiration for our beloved Alma Mater, including our very own NAA President, Lucius Black Jr., SGA President, Ashley Thomas, and Chairman of ASU's Board of Trustees, Elton Dean.

What was most impressive to me at the breakfast was the challenge that many alumni accepted. It was

a challenge to give back to the University that has given so much to each of us. Some even accepted a challenge to get others involved in the giving process by implementing creative methods and utilizing several technological tools available, such as social networking sites. Africa Miranda, Miss ASU 1997-98, was one of the alumni who accepted the challenge to engage others in the giving process. Africa agreed to be an ambassador for ASU and raise \$2,500. Alumni and friends of ASU will be able to donate through Africa's social networking sites (i.e. Facebook, MySpace, Twitter) where she has over 15,000 followers. Can you imagine the impact if each of these individuals just donate one dollar? Of course, yours truly, had to get in on the action. I agreed to engage others and raise \$5,000 for the University. So many other alumni accepted the challenge as well. Some even paid their balance in full at the breakfast. University employees also accepted the challenge to donate to the University. Altogether, over \$173,000 was committed at the breakfast.

Dr. William H. Harris, ASU President, Dr. Alfred Smith, Interim Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs, and Dr. John F. Knight Jr., Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer, all provided updates on the wonderful and exciting transformation taking place at ASU. They talked about the new academic buildings, the new dormitory, and the new athletic facilities, including the

new football stadium that will be built. One important message Dr. Harris shared was that the value of one's degree is not determined by how the University was when they were there, but its value is determined by how the University is now. The stories shared and the challenges accepted showed just how much of an impact ASU made on so many lives. Africa Miranda stated, "It was inspiring to see the changes that have already happened for ASU and the ones that are on the horizon. I definitely plan to do my part to give back all that my experience at ASU has given me."

The breakfast concluded with a spirited cheer led by University officials and ASU cheerleaders who circled the room chanting, "*It's a great time to be a Hornet!*" Everyone immediately joined in with the chant, and the percussion section of the band added an enthusiastic beat making it difficult for anyone to remain seated. Truly, after all the construction is done, the campus will look amazing. However, this is not the only reason it's a great time to be a hornet, but it is the caliber of professionals and people from ASU who helped to shape our lives and careers and continue to work for the advancement of our beloved alma mater. If you agree, then I hope you are up for the challenge. Will you accept the challenge?

NAA Mini-Conference: Is it a great time to be in the NAA?

by: Tammy Christian-Holiness & La-Tanya D. Dunham

Wednesday, November 23 began with a great kick-off breakfast sponsored by the NAA. The spirit from the breakfast carried over into the NAA Mini-Conference which was held in the same room of the Renaissance Hotel—Downtown Montgomery. This meeting was facilitated by the NAA President, Lucius Black.

The Mini-Conference is held to give all alumni, active or inactive, a summary of what the NAA has been doing for the year and what is hoped to be accomplished the next year. Hence, the chant started by the University rings through—‘It’s a Great Time to Be a HORNET.’ If you are not an active member of a chapter in your area we need you to join today.

The Mini-Conference has been held on the Friday after the game, but this year it was pushed up to Wednesday to include University Officials. However, with the exception of Cromwell Handy, Director of Alumni Relations, no other representatives from the University participated in the mini-conference program. In fact, because the conference began immediately after the breakfast, it would have been a bit redundant to have another round of greetings from everyone. The important question is: will the University and NAA have a productive working relationship? With that being said, it seems relevant to point out that the purpose of the NAA is to promote and support Alabama State University.

The Director of Alumni Relations, Cromwell Handy, greeted alumni and explained the concept of KEP (Keeping Everything Positive), which is the approach he will implement in the Office of Alumni Relations. Mr. Handy also introduced the SGA President and the FAM (Future Alumni Movement) President who each addressed alumni. He further implored the NAA to embrace these student leaders and organizations, because they will one day be active alumni and leaders of the NAA.

One accomplishment of the mini-conference was the approval of the minutes from the 2009 mini-conference. The Treasurer’s Report was brief and simply provided an overview of balances in the various accounts. The Presidential update given by Mr. Black was brief but filled with ideas to build a stronger NAA. The region directors each gave brief reports and updates on their perspective regions, including acknowledging leadership and members present from the region. Due to time constraints, very few questions were allowed from the floor.

The meeting concluded with the singing of the University Hymn. In accordance with the concept introduced by Mr. Handy, it is important for alumni to stay KEP. It is a great time to be a Hornet! It is up to ALL alumni to make sure that it is also a great time to be a member of the NAA. Achievement is everybody’s business!

My College Tour Experience

by William Vann, III

I had a chance to go on a college tour last spring. I was able to see the colleges as the students saw them. Historical Black College and University (HBCU) tours give you the opportunity to see emerging themes from the perspective of the student. One emerging theme was "ACT Test scores vs. GPA." It seems that most schools are using a variety of ways to accommodate students with low GPAs or accommodate students with low ACT scores. Some of the students that I chaperoned were embarrassed to discuss ACT scores.



William Vann, III
ASU Class of 1996

Alabama State University (ASU) recruiters did an excellent job sharing information about the different programs offered for students who have a burning desire to attend ASU. Another emerging theme was residential life on campus. Of the many colleges we visited, the students were impressed with ASU's "new buildings," especially the new dining facility. While dining, my wife and I enjoyed the food and ran into students we recruited to ASU. Last but not least, another emerging theme the students constantly talked about was "Greek Life" on campus. After leaving each HBCU campus, at least one

fraternity or sorority provided a mini step show. The "Alpha" Brothers of Beta Upsilon Chapter (ASU) were "steppin" for us as we drove off on the bus!

If you ever get a chance to chaperone a youngster on one of these Black College Tours, it will help you not only appreciate ASU, but also collectively the rich history and culture of all HBCUs in general. It's amazing! Many years after graduating from ASU, I still have the passion for recruiting future ASU students just as I did as a Golden Ambassador providing tours for students coming in from all over the country. ASU! It's worth it!

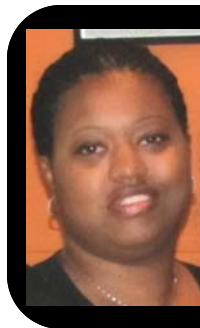
My 1st Alumni Career Day

by Kasher G. Robinson

"What is Alumni Career Day?" This is the question I posed to close friend and sorority sister, Tessie Bradford, after receiving an e-mail from her inviting alumni friends to come back to speak to undergraduate students at ASU. During our talk, Tessie informed me that Alumni Career Day was a great opportunity for graduates who were now working successfully in (or had retired from) various career fields to come back to speak to students and answer their questions about our respective professions. She explained that it would be wonderful if I could come because the University and Alumni Association were seeking to engage younger alumni who really had not been too involved. I jumped at the opportunity because I thought it would not only be fun, but I also felt it was my duty to give back to an institution that has given so

much to me. November 1, 2010 was a life changing day for me. As a part of Alumni Career Day, I had an opportunity to speak to three undergraduate classes: a Freshman Orientation Class in University College, a Social Problems Class in the College of Arts and Sciences, and an English Literature Class in University College. Each class had challenging yet relevant questions to ask me about my professional experiences as well as my experiences as an undergraduate student. Each teacher thanked me for coming and seemed genuinely excited to hear me cover some of the information that I shared with

the students. A few students from each class also came and spoke to me and even asked me for my business card so that they could call me later if they had additional questions.



My experience at Alumni Career Day was so positive, that I plan to participate each year from here on out.

My experience at Alumni Career Day was so positive, that I plan to participate each year from here on out. Tessie's influence was also instrumental in getting me to see the importance of giving back to ASU as a young person by becoming a member of the National Alumni Association. It is my hope that other "under 40" alums will get the word and want to become more involved in all things related to our beloved alma mater.



The role of the National Alumni Association is broadly stated in its Mission Statement to foster and strengthen the relationship between Alabama State University and its alumni and friends to preserve and promote the University's traditions, purposes, growth, and development, and to keep alive the spirit of affection and reverence for our Alma Mater.

As Vice-President of the ASU Alumni Association and Membership Chair, I would like to personally invite you to join our association. Membership is the best way to stay connected to your Alma Mater and show support of the programs, services and spirit of ASU. Through membership you will get valuable communications from the NAA and ASU--hence the key to staying connected.

This year, our goal is to strengthen our relationship with the University. We can do this by increasing our membership. Therefore, I am calling "All" Hornets to join us and assist us with our many endeavors. I am asking members to contact other graduates and friends of the University requesting that they join us in 2011.

So, I challenge each Chapter President, all Board Members and every Chapter Member along with our President to recruit as many new and former members as possible. Let's get busy!!!! Let's double our membership and support our University in new and expansive ways!

Together, we can achieve more!!!

Bea Forniss, Vice-President
Membership Chair

**IT'S A GREAT TIME
TO BE A HORNET!**



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[We're on the web!
www.asunaa.org **]**

Save the Date

National Alumni Association 31st Biennial Convention July 27-30, 2011

The convention will begin Wednesday, July 27, 2011 with an evening reception and conclude on Saturday, July 30, 2011 by 12:00 pm (CST).

A photograph of the Mobile, Alabama skyline, featuring several skyscrapers and a large body of water in the foreground. The text is overlaid on the bottom right of the image.

**Renaissance Mobile Riverview Plaza Hotel
Mobile, Alabama**