

THE BULLDOG CONNECTION

Newsletter of the Atlanta Chapter of South Carolina State University National Alumni Association

FALL 2022 ISSUE 7

MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Greeting Bulldogs,
Thanks to our executive board for your commitment to the University and the SCSUNAA Atlanta Chapter. The bar has been raised as we:



- continue to grow chapter membership,
- help to recruit students from the Atlanta area to attend South Carolina State University,
- help to retain students by adopting a pup and supporting him/her while on campus at SC State via phone calls, visits and care packages, and
- support our beloved Alma Mater.

Welcome to all new chapter members! I am grateful to see all the new faces and encourage you to join a committee to provide assistance and support to strengthen our chapter.

For the love of South Carolina State University, continue to be loyal sons and daughters.

- **Let's stay informed.** Attend monthly chapter meetings and alumni events.
- **Our thoughts should be optimistic for our future** – growth in chapter membership, scholarship funds, enrollment and our University overall.
- **You are the best publicist for our University.** Spread the word; share your experiences about SC State with parents, prospective students, family, and friends.
- **Always wear SC State apparel** when and wherever you can!
- **Let's stay involved.** Join a committee and be an active participant.

Let us continue to work collaboratively and show our loyalty as we rally to her call.

With Bulldog Tenacity,

Sandra Mack, '91

2022 – 2024 Chapter President Atlanta Alumni Chapter, scsuatlpres@gmail.com

BULLDOG FAVORITE GAME

The best game by far was this past December in Atlanta at the Mercedes-Benz Stadium, for the Cricket MEAC/SWAC Celebration Bowl. Jackson State Tigers were perceived to be winners before the game started. They (Tiger Fans) did not know about the SCSU Bulldog pedigree or of the SCSU Bulldog Tenacity.

The game started out slow, with Jackson State getting the first touchdown. The Sonic Boom was booming taking up a whole section of the stadium. I could barely hear my beloved Marching 101 just 1/3 the size of their opponent. After the first quarter, I could feel that Bulldog Tenacity in the air. The Bulldogs were getting 3 and out on defense and having great drives on offense. Around the same time, the great food and libations were in full effect.

After half time, the Bulldogs and the 101 had gotten ALL of that Tenacity off of them and put it inside of them where it belonged. I saw some oozing on the Tigers as the Bulldogs went on to win 31 to 10.

On that day, 12-18-2021 they (Tiger Fans) learned about the SCSU Bulldog pedigree and SCSU Bulldog Tenacity.

GO BULLDOGS!

Article submitted by: Gregory Williams



HOMECOMING 2022

Generations of alumni made the trip to Orangeburg, SC for the 2022 Homecoming weekend. This year's celebration was the first to be largely unaffected by the COVID-19 pandemic in the last few years.



The homecoming parade returned this year, making it the first one since the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic. The Atlanta Alumni Chapter of SCSU registered a float for the parade. Our chapter's queen, Carla Hawkins (Class of 1985) and our Executive Board Officers greeted the parade audience. The parade festivities began at 9 a.m. at the Edisto Memorial Gardens, traveling through several streets, eventually making it onto campus along Geathers Street.

The Atlanta Alumni Chapter of SCSU hosted its annual homecoming tailgate experience from 12-6 p.m. for alumni, friends, and current Atlanta area students. The tailgate was catered by Loads of Flavour.

We played University of Virginia Lynchburg and game time kicked off at 1:30 p.m. It was a Bulldog winning game; we won our homecoming game with a score of 36-0.

Homecoming 2022 was an opportunity to celebrate everything about South Carolina State University. Whether this was a time for reflection of college days past, or a celebration of all the exciting updates and changes yet to come, it was a great weekend for everyone who returned to "Bulldog Land."

Article submitted by: Jennifer Ryder, Homecoming Committee Chair



ELECTION DAY IS TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 8TH



I'm sure you are all aware that Election Day is Tuesday, November 8th. Here is the list of statewide races that will be on the ballot:

- US Senate
- Governor
- Lt. Governor
- Secretary of State
- Attorney General
- Commissioner of Agriculture
- Commissioner of Insurance
- State School Superintendent
- Commissioner of Labor

Additionally, there are four ballot questions this year; depending on where you live, there may be local races and ballot questions on your ballot.

If you need to register to vote, please go to <https://registertovote.sos.ga.gov/GAOLVR/welcome.do#no-back-button>. I also encourage you to confirm you are currently registered, as I do before every election. It only takes a minute to check, and if something has happened, you can register or correct any information (i.e., moved, name change) before the registration deadline.

You can also find a sample ballot specific to you on this website. It's very helpful to at least look it over before you vote whether in person or by mail. Or you can be a voting geek like me, print it out, mark it up, and take it with you to vote. That time spent at home saves a lot of time at the polling place.

You can request a ballot be mailed to you until October 28th, but it must be received by the election's office in your county by Election Day, November 8th. The website (<https://mvp.sos.ga.gov/s/>) also includes the locations of the ballot drop boxes in your county if you prefer to drop it off. You can even track your ballot this way by clicking on the QR code before you put it in the drop box.

Early Voting begins Monday, October 17th, with weekend voting October 22-23 and October 28-29 – but the days and times vary by county. If you vote early, you can vote at any of the early voting places in your county, and you can find the locations and hours of operation on the website <https://mvp.sos.ga.gov/s/>.

If you wait to vote on Election Day, November 8th, you MUST vote at your polling precinct which is on your voter registration card/page.

Please share this information with your family and friends. Encourage them to vote.

Article submitted by: Michael Patterson

OCTOBER IS MENTAL HEALTH MONTH



October is depression and mental health month and brings awareness to the need for mental health screenings that are accessible and affordable. Mental health comes from different factors that can include a mix of environmental, genetic, psychological, and biological /biochemical components. Everyone does not experience depression the same way but it can affect anyone at any time. It's important for individuals to seek professional help or utilize screening tools. Depression is a highly treatable condition with many different options available. A professional should be consulted to help determine the best course of action for each individual that is suffering from it (American Behavioral Clinic, 2022). For more information about mental health, please click on the link below.

<https://mhanational.org/issues/state-mental-health-america>

Article submitted by Dr. Pia Scott, Marketing & Communication Committee

OCTOBER IS NATIONAL BREAST CANCER AWARENESS MONTH

October is National Breast Cancer Awareness Month. This nationally recognized event aims to increase early detection and encourages women to get mammograms. Each year in the United States, about 264,000 cases of breast cancer are diagnosed in women and about 2,400 in men. About 42,000 women and 500 men in the U.S. die each year from breast cancer. Black women have a higher rate of death from breast cancer than White women.



So What is Breast Cancer?

Cancer is a disease in which cells in the body grow out of control. Breast cancer is the most common cancer in women in the United States. Deaths from breast cancer have declined over time, but breast cancer remains the second leading cause of cancer death among women overall (CDC, 2022).

Please support your local events and organizations recognizing Breast Cancer and get tested. Here are some events taking place in Metro Atlanta and surrounding areas: [Making Strides of Atlanta](#), [More Than Pink Walk](#)

For more information about Breast Cancer, please click below https://www.cdc.gov/cancer/breast/basic_info/index.htm

Article submitted by Dr. Pia Scott,
Marketing & Communication Committee

HBCU NIGHT AT THE ATLANTA BRAVES GAME

August 19, 2022 was a day to remember celebrating with President and Mrs. Alexander Conyers. It began with a scholarship luncheon in collaboration with SC State University Admissions and the SCSUNAA Atlanta Chapter at Stoney River. Eight students received scholarships to attend SC State University. They represented Mt. Zion High School, Maynard Jackson HS, Drew HS, and Southwest DeKalb HS - four full scholarships and four partial scholarships to the Emily Clyburn Honors College. A Meet and Greet was held for our first family at the Sheraton Galleria where Atlanta alumni chapter members came to fellowship, ask questions, and get to know members of the Admissions and Enrollment team. The day concluded with HBCU Night at the Atlanta Braves game. It was a great day to be a BULLDOG!



Article submitted by Sandra Mack



CHAPLIN'S CORNER

Run YOUR Race (Hebrews 12:1-2) – Rev. Raushanah N. Butler, MBA, MDiv

My SCSU Atlanta Chapter Alumni family, here we are, in the 4th quarter of the year, and in a moment of transparency, I must admit that personally, it has been a struggle. I'm sure many of you share the same sentiment. We work 40+ hours a week, serve in our communities, present as parents and/or spouses, and still attempt a social life. Yes, it's been a struggle. When October 1st hit, there were numerous posts all over social media reminding us that we have 3 months left and to finish strong. But as I stated, it has personally been a struggle and finishing strong hasn't been at the forefront of my mind...I just want to finish. There is a level of satisfaction in doing things at our pace, however, sometimes we can carry so much stuff (like comparison, depression, anxiety, grief, and exhaustion) that trying to get to the finish line is the goal beyond anything else. So, allow me to encourage you with 3 things to hold on to as you finish: 1) lose weight – sometimes the weight we need to lose isn't on our body, 2) don't trip – get rid of distractions knowing that we got this because God's got us, and 3) stay in your lane – we're all on the same team, but running a different race.

Stand firm on your faith; remembering to run YOUR race and you will finish exactly how and when you're supposed to. Now, may the Lord bless you and keep you; may the Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious to you; and may the Lord turn His face toward you and give you His peace and strength to run your race. Now and forevermore, amen.



I WILL LEAD THE CHARGE

On Saturday, October 1, 2022, Colonel Alexander Conyers was inaugurated as the 13th President of South Carolina State University. The delayed event was held at the



Smith- Hammond-Middleton Memorial Center. After his inauguration, Dr. Leroy Davis, 8th President of SCSU, presented the university's medallion to President Conyers.

In his inauguration speech, President Conyers gave the following as some of his goals: increasing enrollment, advocating for social justice, and bolstering academic programs to meet workforce needs. He said, "I will lead the charge." He issued a special thank you to students at the university, "For the opportunity to allow me to work with you." The president said he took his often-touted them, "You can go anywhere from here," personally, particularly since he was a first-generation college student who went on to succeed in the military and beyond.

He also urged stakeholders to realize the importance of sustained giving to the university and making an increased commitment to its success a priority. These stakeholders include faculty, staff, alumna and the state's General Assembly.

The mayor of Orangeburg, Michael Butler, presented the president with a proclamation declaring October 1, 2022 "Colonel Alexander Conyers Day" in the City of Orangeburg. Other notables in attendance were Claflin University President, Dr. Dwaun J. Warmack, Manning, SC Mayor Julia Nelson, and Orangeburg County Chairman Johnnie Wright, Sr.

Article submitted by Dr. Wayne Blake, Public Affairs Committee

SCSU AND CLEMSON UNIVERSITY PURSUING "THE FUTURE OF AGRICULTURE"

Local farmers could receive federal money to implement "climate smart" production practices through a \$70 million grant provided to South Carolina State University and Clemson University. The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Partnerships for Climate Smart Commodities grant will provide \$22 million to SCSU and \$48 million to Clemson.

The funding will allow SCSU to train our agriculture scholars and our agribusiness students with real applications to meet the changing demands of the industry. The five-year project will provide technical and financial support to peanut, vegetable, beef cattle and forestry farmers.

The grant has been touted by officials as the largest single award from a federal agency in the history of both universities. It is one of only three projects awarded over \$70 million and one of only two projects dedicated a single state.

Article submitted by Dr. Wayne Blake, Public Affairs Committee

SCSUNAA ATLANTA ADOPT A PUP PROGRAM

We would like for you to participate in the SCSUNAA Atlanta Chapter Adopt A Pup Program! The purpose of "adopting" a college freshman is to help the student to stay focused on their educational goals and build lifelong love for SCSU, ultimately assisting in lifting the load. You can help students through the transitions of college and provide support by "adopting" a bulldog pup for the year.



"Adopted" students will receive cards and packages from their adopted families several times a semester as well as encouragement throughout the year. You are free to send gifts and/or encouragement as you wish. At the end of each semester, adoptive families will send care packages for all the Atlanta Pups via Amazon as one more reminder of how much the Atlanta Bulldogs care!

To participate, students and adoptive parents must post a few pictures of themselves and the student. Once your college student has been adopted, we will update your status to adopted. Atlanta Bulldog "adopted" parents and/or students are asked to share their gifts and/or encouragement with the chapter.

Bulldogs, thank you for your participation! Please contact Tonya Bloodworth @770-712-9160, tonyabloodworth1970@icloud.com or Jane Williams @404-291-7038, jwilli18@comcast.net if there are any questions.

On the photo above, Sandra Mack is with her pups Tugari Meggett and Mekhi Parson at homecoming. Also included in the picture is Makayla Walker.

Article submitted by: Tonya Bloodworth & Jane Williams
Metropolitan Atlanta Scholarship and Recruitment Committee

RENEW OR BECOME A FINANCIALLY ACTIVE MEMBER

Thank you for your valuable contributions and involvement with South Carolina State University, and more specifically, your local Atlanta alumni chapter. Your efforts allow us to serve the Metro Atlanta area by helping market the University to local students. Additionally, we are able to provide scholarships and participate in college fairs with the help from your donations, membership renewals and other contributions. So, if you have not done so, please renew or become a financially active member of the South Carolina State Atlanta Alumni Chapter by visiting the chapter's website (scsuatlbulldogs.org). For those that have already activated your membership, we thank you. The chapter's fiscal year is the beginning of July until the end of June. We are looking forward to utilizing your talents to move the chapter forward.

Article submitted by: Elgin Mazone, Membership Chair

NEWLY SCSUNAA LIFE MEMBERS

Congratulations to our six new SCSUNAA Life Members:
Gregg Middleton, Lisa Harvey-Mosby, Robbi Nikkole Brown,
Windy Keller Nicholson, Wesley J. Gilliard, and Darrel B. Chaneyfield.

HOT CHOCOLATE RUN

The Alumni Programming Committee is looking for individuals who would like to participate in the 2023 Hot Chocolate Run 15k/5k. We need at least 15 people to form a group and to represent the chapter. Groups who participate in the Hot Chocolate Run can sign up at a discounted rate and will receive very nice swag bags. The race will take place at the Georgia World Congress Center and Centennial Olympic Park in Atlanta on Sunday, January 29th at 7:30am. If you are interested in joining the group, please email Alumni Programming Chair, Taylor Harrison at taylor.b.harrison@hotmail.com. In the subject line, please put "Alumni Programming - Hot Chocolate Run". You have until November 11th to sign up with the group.
Article submitted by: Taylor Harrison, Alumni Programming Chair



MONTHLY VIRTUAL MEETINGS

Monthly chapter meetings are held the 2nd Saturday of each month; otherwise a notice will be sent. Meeting notifications are sent via email or Calling Post.

Address: SCSUNAA, INC. – Atlanta Chapter

Post Office Box 310774, Atlanta, Georgia 30331-0774

Voice Mail: (404) 622-SCSU (7278) Text @scstate to 81010

Dues: <https://scsuatlbulldogs.org/all-about-dues>

LinkedIn: www.linkedin.com/company/scsu-atlanta-alumni-chapter/

E-mail address: alumni@scsuatlbulldogs.org

Website: www.scsuatlbulldogs.org

Twitter: @SCSUATLALUMNI

SCSUNAA website: scsunaa.org

THE BULLDOG CONNECTION

Sponsored by: Marketing & Communications Committee
(Raushanah Butler, Brenda Holmes, Matthew Mitchell, Pia Scott, Faye Brown-Stone, and Greg Williams).

The newsletter is targeted to be released each season. If you would like to submit a poem, quote, etc., Email Pia Scott (drpscott2016@gmail.com) or Brenda Holmes (holmesrbh@bellsouth.net).



EVENTS TO REMEMBER

NOVEMBER

Veterans Day (originally known as Armistice Day) is a federal holiday in the United States observed annually on NOVEMBER 11 for honoring military veterans, who have served in the United States Armed Forces. Happy Veterans Day to our Alumni members who proudly served in the United States Military!

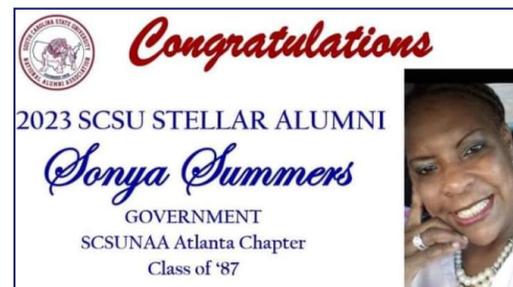
Thanksgiving is a national holiday that is celebrated on the fourth Thursday of November. Thanksgiving Day is a day for people to give thanks for what they have. Families and friends get together for a meal, which traditionally includes a roast turkey, stuffing, potatoes, vegetables, cranberry sauce, gravy, and pumpkin pie. During Thanksgiving let's pause to count our blessings in knowing how thankful GOD has been to us.

DECEMBER

Christmas is a Christian holiday to celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ, and is a legal holiday and, for many, an occasion for exchanging gifts.

Kwanzaa, annual holiday affirming African family and social values that is celebrated primarily in the United States from December 26 to January 1. Each of the days of the celebration is dedicated to one of the seven principles of Kwanzaa: unity (*umoja*), self-determination (*kujichagulia*), collective responsibility (*ujima*), cooperative economics (*ujamaa*), purpose (*nia*), creativity (*kuumba*), and faith (*imani*).

JANUARY, It's a new year, 2023! Out with the old, in with the new! May the new year bring you peace, joy, and happiness.



Sonya currently serves on the Atlanta Chapter of SCSUNAA HBCU Alliance and MEAC Committee.

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<https://www.linkedin.com/company/scsu-atlanta-alumni-chapter/>

SC State University Website:
<http://www.scsu.edu/>

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