

UAPB/AM&N NATIONAL ALUMNI ASSOCIATION, INC.

ALUMNI VOICES ROAR

Spring 2022 · UAPBalumni.org



VOICE OF OUR LEADER



Kymara H. Seals



Greetings UAPB/AM&N Alumni!

KYMAR H. SEALS, PRESIDENT AND CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD

Greetings UAPB/AM&N Alumni!

We hope your 2022 is off to a safe and healthy beginning. We are so excited about the quarterly production of this newsletter. The committee has worked diligently to present a publication that you will be proud to receive. This publication will provide the latest news, events, featured alumni highlights, and what's happening at the National Alumni Association.

We were hopeful that COVID would be a thing of the past, and we could go back to face-to-face meetings and events within our alumni association. Unfortunately, we

remain virtual with chapter meetings and events with the onset of the new variant of the virus. Meeting virtual is the safest way to maneuver during this pandemic. We will share information soon about our 2nd Virtual Alumni Conference scheduled for late July or early August.

We are pleased to re-launch our Alumni Center Campaign to build a new Alumni Center. You can now resume your pledge payments for those who made pledges. If you have not pledged or donated to the Alumni Center Campaign, please consider

CONTINUES ON GREETINGS, PG. 3

Alumni Board of Directors Update

We are proud to welcome our newest chartered chapter, the Nashville - Middle Tennessee Alumni Chapter. They are under the leadership of chapter president Beatrice Harris. We are excited to have them join the UAPB/AM&N National Alumni Association. We are expecting great things from them!

Good News! We are planning for our 2nd Virtual Summer Conference. A big shout out to the Greater Kansas City Alumni Chapter for hosting. The announcement of the date is coming soon. Our 1st virtual summer conference was a huge success, and we

are excited about bringing you this next virtual conference.

Our membership committee launched our annual membership drive in January. If you haven't already, please go to our user-friendly, newly redesigned website to pay your membership dues www.uapbalumni.org. You can also pay your life membership and even upgrade your life membership. Our membership committee has selected "Life Member" lapel pins. Alumni, you spoke, and we listened!

CONTINUES ON UPDATE, PG. 3

Overview

We are excited to bring to you the first issue of the Alumni Voices Roar Newsletter. The Alumni Voices Roar will be a quarterly newsletter to keep you updated and connected with the alumni association. We will highlight alumni who are doing amazing things in their profession and in their community. We will also highlight students who are blazing trails on the Yard and share with you how your membership and scholarship support is making a difference in the lives of UAPB students.

There is also an opportunity to advertise your business in the newsletter and much more. Alumni Voices Roar is your alumni newsletter.

ALUMNI

Highlight

Dr. Ruth D. Jones

UAPB AM&N NATIONAL ALUMNI ASSOCIATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS



“One of her goals is to help young people...understand the excitement, opportunities, and enjoyment in pursuing a STEM career.”

Dr. Ruth D. Jones, a member of the UAPB AM&N National Alumni Association Board of Directors, has been honored by the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff (UAPB), Pepsi and Essence for her achievements.

Dr. Jones is acting deputy director at the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) Michoud Assembly Facility in New Orleans, LA. She is responsible for the day-to-day management of the multi-tenant manufacturing facility, where NASA's Space Launch System (SLS) and Orion spacecraft are being built.

In 1994, Dr. Jones received her Bachelor of Science Degree in Physics from UAPB. She continued her formal education at Alabama A & M University, where she received her Doctor of Philosophy and Masters of Science Degrees in Physics/Materials Science. She is the second African American woman to receive a PhD in Physics in the state of Alabama, and the first woman to receive a Bachelor of Science Degree in Physics from UAPB.

The author of numerous articles on optical physics, Dr. Jones is a member of the Society of Women Engineers (SWE), the International System Safety Society, the American Physical Society, SPIE (the international society for optics and photonics) and Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated.

Her professional commendations and awards include such honors as the Center Director's Commendation from Marshall Space Flight Center and Glenn Research Center, Wings of Excellence from Cleveland's Federal Executive Board, Government and Industry Leadership Award presented by Alabama A & M University Alumni Association, and Extraordinary Achievements in Aerospace Engineering presented by Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated to name a few. Please visit uapbalumni.org to read the full article.

Dr. Jones' community involvement includes awarding two scholarships to deserving students who are active in her home church, First Baptist Church in West Helena, AR and she holds a "Science Day" at her former elementary, junior high and high schools in West Helena to encourage students to take more math and science as well as illustrate the importance of education. One of her goals is to help young people, particularly minorities in small towns, understand the excitement, opportunities, and enjoyment in pursuing a STEM career.

A native of West Helena, Dr. Ruth Jones is the daughter of William and Essie Jones.

STUDENT *Spotlight*

Kalan Hooks

SENIOR | KANSAS CITY, MO



“UAPB helped me get started in my sports journalism career with the best hands-on experience and ongoing support from the Greater KC Alumni Chapter.”

Kalan Hooks

Kalan Hooks is no stranger to hard work and commitment! Hailing from Kansas City, MO, Kalan was interested in attending the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff after hearing about their amazing band: Marching Musical Machine of the Mid-South! He auditioned and was awarded a band scholarship to play in the clarinet section, thus beginning his journey into the PRIDE.

He is looking forward to graduating this May (2022) with a degree in Multimedia Communications. Kalan feels prepared to succeed with the amazing support of his professors and his internship with FOX Sports from February 2021 to the present. During his tenure at Dear Mother, Kalan has hosted his own TV show, “Crunchtime w/ Kalan Hooks,” on the campus station. Kalan is also a writer for the UAPB Athletics Department and currently serves as the primary

contact for the UAPB men’s basketball team, and both men and women track and field teams.

He is the Historian/Reporter for NAACP, and a proud member of the Gamma Sigma Chapter of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Incorporated, where he serves as an undergraduate Board Member and Representative for Arkansas.

Kalan shared, “Before I came to UAPB, I was told that UAPB was a home away from home, but I never thought it would be what it is and how it shaped me into the young man I am today. UAPB helped me get started in my sports journalism career with the best hands-on experience and ongoing support from the Greater KC Alumni Chapter. The Greater KC Alumni Chapter fuels me to go harder every day and reminds me to remember always ‘who’ I do it for, and ‘why’ as well.”

GREETINGS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1
making that commitment today.

Finally, we encourage you to pay your annual membership dues this month. We encourage you to level up to the next life membership if you are a life member. If you are already at the highest level, diamond life member, we encourage you

to support our other giving opportunities. Go to our website for details.

Thank you, alumni, for your continued support. We greatly appreciate you.

Warmest regards,
Kymara H. Seals, President and
Chairman of the Board

UPDATE

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1
Finally, we offer our apologies for the delay in printing the Hall of Fame Souvenir Book. We mailed the souvenir books to the honorees and to those who live out of town who purchased ads. Those who live in Pine Bluff and purchased ads can stop by the office to pick up their

book. Thanks to all who supported the honorees. We are regrouping for 2022 on the Hall of Fame, but it will return in 2023.

Let us hear from you. We are here to serve.

In the spirit of the Golden Pride,
UAPB/AM&N National
Alumni Board

ALUMNI

Highlight

Congressman Danny K. Davis

U.S. REPRESENTATIVE FROM ILLINOIS'S 7TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT



“Davis is resolutely committed to preserving our democracy...”

Danny K. Davis was chosen by the people of the 7th Congressional District of Illinois as their Representative in Congress on November 5, 1996. He has been re-elected by large majorities to succeeding Congresses.

In the 117th Congress, Representative Davis has been reappointed to the Committee on Ways and Means and is the Chairman of the Worker and Family Support Subcommittee. Davis also serves on the Oversight and Reform Committee. Congressman Davis is a member of several Congressional Caucuses including the Congressional Black Caucus, the Progressive Caucus, the Urban Caucus, the Community Health Center's Caucus, the Congressional Sugar Caucus, the Congressional Caucus on Black Men and Boys and Co-Chair of the Congressional Caucus on Re-entry.

Congressman Davis has distinguished himself as an articulate voice for his constituents and as an effective legislator able to move major bills to passage. He has developed a unique and energetic style of communication and interaction with his constituents setting up dozens of advisory task forces to consider

significant questions of public policy. He hosts several weekly television and radio shows which feature audience call in and produces regular written reports to every household in the district. In addition, he maintains weekly office hours in the district and is widely sought after as a speaker at conferences and events.

In the 117th Congress, Representative Davis is resolutely committed to preserving our democracy, protecting social security, maintaining our nation's gains in civil and human rights, women's rights, voting rights, protection of the environment, consumer, and labor protections, reducing inequality, and ensuring quality, affordable health care for all, while maintaining his long time focus on issues of job creation, poverty, health care, education, youth, and criminal justice reform.

Prior to his election to the Congress, he served on the Cook County Board of Commissioners having been elected in November 1990 and reelected in November 1994. Previously, he served for eleven years as a member of the Chicago City Council as Alderman of the 29th Ward.

Before seeking public office, Congressman Davis had productive careers as an educator, community organizer, health planner/administrator and civil rights advocate. He has received hundreds of awards and citations for outstanding work in the areas of health, education, human relations, politics, and advocacy including six honorary doctorate degrees from well-known colleges and universities. He has traveled extensively throughout the United States and has spent time in Africa, Europe, the Middle East, Asia and in South and Central America.

Born in Parkdale, Arkansas, on September 6, 1941, Congressman Davis moved to the Westside of Chicago in 1961, after having earned a Bachelor of Arts Degree from Arkansas Agricultural, Mechanical and Normal College (now known as the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff). He subsequently earned both master's and doctorate degrees respectively from Chicago State University and the Union Institute in Cincinnati, Ohio.

He is married to Vera G. Davis, has two sons, Jonathan, and Stacey (deceased), and is a member and Deacon of the New Galilee M.B. Church.

ALUMNI CENTER

Update

DAVID WALTERS

In 2018, the Board of Trustees of the University of Arkansas approved the UAPB/AM&N National Alumni Association Board of Directors to launch a fundraising campaign to replace the existing Alumni House. In August of 2019, the campaign kicked off. After eight months of fundraising, we suspended the Alumni Center Campaign due to the COVID-19 pandemic. We are pleased to announce the Alumni Center Building Campaign has resumed effective January 1, 2022.

The new building will be multi-purpose, housing the National Alumni Association staff and functioning as an income-producing facility to support the day-to-day operations of the Association and student scholarships and programs. The 10,000 square foot building, with furniture, fixtures, and equipment, will cost an estimated \$2.8 million. Before suspending the campaign, we raised more than one half million dollars, and with the relaunch of the campaign, we plan



to successfully reach our fundraising goal by the end of 2023. A booklet detailing the Alumni Center Building Campaign and giving opportunities is being mailed to alumni. If you do not receive your booklet in the next couple of weeks please contact the National Alumni Office.

UAPB/AM&N Alumni have previously demonstrated the ability to successfully raise money when there is a need. The new income-producing Alumni Center will keep pace with the most recent upgrades and improvements

made on UAPB's campus. It will enrich the lives of alumni, students, and the surrounding community for years to come. Please see the various giving levels listed in the booklet for you and your family to consider.

We are counting on you to support the Alumni Center Campaign to build a facility that is reflective of our Golden Alumni Pride. We can achieve this worthwhile project if each of us does our part. Please visit www.uapbalumni.org for additional information and ways to give. Can we count on you?

DID YOU KNOW?

How well do you know "Dear Mother" and her History?

1. Why did the name change from Branch Normal College to Arkansas Agricultural, Mechanical and Normal College?
2. Who was the first woman graduate from Arkansas Agricultural, Mechanical and Normal College?
3. Which college President started the Arkansawyer?
4. Which Miss UAPB represented the school as an All-American Homecoming Queen during the Orange Bowl parade in 1977?
5. Who designed the first two coins bearing the likeness of African Americans?

1. To reflect the land grant function of the college 2. Alice Sizemore 3. John Brown Watson 4. Sandra Dupree 5. Isaac Scott Hathaway

Answers:

SPORTS

Spotlight

1977-78 Women's Basketball

AWISA CONFERENCE CHAMPIONS

We look back upon University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff Women's Basketball and its 1977-78 Championship Team. The team was formed when former coach Alma Murphy agreed with the athletic administration to restart the program in the mid 1970s, a program that had ended in 1947. Coach Murphy volunteered her services while teaching full-time in the Health, Physical Education and Recreation Department.

With a group of 12 walk-on players during the 1975-76 school year, the Lady Lions played an abbreviated 12 game schedule – starting in mid-November and ending in mid-February.

The following season things began to turn after Murphy signed three talented Arkansas high school players, along with a walk-on player in the spring of 1976. The trio of scholarship players included 5-foot-7 shooting guard Helen Hughes of Stuttgart, 5-foot-5 point guard Brenda Gulley of Tillar, and 5-foot-9 forward Catha McGehee of Reed. Susan Weaver, a 5-foot-10 walk-on forward of Wheatley, rounded out the freshman class.

Hughes led the squad in scoring by averaging 21.3 points per game in 1976-77. Weaver followed with a 15.1 scoring and McGehee averaged 13.3 points per game. Hughes was the lone UAPB player named to the first team All Arkansas Women's Intercollegiate Sports Association (AWISA) in her freshman year.

Likely, the biggest highlight for the 1976-1977 season was the Lionette's 80 point margin win over Philander Smith College in a 124-44 rout. This remains a school record to this day.

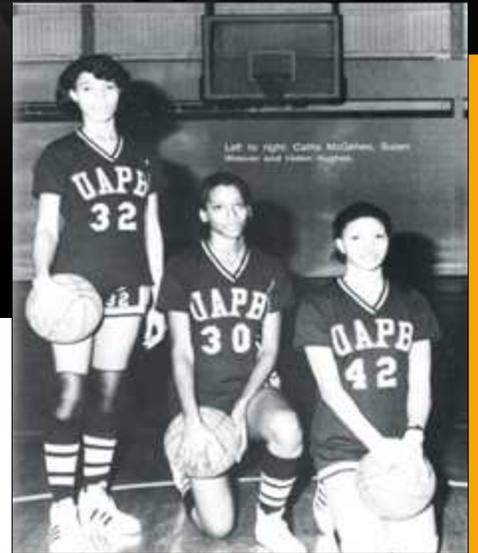
The foursome that started as freshmen, along with 5-foot-9 junior guard Margie Williams and several key reserves helped the Lionettes capture the AWISA championship during the 1977-1978 season while finishing with a 24-2 overall record and a 16-2 conference record.

The 24-2 record still stands as the best in school history for women's basketball. The squad consisted of six freshmen, six sophomores, one junior and a senior. The other team members were Lisa Hurt, Carolyn Rodgers, Lois Atcher, Sandra Strong, Janice Roberts, Barbara Smith, Annette Gaines, Dell Mitchell and Eileen Williams.

Hughes, McGehee, Gulley and Weaver, who are members of the UAPB/AM&N Sports Hall Fame, were named to the NBABS All-American team as sophomores.

Murphy, who was still coaching as a volunteer throughout the Lionette's championship year, was unanimously selected as AWISA's Coach of the Year in 1977-1978.

Carl Whimper is credited with the story. Reprint from the Deltaplex news circa: Jan 2020.



SPORTS

Spotlight

Why L.C. Greenwood Should Be In the NFL Hall of Fame

MORE THAN CONSIDERATION

The UAPB/AM&N National Alumni Association sent a letter to the Pro Football Hall of Fame encouraging one of Arkansas Agricultural, Mechanical and Normal College's own to be inducted into the NFL Hall of Fame.

The letter urged Jim Porter, president and executive director of the Pro Football Hall of Fame, to place LC Greenwood's name on the 2023 ballot on behalf of over 20,000 alumni, thousands of NFL fans, and the National Alumni Association's Board of Directors.

To learn more about the process of becoming a Hall of Famer, visit <https://www.profootballhof.com/hall-of-famers/becoming-a-hall-of-famer/>

LC Greenwood

- Played 12 seasons
- Led the Steelers in sacks 6 times with a career total of 73 and 1/2
- Won four Super Bowls
- Named to two first team All-Pros
- Named to six Pro Bowls
- Named to the NFL's All-Decade Team for the 1970s, as well as the Steelers' All-Time Team in 2007
- Named to the PRFA Hall of Very Good Class of 2012 by the Professional Football Researchers Association

Comparison of LC with Defensive Ends in the NFL Hall of Fame:



BORN:

Sept 8, 1946, Canton, Mississippi

DIED:

Sept 29, 2013 Pittsburgh, PA
(Kidney Failure)

COLLEGE:

Arkansas AM&N - Inducted into Southwestern Athletic Conference (SWAC) Hall of Fame 2004

NFL DRAFT:

1969 - Round 10/ Pick 238 - Defensive End

CAREER HISTORY:

1969 - 1981 Pittsburgh Steelers

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Volunteer Opportunities

Our organization involves volunteers so that we can tap into skills, experiences and talents beyond what our excellent professional staff already bring to our organization and its work.

If you are interested in volunteering, please contact the Alumni Office at 870.536.2309 or admin@uapbalumni.org.



UAPB/AM&N Alumni Center Campaign Partner's Incentive Program

The UAPB/AM&N Alumni Center Partner's Program aims to recruit and develop Alumni of UAPB/AM&N to help raise funds towards giving naming rights for the Alumni Center. Funds generated by the partners and their recruited partners will earn credits toward their giving naming right purchase.

All partners will receive 10% credit on all funds raised to apply towards their Alumni Center purchase(s). Partners may recruit other partners and receive 5% credit on all funds generated by the recruited Partners.

Recruited partners can receive 10% credit on all funds generated by their efforts and 5% credit of all funds generated by their recruited partners and applied toward their giving naming right purchase.

To qualify and register as a recruited partner, you must raise a minimum of \$300 or more to be entered into the tracking system to receive 10% credit on all funds raised. The partner will receive 5% credit on all funds generated by their recruited partners.

PARTNER PAIRING AND OVERRIDE ILLUSTRATION

See www.uapbalumni.org for details

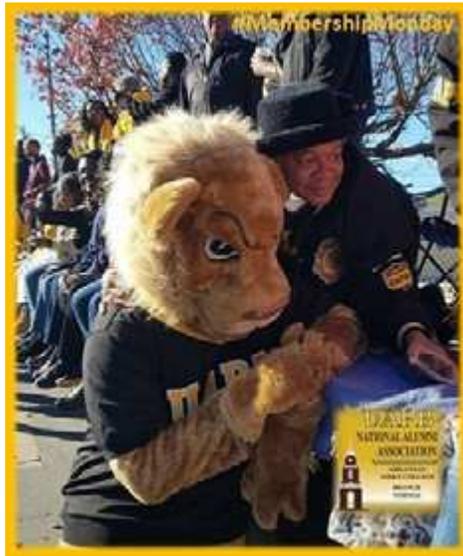
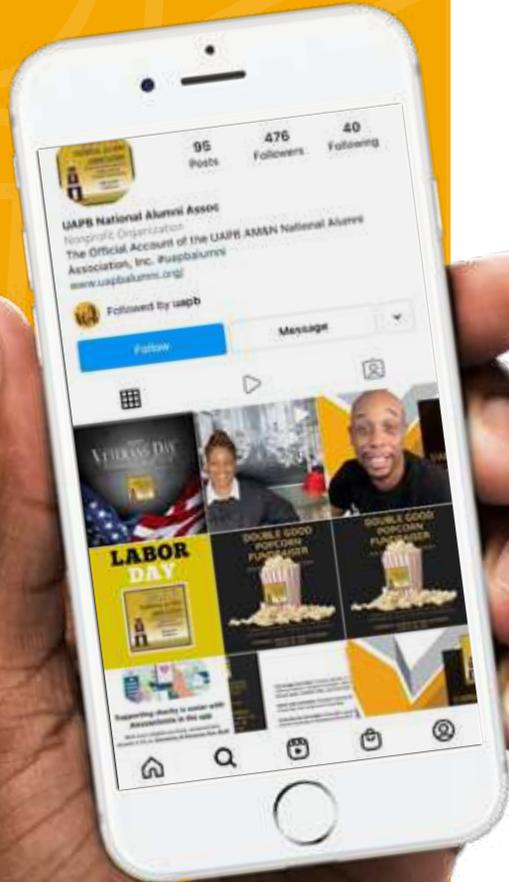
Membership

As a graduate, you become a part of the alumni association. The alumni association brings former students together to maintain a connection with their university and fellow graduates. Being a part of the association provides you the opportunity to stay engaged and allows you to help new and potential students.

Making sure the alumni office has the email, phone, and ways you prefer to be contacted is the first start. Signing up to receive communications, volunteering, joining the National Alumni Association are just a few ways to stay connected.

An essential part of being an alumnus is finding ways to give back. Many believe it's giving donations or responding to emails, but much more is behind giving back. Those small acts of showing support for the alumni community you have become a part of can be the beginning of a success story for new students. Visit Memberships - UAPB AM&N National Alumni Association (uapbalumni.org) to join and for more information.

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