

UAPB/AM&N NATIONAL ALUMNI ASSOCIATION, INC.

ALUMNI VOICES ROAR

August 2022 · UAPBalumni.org



VOICE OF OUR LEADER



Kymara H. Seals



Greetings UAPB/AM&N Alumni!

KYMAR H. SEALS, PRESIDENT AND CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD

We are still very excited about our 2nd Virtual Summer Conference which was held August 5 - 6, 2022. It was a huge success! A big shout out to the Greater Kansas City Alumni Chapter under the leadership of President Shannon Hendrix for hosting. Our theme was "Sustaining the P.R.I.D.E. through Service and Self-Care". It is our desire to resume in person summer conferences in 2023 as long as it's safe to do so.

We are also looking forward to Homecoming 2022. We will resume our alumni luncheon which is always

on Friday after the alumni assembly. We are in the planning phases now and will be prepared to provide more detail in the near future about venue and ticket prices. We are anticipating a spectacular comeback after two years of postponing due to Covid-19. Unfortunately, we will not be having our homecoming king and queen competition due to the fact our efforts are focused on our Alumni Center Campaign.

And speaking of the Alumni Center

CONTINUES ON GREETINGS, PG. 6

Political Change Agent!

The Honorable Carolyn Fleming Hugley

GEORGIA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES - DISTRICT 136

July 2022, United States Congress Woman Nikema Williams, (who replaced Congressman John Lewis), Chairman of the Democratic Party of Georgia, appointed Georgia House of Representative Carolyn Hugley as Co-Chairman of the Coordinated Campaign for the Democratic Party of Georgia. She is responsible for campaigning and fundraising for all candidates. The theme of the campaign is "For One Georgia."

This campaign focuses on the state working united to accomplish its goals. Carolyn's responsibilities entail oversight for the campaign for U.S. Senator, Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Attorney General, Secretary of State and all state and legislative races.

We asked Carolyn about her thoughts on the New Alumni Center Campaign. She emphasized, "It is so important that we invest in and support our own



institutions like our Dear Mother. We have the power and the dollars to make the change. We just need to release them!"

Rep. Hugley was elected 1992 to the Georgia House of Representatives.

CONTINUES ON HUGLEY, PG. 3

ALUMNI

Highlight

Dr. Laquita Stribling

CORPORATE V.P. ...UAPB TRACK HALL OF FAMER... AKA



“Her passion to give her time to community service is driven by the scripture: “To whom much is given, much is required.” (Luke 12:48)

A native of Marianna, Arkansas, Laquita earned her Bachelor of Arts Degree from the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff (UAPB). While there, she was a nine-time track All-American sprinter, held the schools record in the 100M, and was inducted into UAPB's first Sports Hall of Fame class. She continued her education at the University of Memphis, where she obtained her Master of Public Administration Degree with a concentration in human resources. Laquita went on to earn an EdD in Leadership and Professional Practices from Trevecca Nazarene University.

Over the last 26 years, Dr. Laquita Stribling worked her way up from entry-level associate to vice president at Randstad USA, the world's largest provider of human resources solutions. Laquita is now responsible for three districts and 14 offices, with more than 1,500 employees. Laquita also serves on the Executive Diversity Council with Randstad (who was recognized number 30 on Diversity Inc's Top 100 in 2019). In addition to her impressive career, Laquita has been extremely active in the Nashville community. Her passion to give her time to community service is driven by the scripture: “To whom much is given, much is required.”

Laquita pays it forward every day. She

sees the work she does at Randstad to be a ministry. It's very rewarding to help people find jobs and advance their careers and help companies find the right employees to run their businesses.

Laquita served as the District Governor for Rotary International District 6760 (July 1, 2018 – June 30, 2019). The district is comprised of 62 Rotary Clubs and 3,500 Rotarians across Middle and West Tennessee. She was the first African-American to hold this position. She also hosted the district's inaugural Celebration of Women in Rotary in 2019. As president of the Rotary Club of Nashville (2014-2015), Laquita led the effort to raise a record \$300,000 to fund local community projects. She also spearheaded the creation of a strategic plan to intentionally and proactively seek and attract more women, people of color, younger people, and individuals from more varied industries. In a time when most clubs' memberships were declining, the Rotary Club of Nashville's membership saw net growth, and became a more diverse and inclusive organization. During her tenure, she also established a Rotaract Club at Fisk University to engage and expose students to leadership, service, and professional mentoring. Rotaract at Fisk University is one of a very few Rotaract clubs at a Historically Black College and University.

In addition to serving as President and Board Chair for Cable for 2020-2021, Laquita also serves on the advisory council for the Women's Business Collaborative and on the boards of director for: The Nashville Sports Council, Teach for America Nashville/Chattanooga, Second Harvest Food Bank, Mt. Zion Baptist Church, Nashville State Community College Foundation, and Center for Non-Profit Management. She was recently appointed to the corporate board of directors for Citizens Savings Bank and Trust Company, where she serves as chair the human resources committee. In addition, Laquita served as Co-Chair for the Nashville Area Chamber of Commerce on the Education Report Committee for 2020-2021 and served as Co-Chair for the YWCA's 2020 Wine Women and Shoes event. In 2017, Laquita was inducted into the YWCA's Academy for Women of Achievement and was awarded Mt. Zion's Bridge Builder Award and CABLE's Civic Outreach Award. In 2018, Laquita was recognized as a Woman of Influence by the Nashville Business Journal. She was a nominee for the Athena Award and Women Who Rock Awards, and was a Power Moves Award winner.

Laquita is married to Finis Stribling III, and they have three sons: Finis IV, Kylan and Tre.

NATIONAL & INTERNATIONAL *News*

HUGLEY

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

She is the first African American to serve as Minority Whip of the Georgia House of Representatives (2003-2018). Currently, Hugley is a member of the Rules Committee, Appropriations (Health Sub-Committee) and the Insurance Committee. She is a former chair of the Legislative and Congressional Reapportionment Committee and the Women's Legislative Caucus. She currently co-chairs the Voting Rights Caucus and serves as a member of the Georgia Legislative Black Caucus and the Working Families Caucus. Carolyn is now in her 14th term representing District 136.

Rep. Hugley is committed to fighting for all Georgians and has dedicated her service to children and family issues. She is known for developing "real solutions for real people" through her work in education, health care, enhanced job opportunities and public safety. She has sponsored numerous bills to include anti-bullying legislation, legislation to keep widows of veterans in their homes, and legislation to keep sexual offenders out of school zones, anti-stalking legislation and compensation resolutions to compensate constituents who were wrongfully convicted.

Exceptional community service and leadership is the norm for Rep. Hugley. She's a member of Franchise Missionary Baptist Church where she serves as Chair of Trustees, 2013 Honorary Chair Tuskegee-Morehouse Football Classic, and Honorary Chair Links Day at the Capitol 2019. Other key memberships include the Lower Chattahoochee Area Workforce Investment Board, Vice Chair Board of Directors of SISTERS, Inc, Life member and Silver Star member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. and

The Links, Inc., Columbus, Georgia Chapter. She is celebrated for developing mentoring and scholarship programs where she uses the resources of the community, legislative office and her State Farm Insurance Agency to help young people turn their college dreams into reality.

Appreciation for Rep. Hugley's fine leadership and service has been recognized with numerous awards from local, state, national and international organizations. A park has even been named in her honor. Key awards include the UAPB/AM&N National Alumni Association Hall of Fame, J.U.G.S International, Incorporated Women of Action Honoree NBCSL (National Conference of Black State Legislators) Crystal Excellence Award-2009 and 2010, UNCF Mask Award, Muscogee County Democratic Party- Jack Brinkley Service Award, NAACP Humanitarian Award, NAACP President's Award, Women's Hall of Fame Award, Mayors Commission on Unity and Diversity Distinguished Woman Award, Legislator of the Year, Citizen of the Year Lambda Iota Chapter Omega Psi Phi Fraternity 2010, Georgia Legislator of the Year, the Georgia Municipal Association's Champion of Georgia Cities Award, the Sojourner Truth Meritorious Service Award, and the Concharty Council of the Girl Scout's Woman of Achievement Award. She also holds the recognition as a Gracious Lady of Georgia.

Rep. Hugley was born in Forrest City, Arkansas. The daughter of the late Arkansas Educators Ruby and Walker Fleming, Jr. (AM&N College classes of 1945 and 1949 respectively) Carolyn earned a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Political Science with Summa Cum Laude Honors at the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff (class of 1979),



Gubernatorial Candidate Stacey Abrams and Georgia Representative Carolyn Hugley

“If we are successful, Stacey Abrams will become the first black female governor in the United States,” said Rep. Carolyn Hugley. When asked how she felt about the appointment, Carolyn said, “It is an honor and a privilege to serve. I want to remind all alumni that the # 1 weapon we have is the vote and as an Alum of UAPB, we should be about sponsoring change and encouraging people to participate in their government.”

and Mississippi State University awarded her a master's degree in Public Policy and Administration. Carolyn is a 31-year Independent Contractor Agent for State Farm Insurance Company, Columbus, Georgia.

She is married to Columbus City Manager Isaiah Hugley. They have two children, Kimberly and Isaiah, Jr., three grandchildren, Kandyce, Adam, and Isaiah, III, and one great grandchild, Kaydance.

ALUMNI

Highlight

Mr. Tom Bennett

MANAGING PARTNER...VICE PRESIDENT...CIVIL ENGINEER



It is a long way from an Arkansas farm to corporate offices. I owe much to the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff.

Tom Bennett has worked for the last 35 years as a Civil Engineer, constructing and designing buildings and communities in Texas, Florida and Georgia, rising to the level of Managing Partner, Horizon Homes, Tampa Florida. "To say I come from humble beginnings would be an understatement. It is a long way from an Arkansas farm to corporate offices. I owe much to the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff (UAPB). The degree I received from UAPB has enabled me to design and build Pool Courts for the Pentagon as well as becoming a key engineer and designer for projects like the ENCORE revitalization Project in Tampa, Florida," said Mr. Bennett.

Tom graduated from UAPB with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Trades and Industrial Education (Cum Laude) in 1984 while working 40- hours a week at Coca Cola. "I was a 'Nerd,'" he declared. "Education was my only way to a better life." Mr. Bennett's higher education includes Information Technology Software Application Training, Dekalb Technical Institute, Decatur, Georgia; Computer Aid Design(CAD) training, Gwinnett Technical Institute, Norcross, Georgia; Land surveying, Tampa Bay Technical Center, Tampa, Florida; Civil Engineering and Roadway Training, Florida Technical College Tampa, Florida;

Construction Math training, Florida Department of Transportation, Tampa Florida; and Storm water Discharge Inspector Training, Department of Environmental Protection, Tampa, Florida.

Mr. Bennett started his Civil Engineering career as a Project Engineer at Tempo Mechanical Contractor, Dallas Texas. Next, he became a Technical Engineer, Georgia Pacific Corporation, Atlanta, Georgia. His career ladder includes: Designer, Honeywell Building Controls Division, Atlanta, Georgia; Survey Technician, Roberson and Associates, Tampa, Florida; Construction Manager, King Engineering Associates, Tampa, Florida; Land Development Manager, Pulte Homes Corporation, Tampa, Florida; Land Development/Construction Manager, Ashton Woods Homes, Tampa, Florida; and Vice President, Malphus and Sons General Contracting, Tampa, Florida. Tom retired as Managing Partner, Horizon Homes, Tampa, Florida.

Mr. Bennett has had an outstanding career in engineering changing the lives of many people and revitalizing communities. We wish to highlight the following awards he has received. Earl L. Ratliff Quality of Life Award (1999). "Employees voted on who should receive the award. I was the only African

American in the Company in 1999 and this award was quite an honor, stated Mr. Bennett." Other awards include the Division Excellent Award, (2004), Pulte Homes Corporation, Division Excellent Award, (2005), Pulte Homes Corporation; Division Team Player of the Year(2007), Ashton Wood Homes; Division Team Player of the Year (2008), Ashton Woods Homes. These awards are equivalent to receiving the Heisman Trophy.

Mr. Bennett believes in giving back to the community and he has a great love for Dear Mother. After retiring Mr. Bennett moved to Pine Bluff, Arkansas, becoming the first African American Street Department Director. He is the First Vice President, Jefferson County/ Pine Bluff UAPB Alumni Chapter; Vice President, Board of Trustees for Arts and Sciences Center for Southeast Arkansas. He also volunteers as a CAD Teacher for students 12 - 17, opening engineering doors for many.

Tom Bennett married Stephanie Renee Bennett in 2015 at the UAPB Bell Tower, after reconnecting with her after 30 years. He is the proud father of four girls: Danielle, Katherine, Liach and Megan. And he has four adorable grandchildren.

Mr. Bennett is a proud member of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., Tau Phi Chapter.

ALUMNI NEWS

Highlights

UAPB STUDENTS RECEIVE SCHOLARSHIPS FOR TUITION, BOOKS AND ACCESS CODES

During the Fall 2021 and Spring 2022 semesters, 22 University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff (UAPB) students were awarded a total of \$14,564.59 in scholarships for tuition, books and online educational access codes by the alumni. The students who received assistance reside in Arkansas, Georgia, Illinois, Missouri, Oklahoma and Tennessee. We thank everyone for their contributions, especially during the global COVID pandemic!

In addition, Jerilean Brewer, a 1968 alumnus of Arkansas Agricultural, Mechanical and Normal College (now known as UAPB), directly assisted two UAPB students from her community of Dumas, AR with \$250 scholarships each. The award recipients were Mylesha R. Benton and Shabr'an Richardson.

Scholarships were provided by the National Alumni Association and the End of Year Challenge Scholarship Fund, established by 2017 UAPB alumnus Joy Matthews and

President Young of the Memphis Alumni Chapter reported that the chapter was able to award a \$1,000 scholarship via its endowment fund. This fund is managed by UAPB's Office of Alumni Affairs.

Other funds were provided as a direct result of the generous donations that chapters received and creative (virtual, online and non-contact oriented) fundraisers that they conducted.

Scholarship award recipients and amounts awarded are as follows:

Arkansas

- Braelyn Perkins-Boykins of Little Rock - \$453.64
- Elisa G. Brown of Little Rock - \$250
- Rahji Cummings of Little Rock - \$1,000
- Zekiah I. Farmer of Little Rock - \$1,000
- Chaterica Fletcher of Pine Bluff - \$450
- Olivia Garrett of North Little Rock - \$1,000
- Mallory N. Harris of Sherwood - \$1,500
- Sadiq Haruna of Pine Bluff - \$250
- Kaleb Knox of Bauxite - \$500
- Kyle Knox of Bauxite - \$500
- Taylor O'Donald of Little Rock - \$1,000
- Taylor D. Perry of Little Rock - \$1,000
- Isaac Singleton of Pine Bluff - \$644.56
- Bryce X. Smith of North Little Rock - \$1,000
- Jalannie J. Waller of Conway - \$1,000

Georgia

Zariya S. Cooper of Conyers, GA - \$1,000

Illinois

Sheldon S. Smiley of Calumet Park - \$260.89

Paris M. Wyatt of Sauk Village - \$311.50

Missouri

Doriana J. Nealy of Kansas City - \$644.00

Oklahoma

R'Riyonna S. Gaither of Forest Park - \$300.00

We're giving a great big shout out to the Greater Kansas City Chapter and President Shannon Hendrix; Memphis Chapter and President Johnnie Young; the Pulaski County Chapter and President Ashia Muhammad; and Metropolitan Atlanta Alumni Chapter and President Yvette M. White for their amazing leadership.

Let us hear you roar as we celebrate Alumni Chapters and Alums across the country who have helped UAPB students! Keep on giving! Let us know if you, your family or organization have set up a scholarship or endowment fund at UAPB. We just might feature you in a future issue of Alumni Voices Roar!

DID YOU KNOW?

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

1873 - 1921 | BRANCH NORMAL COLLEGE

1. The license of Instruction, signed by Branch Normal Founder Joseph C. Corbin, belonged to what member of the Flowers Family?
2. In 1915, which student sparked a student lead strike after alleging she had been sexual harassment by Superintendent W.S. Harris?

1928 - 1972 | ARKANSAS A. M. & N. COLLEGE

3. List 4 of the 8 buildings constructed in 1929.

1973 - PRESENT | THE UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS-PINE BLUFF

4. Which Housing Complex is named after an Acting Chancellor?

SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

5. He was a renowned tenor who performed in Caldwell Hall during the A. M. & N. era. Who was this gentleman?

1. Peter Plunkett Flowers 2. Ophelia Wade 3. Home Economics, Childress Hall, Lewis Hall, Power Plant & Laundry Bldg., J. C. Corbin Laboratory & Training School, President's Home, Caldwell Hall, and Kountz-Kyle 4. Johnny B. Johnson 5. Roland Hayes

Answers:

ALUMNI NEWS

Highlights

ALUMNI CHAPTERS AND ALUMNI RESPOND TO UAPB STUDENTS DURING HISTORIC WEATHER-RELATED CRISIS

During this time that most of the nation is experiencing extreme summer heat and sweltering temperatures, it is the perfect time to remember the historic winter storm that occurred in February 2021.

This storm, which had record breaking snowfall coupled by Arctic-like temperatures, wreaked havoc throughout Pine Bluff, Arkansas. Several buildings on the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff (UAPB) campus were damaged. The campus community and residents throughout the city also suffered low water pressure because of pipes that had burst and caused leaks. Some residents were without electricity for several days. This created an extremely challenging situation throughout the Pine Bluff area.

UAPB Chancellor Dr. Laurence B. Alexander made the decision that it was not safe for students to remain on campus, so several were transported to Little Rock area hotels. The University campus was also closed to the public resulting in employees working from home.

Former UAPB Pulaski County Alumni Chapter President Michael Mason and Second Vice President Wendolyn Nelson sounded the alarm that more needed to

be done to help our displaced students. While UAPB provided the students with a main meal, Chapter members knew they wanted and needed snacks between meals. Social media, email marketing and specifically the UAPB Facebook page was used asking for donations.

Our Alumni answered the call with people from around the country making donations. Donations from alumni and friends totaled over \$6,000!

The Young Alumni Committee and other helpers used the donations to purchase snacks, water, fruit, toiletries, socks, and other necessities for the students. They placed the items in plastic bags for ease of distribution.

Chapter and Committee members started out planning to help students at one hotel. However, within 48 hours, the numbers rose to over 300 students scattered around five additional hotels.

The Greater Kansas City Alumni Chapter took it a step further by helping displaced students who were not in hotels and unable to receive main meals. The Chapter provided finances, groceries and individual meal packs.

“This started out with students from Kansas City,” said Vice President Tanesha Thompson of the Greater Kansas City Alumni Chapter and UAPB National Alumni Board Member. “But then we learned about other students who also had needs. Because we personally knew

a few of the students, we helped them directly by sending finances to them through Cash App.”

A UAPB alumnus who lived in the local area provided support by putting bags of groceries together and delivering them to the students in need, Thompson said.

The Pine Bluff/Jefferson County Alumni Chapter assisted by donating funds to the UAPB Pulaski County Alumni Chapter. Janice Roberts, who serves as the Chapter’s Chaplain and as National Alumni 1st Vice President, learned that students returning to the UAPB campus needed to do their laundry but lacked detergent, bleach, fabric softener, dryer sheets, etc. She traveled to a local Walmart where she was joined by staff members from the UAPB/AM&N National Alumni Association and UAPB Facilities Management.

Roberts was assisted in purchasing and transporting nearly \$600 in laundry products, which were then taken back to the campus.

We’re shouting out the Pulaski County Alumni Chapter and its current President Ashia Muhammad, the Greater Kansas City Alumni Chapter and President Shannon Hendrix, the Pine Bluff/Jefferson County Alumni Chapter and President Dr. Hazell Reed, the Young Alumni Committee as well as our beloved Alums and Friends throughout the country. Thank you for immediately coming to the rescue during this time of crisis!

GREETINGS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Campaign, if you haven’t yet given, now is the perfect time to do so. You can give or make your pledge to give at a later time. Go to the alumni website uapbalumni.org to view all details of the campaign and the various levels

of giving. This is a team effort of the alumni and sponsors and we need you to reach this financial goal.

We are thankful to all of our active alumni chapters across the country and for all the volunteer hours you dedicate to support the alumni and Dear Mother. We are grateful for

your board assessments, donations for student scholarships, life membership purchases and annual membership purchases. It takes all of us doing our part to make an impact for our students. Let’s continue the great work.

We see you and we appreciate you!

ALUMNI GIVING

The Data Speaks

Alumni giving is essential for the support and success of current and future students in institutions of higher learning. The Alumni giving is the best way to express appreciation to the college life experience and education obtained while helping to ensure the institution's ability to continue to serve students in the future. This ranking represents the number of alumni who have given during the survey period. Additionally, many have not been effectively asked and empowered to give through innovative and motivating methods.

Based on recent studies from *US News* on HBCU Alumni giving, UAPB/AM&N Alumni giving is ranked below four percent. This low percentage does not represent the UAPB/AM&N Alumni in a favorable light.

We need your help to participate with your charitable donation to the Alumni Center as well as your help to reach fellow Alums with the Partner's Program. Please refer to our website, www.uapbalumni.org, or request more detailed information from the UAPB/AM&N National Alumni Association Office at 870-536-2309 regarding this program.

The Alumni Center Capital Campaign

School name (state)	Average % of alumni who donated	U.S. News HBCU rank
Clafin University (SC)	48.9%	8
Bennett College (NC)	38.2%	15
Spelman College (GA)	37.4%	1
Tuskegee University (AL)	25.1%	5
Fisk University (TN)	23.9%	7
Livingstone College (NC)	23.8%	RNP*
Johnson C. Smith University (NC)	16.3%	16
Tougaloo College (MS)	16%	11
Morehouse College (GA)	15.5%	4
Fort Valley State University (GA)	14.4%	39 (tie)

*RNP denotes an institution that is ranked in the bottom one-fourth of its ranking.

is an excellent way to begin to right this lack of Alumni giving. We need to raise \$2.5 million dollars to build the new alumni center. The UAPB/AM&N National Alumni Association is a 501(C)(3) charitable organization which provides for tax deductible donations. Alumni will be recognized for their donations at different giving levels in the Alumni Center.

There are several ways to direct your giving. One way is to show your Greek Pride by donating to the Divine 9

Stained Glass Windows. We have raised \$48,663.85 towards the \$90,000 goal. Four members of the Divine 9 have already reached their target. Go online to see how your fraternity or sorority is performing.

Annual or monthly donations can be made over a secure website at <https://uapbalumni.org>. On this site you can explore ways to donate to the Alumni Center Capital Campaign. You can change *US News* ranking of UAPB by donating monthly.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Ashley County Alumni Chapter will host an Alumni Cookout on Saturday, August 25, 2022. This event will take place from 6:00pm to 8:00pm at Pine Street Park, located in Hamburg, AR. Kymara Seals is the Chapter President.

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The Class of 1969 – Platinum Celebration

October 5, 2022 6:30 pm
YaYa's, 17711 Chenal Parkway, Little Rock, AR on Wednesday, October 5 at 6:30 p.m.
For more information, please contact Bettye Avery Fields, Birthday Com-

mittee Chair James Moore, or Birthday Committee Co-chair at Bettyef@hotmail.com or 918-808-0867

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Homecoming Game - October 8, 2022 at 2:00p.m. Opponent - Texas Southern
Congratulations classes of 1942, 1952; 1962, 1972, 1982, 1992, 2002, 2012 and 2022. This year you to reconnect, celebrate and be recognized.

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Homecoming Reunions

Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Inc. reunion for fall line of 1976 - Sophisticated 17. Email Carolyn Hugley at cfhugley113@aol.com for more information.

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Job Vacancies

Looking for a few good people to serve and protect. There is a shortage of police officers nationwide. Visit state and local websites for specific opportunities. Some departments are offering incentives.

Suggested websites:

www.Georgia.gov

www.myflorida.gov

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Please contact Dr. Helen Johnson if you have chapter and/or class announcements you wish to place in the newsletter.

The EDITORIAL

On July 14, 2022, Alumni who pledge Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Inc. through the Alpha Rho Chapter at University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff were in attendance when Vice President Kamala Harris graced the podium to greet 25,000 of her sorority sisters in person and online at the 70th Boule of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Inc. At this historical event, many delegates were present who joined this sisterhood through Alpha Rho Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Inc. Vice President Harris received a standing ovation when she entered and the applause continued for several minutes.

They also cheered as she exclaimed her pride in the appointment of Justice Ketanji Brown Jackson. After 115 justices and over 200 years of the Court's existence, a Black woman has finally been appointed and is now serving on the U.S. Supreme Court. Both Judge Brown and Vice President Harris are an inspiration to Black women in America and all over the world.

Vice President Harris charged us to be vigilant in our efforts this fall as we go to the polls, register others to vote and support our local and national democratic political action committees. She stressed the numerous challenges at stake this fall. As Alumni, we need to be informed of national and local issues and take a stand because our rights are at risk. From bodily autonomy to voting rights, our hard-won freedoms are being struck down at an unprecedented rate.

Women's rights - The Supreme Court's decision in *Dobbs v. Jackson's Women's Health*, announced on June 24th, overturned *Roe v. Wade*. It ended the right of reproductive choice for women. This is especially devastating to the freedom of Black women. Although a woman's



On sofa sitting left to right: Patricia Smith Turner, Dr. Charity Smith Allen, Patricia Richard and Ruby Bridgeforth.

Standing left to right: Antina Mobley and Tangela Dupree, (Tampa Chapter) LaSonya Clary, Mattie Collins, Rayshana Adams, Yamimah Roberts, Cephoni Jackson, Monique Slater (Tampa Chapter) and Rep. Carolyn Hugley.

right to control her own reproduction continues to exist in some state laws, 26 states have already put laws in place to completely end a woman's right to choose.

Social justice- NAACP President Derrick Johnson said in a statement that Jayland Walker's death wasn't self-defense, but "murder. Point blank." "This Black man was killed – struck more than 60 times by 90 fired bullets – for a possible traffic violation. This doesn't happen to white people in America.

Why do police continuously target us like domestic terrorists? We are just trying to live our lives, and we are tired of being hunted like prey," said Johnson, according to *The Guardian*.

As Rep. Carolyn Hugley exclaimed, "The right to vote is our greatest weapon!" We need to use it wisely. We can all do something. Start by contacting your local NAACP or other local organizations. This is a serious matter! We need to be prepared and ready to make are voices heard. Let me hear you roar!

SPORTS

Spotlight

Let's Talk Sports! Let Talk H.O. Clemmons!

COACH H. O. CLEMMONS, ONE OF THE GREATEST IN UAPB HISTORY!

By: Phillip Williams UAPB/AM&N Alumni National Association Board member

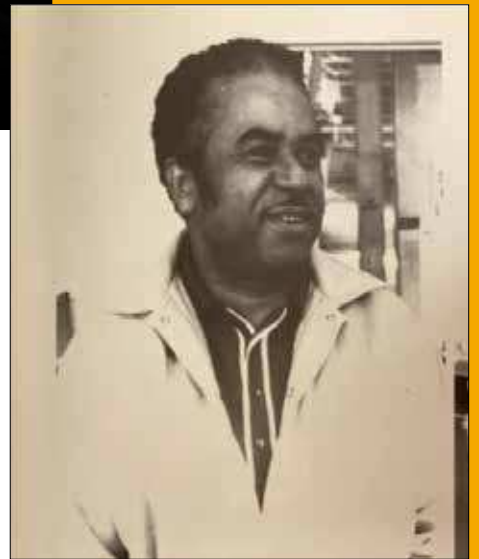
We can't talk about the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff (UAPB) Athletic Department without talking about H.O. Clemmons First! Coach Hubert O. Clemmons served the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff for 56 years in various capacities – Athletic Director, Head Basketball Coach and Assistant Professor in the Department of Health, Physical, Education and Recreation. As Athletic Director, Clemmons played a vital role in UAPB's return to the Southwestern Athletic Conference. He is credited as a pioneer who helped the Golden Lions rejoin the conference in 1997 after a 20-year absence. He is also responsible for reviving the football program (after the NAIA death penalty in 1991) and leading it to unprecedented heights.

Clemmons served as head basketball coach for 20 years (1957 – 1977). He compiled a 296- 217 record which ranked 7th at the time among active NCAA Division II coaches. His most accomplished season was 1967 when he was named NAIA District 30 Coach of the Year after leading UAPB to its only SWAC basketball championship and to the NCAA Division II postseason tournament. That year the Lions posted a 24-7 record led by All American shooting guard James "Mack" Allen and the prolific scoring guard Harold Blevins. Blevins later became the first-ever Golden Lion

basketball player to be drafted with the New York Knicks of the National Basketball Association – selecting him in the second round of the 1965 draft.

Coach Hubert O. Clemmons was a native of Almyra, Arkansas. He received his undergraduate degree from Arkansas AM&N College (now known as UAPB) and his master's degree from Indiana University. Clemmons was inducted into the UAPB Hall of Fame class of 2000.

The arena inside the Health, Physical, Education and Recreation (HPER) Complex is named in his honor. The HPER was built in 1982 and renovated in 2006 naming the arena after Clemmons. The H.O Clemmons Athletic Scholarship was established in his honor.



SPORTS

Spotlight

Team Spirit! And much More!

BETTYE AVERY FIELD | UAPB/AM&N LETTER CHEERLEADER 1965-1969



Almost no one has more team spirit nor has displayed more love for Dear Mother than Bettye Avery Field. Bettye was a Golden Lion Cheerleader from 1965 – 1969 and has continued to demonstrate her school spirit by advocating, donating her time and money to Dear Mother for the last 50 years.

“We must support and nurture our institutions. They will become what we invest in them,” declares Ms. Fields. She recounts very fond memories while on the cheering squad, cheering for the football and basketball teams.

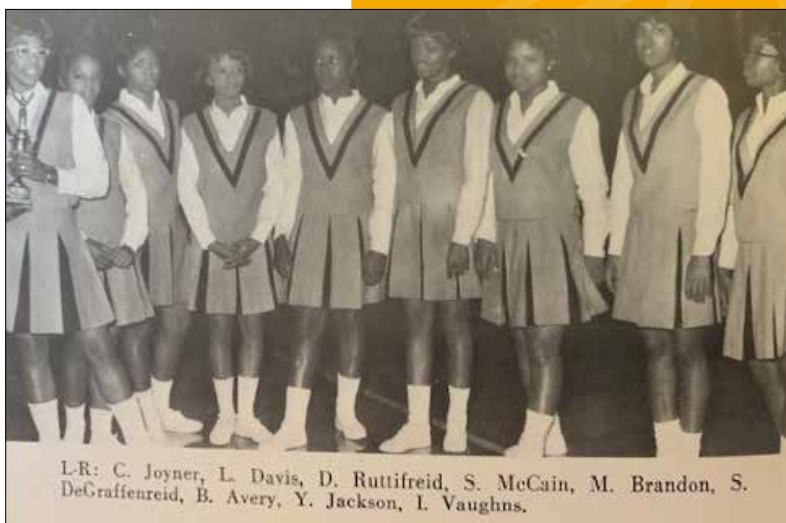
The cheerleader coach and sponsor was Ms. E. Johnson and led by team captain Carolyn Joyner. Some of the fondest memories Bettye recounts were the road trips they would take, traveling to various opponents throughout the Southwestern Athletic Conference (SWAC). Many of these trips were adventurous in the sense that they were taken in a not so reliable mode of transportation – an old bus the squad had nicknamed “putt putt” that would often break down.

Bettye recalls cheering for some very competitive football and basketball teams during her time. The fans and student body would come out in large numbers to support the Golden Lions— filling the bleachers of Hazzard Gymnasium and Pumphrey Stadium (now the Pumphrey Soccer Complex). During certain rivalry games, fans would often show up two hours prior to gametime in order to get their desired seating.

Being a cheerleader on “The Yard” was definitely a fun and exciting time for Bettye as she recounted how the cheerleading squad would gather near the Bell Tower and the fish pond in front of the Student Union to hold pep rallies prior to games. These pep rallies helped to galvanize the student body and fan base making for great turnouts and participation during gametime. “Today we must galvanize the alumni, community and student body to ensure that UAPB/AM&N survives and thrives,” stated Ms. Fields.

Bettye who was also a Freshmen Debutante, lettered as a cheerleader, and she was an Alpha Phi Alpha Sweetheart. Bettye is also a member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. and Phi Delta Kappa Educational organization.

During her junior year, she married Carson Fields. Carson was a member of the UAPB baseball team from 1964-1968, UAPB Vocational Instructor and he served as UAPB golf coach 1972-1978 and 2007-2015. He is a member of Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity.



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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

YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE

The Partner's Program is a creative way for alumni to help raise funds for the Alumni Center while creating credits toward their desired donation amount. When you as a Partner solicits a donation from a fellow alumnus or friend of UAPB/AM&N, you will receive ten percent credit of all funds raised. When you as a Partner recruit other Partners, you will receive five percent credit of all the funds raised by your recruited Partners. For more information, email us at: partnersprogram@uapbalumni.org or call the Alumni Office at 870.536.2309. We need and appreciate your participation.

UAPB/AM&N Alumni Association is a 501(C)(3) charitable Organization. Your contribution is tax-deductible in the year made.

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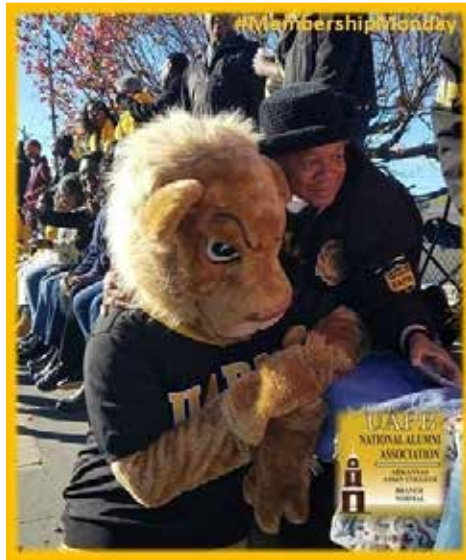
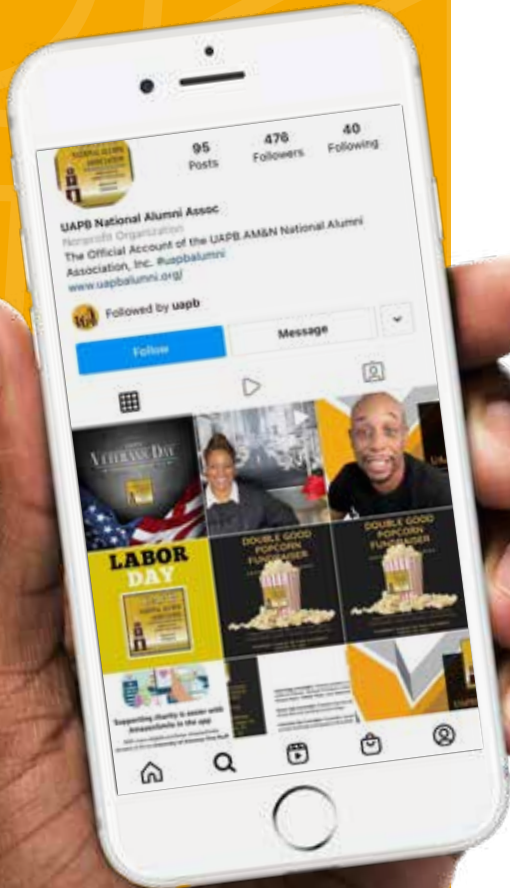
Membership

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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