



NAA PIPELINE

INFORMATION CHANNEL FOR ALUMNI

Emergency Fund Proves Effective by Marlon Meeks

During the first general business session of the 29th Biennial Convention of the Alabama State University National Alumni Association in Tunica, MS the delegation voted to create an emergency assistance fund. The fund is to provide emergency assistance to students in financial distress. The disbursements are made without expectation of repayment. The situations that cause a student to apply for an emergency scholarship are broad-ranging and might be anything from loss of housing to family health issues to unbudgeted academic costs. During the convention, \$791 was collected to start the fund and numerous others alumni pledged to contribute to the fund. An Ad Hoc

Committee was appointed by the president to refine the purpose and establish guidelines for the emergency fund.

Since its inception, the fund has served numerous students needing educational assistance. James McFadden, a proponent of the fund's establishment, remarked "I was concerned about the need of the ordinary student, not just the scholars, that's why I moved to establish the fund."

Greg Harper, senior communications major, a recent recipient pledged to join the NAA after graduation. He stated "the money I received salvaged my final semester at ASU and I intend on helping another student who may wind up in the situation I was in." If it

were not for the money he received from the fund Greg would have had to withdraw from the university. Mr. McFadden urges all alumni to make a contribution to the emergency fund.

Active and effective alumni are an invaluable resource to the University's perpetuation. The tradition of alumni helping those who are following in their footsteps is a noble deed. A helping hand from the NAA goes a long way to assuring young students that we appreciate their commitment to their studies and that we have not forgotten our heritage. We have planted a seed not only with young Mr. Harper, but his friends as well. Long Live ASU!

Pipeline

Points of Interest

- Meet the NAA Executive Board
- Learn more about the NAA Alumni Center
- Hear from the NAA and SGA presidents
- Get ready for the upcoming regional conferences.

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by La'Tanya Dunham

**2008-2009
Executive Board**

Brenda Kahn-Spells
President
Montgomery Chapter

Patricia Jackson
Vice-President
Birmingham Chapter

Tessie Bradford
Secretary
Maryland Metro Chapter

Beatrice Forniss
Treasurer
Montgomery Chapter

Aquilla Scott
**Farwest
Regional Director**
San Francisco Chapter

Eddie J. Harris
**Farwest
Member-at-Large**
Los Angeles Chapter

Lucius Black, Jr.
**Midwest
Regional Director**
Chicago Chapter

Denise Gardner
**Midwest
Member-at-Large**
Detroit Chapter

James McFadden
**Northeast
Regional Director**
Philadelphia Chapter

Howard Watkins
**Northeast
Member-at-Large**
*Metro Washington DC
Chapter*

Joseph Henderson
**Southeast
Regional Director**
Rocket City Chapter

Tammy Holiness
**Southeast
Member-at-Large**
Birmingham Chapter

Who Ya Wit?

This statement can be heard every episode of “The Bernie Mac Show.” Do you know who you have elected to lead your organization to the NEXT LEVEL? If not, let’s picture the Talladega 500, the cars are all set around the track. Of course you have the returning racers such as Fast-car Brenda or 30-40 Forniss. But do you know the newcomers? Do you know where they reign from? Have you ever seen them? If you have answered NO to any of those questions, then it is time to get to know your Executive Board. But if you are in the stands just watching, then they may have already lapped the track twice before you noticed.

Because this year has started with a bang, the past NAA Executive Board had proven that they were working for the good of the order. Now, our returning faces to national office are President, Brenda Kahn-Spells, Vice-President, Patricia Jackson, Treasurer, Beatrice Forniss. We also have some of the regional officers returning: Joseph Henderson, Southeast Regional Director and Aquilla Scott, Farwest Regional Director. Under their tenure, this group established the NAA website, brought an Alumni House to fruition, finalized our non-profit 501C3 status, offered a membership card with benefits program and much more.

Now that we have elected new faces, stirred in with the experienced majority, this group is proving to be mixing well together. The four new members on the Executive

Board are: Tessie Bradford, NAA Secretary, Lucius Black, Jr., Midwest Regional Director, Denise Gardner, Midwest Member-at-Large, and Tammy Christian-Holiness, Southeast Member-at-Large.

We have all sat in alumni meetings and pondered many issues. As active alumni, we let issues/concerns affect how we may work in this organization such as recruitment, fundraising, communication between the chapters, the NAA and the University. We have/had children that are/were attending ASU, heard of instances that were unfavorable and the number one concern is we can’t understand why those 40 and under won’t join our chapters. Because of these concerns, we now have a group that wants to tackle the hard stuff.

With heavy hitters coming back and adding to our Executive Board, membership is

proving to be the number one concern. When asked, Tessie Bradford (NAA Secretary), how she would help to increase the membership to include those 40 and under she responded, “Being visible and accessible by getting involved in campus programs, i.e., Career Day, Freshman Orientation. There is no need to re-invent the wheel. There are various programs already established that we as alumni can just ask to be a part of.” Now, when the NAA President, Brenda Kahn-Spells was asked about membership, she responded “I want to capture those graduates from 1999 to 2007. I am working with Vice President Marcus Bell to assist us in securing a database of those graduates for communicating with them and encouraging them to support the NAA. We can increase membership – and that is one of my goals.” **continued on page 9 under Who Ya Wit**



Picture of executive board members shortly after being sworn in at the 29th Biennial Convention in Tunica, Mississippi. From left to right: Dr. Joseph Henderson, Lucius Black, Jr., Tessie Bradford, Brenda Kahn-Spells, Patricia Jackson, James McFadden, Tammy Christian Holiness, and Howard Watkins

Greetings:

Please accept my best wishes for the New Year. This is a season when many of us take stock of our past, while we also plan for the future. So as we begin 2008, I greet you with cheers for a new year and another chance for us to get it right. Our purpose is to support Alabama State University. Our goal is to bridge the gap between what alumni support is and what it should and ought to be.

After two years at the helm of our Association, I am pleased with the accomplishments we have made. However, I realize that more could be done if there was an increase in our membership. Once again, I implore the assistance of all alumni to realize this goal.

Our theme, "Success Through Teamwork . . . One Voice, One Vision" expresses what we are about. As an organization, our best can only be accomplished with unity, teamwork and unselfish giving. Knowing that without unity and teamwork our efforts become fragmented – divided; therefore, unity and teamwork have been at the forefront of this administration.

Unity means having singleness of purpose or action. A single individual or group who tries to do his/her own thing helps to make the Association weaker – not stronger, bringing attention to themselves – not the Association. Then there is teamwork – helping one another - because together we achieve more – TEAM. When we work as a team with reachable goals, the accomplishments are quite visible and the fruits of our labor are plentiful. The NAA's chapters are united under one umbrella. Chapters were formed to work as a team. Therefore, I challenge each of you to work for the good of the Association. The success of this organization depends upon you.

This administration partnered with some of the best companies to provide you with new ASU NAA membership cards. The membership card gave you access to fantastic savings from local or online stores, exclusive discounts when booking flights and hotels, cruises, car rentals, cell phones and other services. But, out of more than 1500 cards distributed a little more than 200 members have taken advantage of their membership card. Your card has an expiration of July 2008, however, I spoke with the card supplier and they will add 3 free months to the cards, which will allow members to go online to www.asunaa.org or by calling 1-888-325-3198, until September 2008. For those who paid your membership dues after the first batch of cards were distributed, you will be receiving your membership card within the next week and they will not expire until April 2009. If you have not received your card, please email me at president@asunaa.org or write me at P. O. Box 6312, Montgomery, AL 36106.

Thank you so very much for your support of the National Alumni Association. I encourage you to attend your upcoming regional meetings to keep abreast of what's happening in your local chapters and at Alma Mater. If you have not renewed your membership for 2008, please do so today.

Yours in the Spirit of ASU,

Brenda Kahn-Spells
Brenda Kahn-Spells, NAA President

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**From Duncan Kirkwood,
Student Government
Association President**

The following is a list of items of concern for students at ASU:

- Students have to pay to use washing machines and they very seldom work.
- There is no full time doctor on campus, so if students need to go to the hospital after hours students are forced to pay for care.
- The library is not open 24 hours. Students who need to study in the library are left with no resources.
- There is a huge lack of parking on campus.
- Students are frequently being disrespected by professors and dorm directors.
- We need to upgrade security on campus, due to the recent rise in violence on college campuses.

There is also good news to report.

- We took 34 students to Washington to meet Senator Jeff Sessions.
- We took 7 students to Israel to do volunteer work.
- We sued the city of Montgomery to protect students voting rights
- We marched 250 students downtown from ASU to the State House for Higher Education Day to protest the cut in education funding.
- We took a bus of students to the Selma Reenactment March.
- We hosted a motivational rally with Cedric Sparks as the speaker.
- We hosted a book garage sell so students can sell books to one another.
- We finally have in-room visitation in some of the dorms on campus.
- We hosted a Rally in support of the Jena 6 that was televised on CNN.
- We were the only school in the city to host a Primary Watch gathering for "Super Tuesday."

REGIONAL REPORT

Farwest Region

The **Farwest Regional Conference** will take place on April 12, 2008 in Los Angeles, California at the Ayers Hotel from 8:00 AM - 2:00 PM. All alumni are welcome to attend. There is no registration fee to attend the conference. The address and contact information to the hotel are listed below.

Ayers Hotel

14400 Hindry Avenue	1-800-675-3550
Los Angeles, CA 90250	(310) 536-0400

Midwest Region

The **Midwest Regional Conference** will be held May 16-17, 2008 in Detroit, Michigan at the Doubletree Hotel. The theme for the conference is *Getting on the Same Page: The Vision for Our Chapters, the Region, and NAA*. The registration fee for the conference is \$80 and is due by April 11, 2008. Information has been distributed to all Midwest Region chapters by Ms. Yvonne Coates, Conference Chairperson. For information on the Midwest Region, please contact Lucius Black, Jr., Regional Director, at mwdirector@asunaa.org or Denise Gardner, Midwest Member-At-Large mwmemberatlarge@asunaa.org.

Northeast Region

The **Northeast Regional Conference** will take place on April 26, 2008 starting at 9AM and ending at 3PM. The site for the Conference is Data Solutions and Technology Inc. 9901 Business Parkway, Suite R, in Lanham, Maryland 20706. This is the business headquarters for ASU alumna Deborah Thomas. For more information and directions contact Howard Watkins (301) 523-0569 or nememberatlarge@asunaa.org. We are inviting all Alumni in the Northeast Region to attend the conference. The focus for the conference is *You, Leadership, ASU/NAA: Now is The Time*. This promises to be an exciting and productive conference. Please plan to attend. If you have questions or concerns for the Northeast Region contact James S. McFadden, Northeast Regional Director at (215) 470-2778 or nedirector@asunaa.org.

Southeast Region

The **Southeast Regional Conference** will take place at the RENAISSANCE RIVERVIEW PLAZA HOTEL in Mobile, Alabama on April 18-19, 2008. Registration fees are \$75.00 before the deadline of March 30, 2008. After the deadline and on site registration fees are \$100.00. For those persons who would like to attend the banquet only (Saturday, April 19, 2008) the fee will be \$40.00. The lodging registration code is ALABAMA ALUMNI CONFERENCE. The room rates are \$99.00 per night plus taxes (single, double, triple, or quad). For reservations, please call 1-800-922-3298. All chapters in the region have been sent this information.

Conference Itinerary

Friday, April 18, 2008

Registration:	10:00 AM – 1:00 PM
Executive Committee	1:00 PM
First Business Session	2:00 PM
Reception:	8:00 PM

Saturday, April 19, 2008

Registration	8:00 AM – 8:50 AM
First General Session	9:00 AM
Luncheon	12:00 PM
Adjournment	2:30 PM

The host chapter (Gulf Coast) will sponsor a bus trip on Saturday to the HARD ROCK CASINO at \$10 per person. The bus will leave at 3:00 PM. For advance seating, please call (251) 432-2121.

Dayton Chapter

The Alabama State University **Dayton Alumni Chapter** will be hosting its second annual **Bow Tie Jazz affair on Saturday, April 19, 2008 at St. Benedict Church Banquet Hall (Liscum Drive at 35 West)**. This year represents the Dayton chapter's 38th year as a charter member of the National Alumni Association. We are planning a special recognition at our *Bow Tie Affair* for the founder and charter members who are still with us. Tickets are \$25.00 per person and includes a sumptuous buffet by Chef Ann Davidson, live music, fashion show and that 'ole Bama State Spirit and fellowship. Proceeds will be used for ASU Scholarships and the NAA Alumni House.

We are encouraging you to attend this wonderful evening of food and fun. If you are unable to attend, we encourage you to send your donation to the following address:

Alabama State Alumni
Dayton, Ohio Chapter
1435 Catalpa Drive
Dayton, Ohio 45406

Please make checks or money orders payable to Alabama State University (All donations are tax deductible)

Take this opportunity to play a role in giving students from the Dayton area a chance to further their education at one of the finest universities in the world.

Submitted by
Taiwo A. Sutton
Chapter President

Philadelphia Chapter

The spirit of the **Philadelphia Chapter** is at an all time high. We have combined our love for ASU and NAA with good food and principle dialogue as well as spirit-focused on leader-

ship during our monthly meeting. The chapter awarded a scholarship to a local student (Nakeia Saunders) attending ASU. The chapter also donated to the Salem Baptist Church Annual

Black College Tour, which will visit ASU on March 18, 2008. The Philadelphia Chapter is enthusiastically planning an ASU/NAA Scholarship Award Breakfast for September 20, 2008.

CHAPTER CORNER

Tuscaloosa Chapter

Cowboy boots and big belt buckles – Round 'em up for fun and chuckles was the

theme for the 1st



Tuscaloosa Alumni Chapter – ASU Scholarship Event. Invitations, designed to emulate ol' fashioned Western "Wanted" posters enclosed in black envelopes, created the initial interest. Thus, setting the stage for what was to come.

A recap of some of the fun-filled moments is outlined below.

- Covered wagons, both cowboy and cowgirl silhouettes, horses, haystacks, saddles, road signs and wanted posters were found in the scenery.
- Also, a saloon, boot-hill cemetery, and a vintage bank completed the venue.
- Centerpieces of road signs with Western places adorned the tables lined with belt buckles, cowboy hats and boots.
- Both ASU members and guests alike rose to the occasion as they dressed for the Wild Wild West.
- A cowbell called the crew in for a delicious

across the border meal which included chilli, cornbread, several layered bean spread, salad and pound cake.

- The event included the introduction of members, Black Westerners, and highlights of a few famous Black Cowboys.
- And of course, a Western event wouldn't be complete without line dancing, square dancing and the Virginia Reel. To add to the uniqueness of the event, a real-live instructor taught volunteers several Western dances.

Submitted by
Clifton Anderson
Chapter President

The **Birmingham Alumni Chapter** will hold its annual event *An Evening of Elegance Scholarship Gala* on **Saturday, May 2, 2008 beginning at 8:00 PM**. The scholarship gala will be held at **The Parthenon, 2210 First Avenue North, Birmingham, Alabama 35203**. Tickets are \$35. For additional information or to purchase a ticket, contact Marlon Meeks at (205) 515-1116 or birmingham@asunaa.org.

ALABAMA BIG 3



The ASU **Metro Washington DC & Maryland Metro alumni chapters** and the local chapters of Alabama A&M and Tuskegee universities will sponsor an **Inaugural Scholarship Gala** at the Marriott Hotel, 6400 Ivy Lane; Greenbelt, Maryland on **April 25, 2008**. The theme is *United for a Common Goal*. This follows our similar collaboration for two successful summer picnics in 2007 and 2006 respectively, to raise scholarship monies for deserving students who aspire to attend one of the Universities. Visit www.asunaa.org or call (301) 877-6162 for more information.

The Alabama State University Alumni Center

The new home for the NAA Headquarters, the Alumni Center, is a great brick-veneer building in a good location near Alabama State University, with central heating and air, restrooms, a basement - and a 50'x150' lot. The property is located at 514 Finley Avenue, adjacent to the softball field, near the Olean Underwood Tennis Center. Its situated near a busy intersection with great visibility.

The NAA will be able to reconnect, build new connections, and strengthen the bridge between the university and its alumni. This facility will be a physical representation of our efforts, and it is important to note that it was conceived by alumni and will be funded predominantly by alumni.

The establishment of the Alumni Center will enhance the image of the National Alumni Association, create a visible presence on the campus and instill a sense of camaraderie for all alumni returning to the University. It will be a place that will create wonderful memories for all parts of the university community – a place where students can get a sense of the achievements of alumni and enjoy the mentorship of successful graduates. Our new home will be a

tribute and testament to our distinguished alumni constituency. The NAA can plant seeds that will be harvested in the future.

The Alumni Center will serve a variety of needs for the NAA and the university:

- **Conference facilities.** Meeting rooms will make the facility suitable for academic, corporate and community meetings suitable for conferences, workshops, reunions, anniversaries and wedding receptions.

- **An alumni hall of fame.** The facility will feature displays, plaques and exhibits highlighting the proud accomplishments of ASU alumni.

- **An alumni home away home.** A starting point for alums to come back and see what's changed on campus and to start imagining what the future could be.

New focal point for alumni events, other activities

The Alumni Center will serve as a center for alumni activities on campus, a reception area for visiting dignitaries and benefactors of ASU, a mini-conference site for various groups, and gathering place for small social functions.

A community-minded place

The Alumni Center

will also provide a wonderful new community outreach program. Through private funding, government grants, the building can be devoted to a fully equipped computer technology and tutorial center, where ASU alumni can tutor ASU students and at-risk children from Montgomery's neighborhoods. The programs will exemplify NAA's commitment to community service, and how our alumni serve as teachers and role models to urban youths.

There is much work to be done in renovating the facility and numerous opportunities for contributing are available, from naming gifts to benches, bricks and trees. Giving to this project, whether you are buying a brick or donating for a room, is something to be a part of and to be proud of. We anticipate this project will energize the alumni base and bring that feeling of understanding to new students to this campus when they see what alums from this campus have done and will do. The Alumni Center would prove transformational for reaching out to our alumni and nurturing pride and a culture of giving.

Naming Rights Proposal \$10,000 and up

Rooms in building named in honor:

- Technology Center
- Education Enhancement Center
- Community Service Center
- Board Room
- Archives Room

Donor Incentive Program

Gold Level \$5,000 and up

Name Plate on Window and Brick Walk of Fame

Silver Level \$1,000 - \$4,999

Name on Brick Walk of Fame

Bronze Level \$500 - \$999

Name engraved on Wall Plaque

Century Level \$100 - \$499 Lapel Pin

Patron Level \$25 - \$99 Certificate

No amount is too large or too small. Your gift will be tax deductible under the Internal Revenue Service not for profit 501C3 organization status. Let us make the Alumni Center, the gate-way to the campus of Alabama State University. For more information, please contact the president of the National Alumni Association at (334) 288-7861.



The NAA has received approximately \$50,000 in donations for the housing fund and wishes to thank each person, alumni chapter, and organization for your donations.

THANK YOU!

Congratulations!
National Alumni Association
of Alabama State University
on behalf of the

Rocket City Alumni Chapter



Mark E. Barkley, President
Joseph Henderson, Vice President
Shirley A. Burke-Mitchell, Secretary
Jacqueline G. Frost, Assistant Secretary
Arrie Ann M. Barkley, Financial Secretary
Terry L. Russell Green, Treasurer
Alfreda Tabb Green, Parliamentarian
Jessie M. Adams
Larry D. Bradley
Edna Coleman
Laura S. Chalk
Mamie Handy
LaVon Jennings
Frencetta S. Morgan
Rita Evans Holmes-McCoy
Frencette S. Morgan
Gladys T. Oliver
DeWitt Palmore
Sandra Palmore
Veronica Parker
Terrence Shipman

P. O. Box 22303
Huntsville, AL 35816

ASU President

by Tessie Bradford

Dr. Joe A. Lee, President of Alabama State University (ASU), announced his intentions to resign at a recent board of trustees meeting. Dr. Lee indicated that he plans to step down after commencement in May. This announcement came as a total surprise to board of trustee members, administrators and alumni alike. Many questions and thoughts have surfaced surrounding Dr. Lee's announcement. However, a very

important question is, "What will happen if and when Dr. Lee decides to step down?"

As alumni of ASU, what will be our plan and response to Dr. Lee's resignation? Will alumni be involved in the search process for the next president of ASU? What will be the role of the National Alumni Association, Inc. (NAA) in this process? Will a member of the NAA serve on the search committee? According to the *Montgom-*

ery Advertiser, Elton Dean, Board of Trustees Chairman, indicated that the search process for the next ASU president will consist of a search committee that includes entities inside as well as outside of the university. Hopefully, this includes one or more members from the NAA. Although none of this has come to fruition, it presents questions of thought and a possible opportunity for the NAA to become more proactive in matters at ASU.



Who Ya Wit-continued from pg 2

While speaking with both women, I asked about their vision for their particular positions and both responded 'communication.' "Better communication between the University, chapters and the NAA is KEY," Ms. Bradford stated. "Wherever I go and speak with students or alums, I always mention the NAA." Mrs. Kahn-Spells feels that "communication with all is very important as well and to go even further she wants to establish a great working relationship with the Office of Alumni Relations.

We can go on and on about the issues that plague ASU and why things may happen. But are we willing to get behind those that we elected to lead us to the NEXT LEVEL? Are we visible? Do we speak about the good things that are going on at ASU? Do we even try to find out what is going on at ASU? Do you know anyone on the Executive Board? My challenge to you my active alums are to reach out to at least two (2) of them and let them know what your ideas are to help take our organization to where we want it to be. A motto that Ms Bradford uses to inspire is "We are what we repeatedly do... excellence, then, is not an act but a habit" (by Aristotle). Let's not repeat the past, but let's keep establishing good habits to strive for excellence in the NAA.

Do you have news to share?

Make the next publication of the
NAA Pipeline.

Submit your news by May 15, 2008 to:

Tessie Bradford
NAA Secretary
989 Scenic Oak Lane
Fort Walton Beach, FL 32547
secretary@asunaa.org

NAA Mission Statement

by Tessie Bradford

The mission statement for the National Alumni Association, Inc. (NAA) has been revamped. The old mission statement was long and not very precise. It included multiple parts with some statements that were

very similar to the objectives of the NAA. A new mission statement for the NAA was proposed and accepted unanimously at the executive board meeting in January 2008. The new mission statement for

the NAA reads, "The National Alumni Association, Incorporated of Alabama State University exists to promote the interests of Alabama State University."

Purchase an ad in the next publication of the *NAA Pipeline*

Ad Prices

Single Publication

Full Page/\$100.00

Half Page/\$75.00

Quarter Page/\$50.00

Business Card/\$35.00

Remaining 3 Publications*

Full Page/\$270.00

Half Page/\$202.50

Quarter Page/\$135.00

Business Card/\$94.50

All ads will be printed in black and white, but will be displayed in color on the NAA's website (www.asunaa.org). When submitting an ad and payment, please include name of person, company, and/or group submitting the ad along with a number of a contact person. Make check or money order payable to the **National Alumni Association, Inc. of Alabama State University (NAA/ASU)**. Mail payment and a copy of your *ad on CD or floppy disk [Acrobat (.pdf) or Microsoft Word (.doc) documents preferred] to:

**Tessie Bradford
989 Scenic Oak Lane
Fort Walton Beach, FL 32547**

Ads may be emailed to: administrator@asunaa.org

Please contact Tessie Bradford at (850) 315-8809 or administrator@asunaa.org with any questions you may have.

*Payment for remaining 3 publications must be received by the submission deadline - May 15, 2008.

Submission Deadline: May 15, 2008

**The NAA Congratulates Coach Lewis Jackson & the
ASU Men's Basketball Team**

**2008 SWAC
Regular Season Champs**



Thanks for a wonderful season!

**Keep track of the team's tournament progress at
www.bamastatesports.com.**

GO HORNETS!

NATIONAL ALUMNI ASSOCIATION, INC.
ALABAMA STATE UNIVERSITY
P.O. BOX 6078
MONTGOMERY, AL 36106-6078

PHONE: (334) 229-4280
EMAIL: INFO@ASUNAA.ORG

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www.asunaa.org

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Shop With Purpose



Visit www.asunaa.org or call 1-888-325-3198 to activate your membership card. Watch a short informational video about the great benefits and savings of your alumni membership card at www.asunaa.org.