

THE BULLDOG CONNECTION

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

SPRING 2021

MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Greetings Bulldogs,

I am extremely proud of the dedication and hard work that happens within our chapter. We are blessed to have devoted committee members that make things happen monthly; your hard work does not go unnoticed.

We are incredibly grateful to have some of the most committed Bulldogs who are willing to put in the work to ensure that our chapter remains as one of the premier chapters in the association. I encourage those who have not signed up with a committee, to please consider lending your talents to help us take this chapter to the next level. We have experienced a tremendous amount of growth resulting in the largest number of members in the history of the chapter; thanks to each of you.

Our fundraising efforts continue to allow us to support the needs of students, the National Alumni Association, and the University. Thanks for your recent donations that allowed us to support the needs of student athletes. We are closing out the fiscal year on a high note as we prepare to soar to greater heights in the new year. We will start the new fiscal year in July, and I encourage each of you to please start paying your chapter dues. In addition, invite other bulldogs to do the same.

As you chart your course of engagement, start with these simple activities that inspire your pride and build our chapter:

- **Wear It Out!** – Proudly show off our SC State apparel wherever you are!
- **Bark It Up!** – Share your SC State experience with prospective students, parents, and fellow alums! Become a SCSU Alumni Ambassador!
- **Explore It All!** – Attend alumni events and monthly chapter meetings to stay informed!
- **Get Involved!** – Volunteer your time and expertise. Join one of our many committees that are working hard to support the chapter!

Bulldogs, again thanks for your loyalty to the chapter, the National Alumni Association, and our beloved University. I look forward to the day when we are able to gather and fellowship in person. Let's continue to remember our bulldog families who have lost loved ones and need our prayers and support.

With Bulldog Tenacity,

Michael A. Patterson, '82

Chapter President Atlanta Alumni Chapter
mapque84@bellsouth.net



GOLDEN BULLDOG

Helen A Corbett-Brandyburg

helencorbettb@yahoo.com

Helen holds a Bachelor's Degree, 1974 and Masters Degree, 1975 in Mathematics and Mathematics Education from SCSU. She retired from AT&T with 43 years of service in 2020 and is elated that AT&T matched her financial gifts to SCSU.

Helen is serious about SCSU football; she was named Bulldog Fan of the Year in 2009, Number One Fan in 2010 and was featured in the Stella Alumni Calendar 2012. She is one of the first 10 to become a Life Member of SCSU National Alumni Association.

Helen has worked with the Atlanta Chapter for over 37 years and currently serves on the Membership Committee. She has spoken to Dekalb Schools on behalf of SCSU at Career Days encouraging students to attend college, specifically SCSU; she has completed the requirements to serve as an Admissions Volunteer in recruiting students. Helen attended functions and meetings sponsored by the chapter such as monthly chapter meetings, church gatherings, Bulldog round-ups, picnics, and Golden Bulldog luncheons. Helen has been a significant financial contributor, (currently a Platinum Level contributor toward becoming a member of the Miller Society) since graduating from SCSU.

Helen is a past President of the Columbia, SC chapter and served on several committees.

Helen believes in giving back. She is a member of St. Philip AME Church where she serves on the Stewardess Board (Chaplin), the Wedding Guild, Chancellor Choir and is Secretary of Baptisms. Helen served as President, Treasurer, Secretary of PTAs, and Recreational Sports when her son participated.

Helen was initiated into the Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Inc. Alpha Xi Chapter at South Carolina State University, April 12, 1972. She is a Golden Life Member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Inc., Decatur Alumnae Chapter and has been active and financial since becoming a Delta. She has served as Financial Secretary for two terms, Sergeant at Arms and Member of Membership, Fundraising and Social Action Committees. She served as Treasurer for the Delta Life Development Center.

Helen is the proud mother of a son, Coby who is Assistant Principal, Athletic Director and head Basketball Coach for Allendale/Fairfax, SC High School. Her son is an Inaugural member of the SCSU "40 under 40." She and her wonderful husband, Bernard, spent many "vacations" attending the entire season of SCSU football making financial contributions by way of the STATE CLUB at the Presidential Level.

While serving these capacities Helen has worn her Bulldog gear with pride and has served her alma mater extremely well, locally and nationally. We are honored to recognize Helen as the Atlanta Chapter 2021 SCSUNAA Golden Bulldog.



BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT

Legacy Credentialing Solutions, LLC is owned by **Carla D. Hawkins and Henry Brown.**

They have combined their years of healthcare practice management and revenue management experience, to create a comprehensive healthcare credentialing firm. Carla initially started the business in the Metro Atlanta area in 2010 assisting individual behavioral health providers navigate the practice start up and credentialing process. Legacy Credentialing Solutions, LLC has expanded its service delivery area to Ohio, Louisiana, and Maryland, providing credentialing and re-credentialing management services to behavioral health and medical solo provider and group practices.

Carla D. Hawkins, LPC, NCC is an experienced psychotherapist, consultant and trainer. Carla is a 1985 graduate of South Carolina State University and a 1996 graduate of Clark Atlanta University, hailing from Florence, SC. Carla has worked in the behavioral health field for more than 20 years. She is a firm believer that with healthier tools and skills, individuals are empowered to experience life more positively. Having owned her private counseling practice for over 15 years, Carla has become highly knowledgeable and skilled in the area of credentialing and practice management.

Henry Brown is a 1989 graduate of South Carolina State University, hailing from Charleston, SC by way of Summerville, SC. Henry is a prior military combat Engineer Officer who utilized his talents and experiences from the military to build upon over 20 years of experience in finance and business development. As well as establishing a career as a Senior Account Executive who manages various client's accounts that includes his client's financial, expenditures, and to improve his client(s) business's profits.

In 2020, Carla saw an optimal opportunity to team up with good friend and fellow SCSU Bulldog, Henry Brown to create a company owned by a healthcare professional to assist healthcare providers with their credentialing and practice setup needs. Carla and Henry made it their goal to build a credentialing firm grounded in trustworthiness, reliability, proficiency, and commitment.

It is no secret that for healthcare providers, the credentialing process is a tedious and stressful process. They are skilled to navigate from the onset of the credentialing phase to the contracting phase. Legacy Credentialing Solutions LLC has the experience and inroads to take on healthcare providers and group practices credentialing and re-credentialing needs allowing them to reduce the time, cost, and headache of managing it in house. Thus, allowing them to focus on the growth and profitability of their company(s).

Legacy Credentialing Solutions LLC will ensure that your office obtains accurate and timely credentialing when you allow:

- Our team of professionals to handle every detail for you.
- To complete and track all applications submitted.
- To ensure complete confidentiality, accuracy, and security.
- Provide you with regular status reports on progress until the completion of the process.

<https://www.legacysolutions.com/>



HAPPY JUNETEENTH!

Juneteenth is the oldest nationally celebrated commemoration of the ending of slavery in the United States. Dating back to 1865, it was on June

19th that the Union soldiers, led by Major General Gordon Granger, landed at Galveston, Texas with news that the war had ended and that the enslaved were now free. Note that this was two and a half years after President Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation - which had become official January 1, 1863. The Emancipation Proclamation had little impact on the Texans due to the minimal number of Union troops to enforce the new Executive Order. However, with the surrender of General Lee in April of 1865, and the arrival of General Granger's regiment, the forces were finally strong enough to influence and overcome the resistance.

Later attempts to explain this two and a half year delay in the receipt of this important news have yielded several versions that have been handed down through the years. Often told is the story of a messenger who was murdered on his way to Texas with the news of freedom. Another is that the news was deliberately withheld by the enslavers to maintain the labor force on the plantations. And still another is that federal troops actually waited for the slave owners to reap the benefits of one last cotton harvest before going to Texas to enforce the Emancipation Proclamation. All of which, or none of these versions could be true. Certainly, for some, President Lincoln's authority over the rebellious states was in question. Whatever the reasons, conditions in Texas remained status quo well beyond what was statutory.

On June 19, 1866, the first official Juneteenth celebrations took place in Texas. The original observances included prayer meetings and the singing of spirituals, and celebrants wore new clothes as a way of representing their newfound freedom. Within a few years, African Americans in other states were celebrating the day as well, making it an annual tradition. Celebrations have continued across the United States into the 21st century and typically include prayer and religious services, speeches, educational events, family gatherings and picnics, and festivals with music, food, and dancing.



SCSUNAA VIRTUAL CONVENTION 2021

**"Standing Strong, Standing Proud, Standing On!
We Are SC STATE!"**

July 23-25, 2021

Convention Registration Link:

<https://scsunaa2021convention.eventbrite.com>

Closes July 9, 2021

Registration: \$50

Individual sponsorship: Bulldog level \$100

Sponsorship will provide financial assistance and scholarships for students.

MOTHER'S DAY AND FATHER'S DAY

Mother's Day and Father's Day are annual observances saluting the contributions of our parents. Mother's Day was celebrated on May 9, 2021 and Father's Day will be celebrated on June 20, 2021. Mothers and fathers sacrifice so much to give us the things they never had. We must give our parents their flowers while they are alive. For those who have lost their parents, know that they are always watching over you.
-Pia Scott

"Honor your father and your mother, so that you may live long in the land the Lord your God is giving you." – Exodus 20:12

WHAT IS A MOTHER?

MERCIFUL
LOVING
TRUTHFUL
THOUGHTFUL
BLESSED
FRIEND

WHAT IS A FATHER?

FAITHFUL
AVAILABLE
TEACHABLE
HONESTY
EXAMPLE
RELIABLE

SC STATE "40 UNDER 40" CLASS OF 2020

SC State "40 Under 40" Class of 2020 Virtual Premiere celebrated the Honorees on April 27, 2021 at 8 p.m. via SCSUs National Alumni Association Facebook Page. <https://www.facebook.com/scsunationalalumni>

This annual event brought together the inaugural class of honorees with colleagues, clients, family and friends. The event celebrated achievements and recognized the top young talent within our Alma Mater. Please post to your various social media platforms and tag @SCState1896 #SCSU40Under40.

Congratulations again to our SCSU "40 under 40" honorees: Coby D. Brandyburg, Dr. LaTeshia C. McFadden, Tyler Moore, and Dr. Pia L. Scott.

BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT

ELLAWAY D. AMIKER III, Executive Director of Melwood Cemetery

Upon graduating from South Carolina State University, within six months, my curiosity led me to the most unlikely career as a cemeterian. In this position, I have been able to consult people when they were at their lowest point in life. In this occupation, I have been able to bury some of Atlanta's most rich and famous and some of the most common people in Atlanta. This industry has remained inflation proof regardless of what the economy was doing.

After selling Kennedy Memorial Gardens and Melwood Cemetery on the same day to the Lowen Group out of Canada in 1998, then fast forward some years later, I was asked to come and take the helm of Melwood Cemetery located in Stone Mountain GA. As the Executive Director, I was able to bring on board Alumna Denise Cunningham Major, who had shown such compassion to the families we are privileged to serve. At Melwood, Denise, has been able to enhance relationships with funeral homes and churches throughout the surrounding areas.

Often times, the deaths that we view in the news on television are the same families that would show up at our doors within days. We do all we can to create memorable outcomes for families in a most personalized way. This is quite a lucrative business; however, the true measure of satisfaction comes when the family returns to the cemetery and state how pleased they were with the service rendered to them at their time of need.

Having spent some 40 years in the business, I was named the first black president of the Georgia Cemetery Association in its history. Also, later I became the first black president for all the 16 Southern states, better referred to as the Southern Cemetery Cremation Funeral Association which is a cemetery association that's been in existence for 79 years. For all that I've been able to achieve, I am compelled to give back and leave a legacy that brings on a new generation at Melwood. We can be reached by simply calling 404-435-3261, my cell or the office at 404-299-3966. Free consultations are available upon request. I always quote, *"In this life, it's better to have it and not need it, than needed and not have it."*

TIFFANY JENNINGS 2021 SCSU GRADUATE

Tiffany Arianna Jennings graduated from S.C. State University, with a Bachelor of Science degree in Family Consumer Science—Fashion Merchandising; Tiffany matriculated with Honors, Cum Laude. Tiffany was an incredibly involved student at SCSU, both academically and socially. Being exposed to the fellowship of the Atlanta Alumni Chapter helped cultivate her desire for a post-secondary education, specifically Bulldog Land. Tiffany's academic excellence afforded her the prominence as the 2016 Warren-Reese Scholarship recipient, the Silver Presidential award, the Bronze Presidential award, a National Alumni Association scholarship recipient, and an Achievers Scholarship through the Dr. Emily England Clyburn Honors College.

Some of Tiffany's social activities at SCSU included Student Ambassador of the American Association of Family and Consumer Sciences, Treasurer and President of the Fashion Merchandising Association, Executive Team of Men Against Cancer (MAC), a member of Social Graces, and member of the Marching 101 Band as a Champagne dancer. She also had the opportunity to participate in a Cultural Immersion Study Program in Athens, Greece and an Internship with TJMaxx Corporation.

Tiffany always considered herself a well-rounded individual. However, being a student at S.C. State, has exposed her to more organizations and opportunities that she is proud to have participated in. Per Tiffany, *"Exposure to various environments is essential to being successful at SCSU"*. She summarizes her favorite scripture, Jeremiah 29:11, *"For I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans to prosper and not to harm, plans to give you a future"* and sustaining support from her mother, Alumnus, Erika Jennings ('95), as her driving force. As a career, Tiffany would like to become a Fashion Buyer and Fashion Photographer. She plans to achieve this career through graduate study.



COMMITTEE UPDATES:

ALUMNI PROGRAMMING (Robbi Brown - robbinikole@yahoo.com)

The Programming and Planning Committee hosted the Golden Bulldog luncheon on April 24th, via Zoom. This year, we honored the Class of 1981. The luncheon was open to all and approximately 32 Alums were in attendance. Everyone had an enjoyable time reconnecting, sharing memories, and participating in games. Thanks to Alums and friends who attended the luncheon. Special thanks to the Programming and Planning Committee who planned the event.

Congratulations to the Class of 1981 in becoming a Golden Bulldog! *Francina Amiker, Gregory Bostic, Brenda Mitchell Holmes, Wendell Marshall, Trainel C. Myers, Jeffery Myers, Evetta Brown Washington, Jaiyla Wheeler, Mario White, and Dr. Pearlene M. Williams*

ATLANTA METROPOLITAN SCHOLARSHIP (Jane Williams jwilli18@comcast.net)

Spring 2021 has been a busy time for the Scholarship Committee. An announcement of the 2021 Warren-Reese Scholarship recipient is forthcoming.

We stay in touch with our Chapter's past scholarship recipients. We currently have Jonah Griffin, Terry Grier, and DeMarco Poole who are excelling. We additionally highlight Carena Point-Kelly and Zikia Walker who remain Presidential Scholars. These students have been the beneficiaries of alumni giving and significant financial resources supported by the Atlanta Alumni Chapter.

Please notify the chapter of any college fairs or recruitment opportunities at Alumni@scsuatlbulldogs.org.

MARKETING & COMMUNICATIONS (Pia Scott - drpscott2016@gmail.com)

The Marketing & Communications Committee continually shares the organization's successes, promote social advocacy, share what's going on at the university and in the community. We highlight the great things alum are doing and seek additional information that SC State Alum need to know.

MEMBERSHIP SERVICES (Hiram Lagroon - hsl58@yahoo.com)

Our Membership Theme for FY22 is: **RECONNECT, REUNITE, RECOMMIT AND REJOIN 2022!**

The Membership Services Committee and Alumni Programming Committee are planning the in-person FY22 **Annual Bulldog Membership Round-Up** for July 10, 2021. The Round-Up is held annually so members can pay dues and see alumni members. The Round-Up will be held at Blackburn Park, 3493 Ashford Dunwoody Road, Brookhaven, GA 30319 from 2-6 pm. The committee will be having prepackaged food boxes prepared so individuals planning to attend please RSVP on Constant Contact. The link will be forthcoming via Constant Contact and will be included in the event flyer. The event will cost \$10 for non-alumni and additional guests. In keeping with social distancing, it is strongly suggested that dues be paid before the event. Payments will be taken on-line by credit card, Cash App* or PayPal at <https://scsuatlbulldogs.org/membership>. Fees will apply to electronic payments. Checks or money orders can be mailed to SCSUNAA, INC. Atlanta Chapter, Post Office Box 310774, Atlanta, Georgia 30331-0774. Annual dues are \$65 and National Life Membership can also be paid.

We had a very successful financial membership year for FY21 with 224 financial members. Kudos to all financial members! **Let's repeat our efforts for FY22.** Our fiscal year runs from July 1st-June 30th.

Job Networking Subcommittee: Please provide job opportunities at your place of work, for posting on the chapter's website <https://scsuatlbulldogs.org/jobs-network>. Elgin Mazone and Angela Jones are spearheading this effort.

Courtesy and Welfare Subcommittee: Please provide your birthday and anniversary to Rosa Hall rhall910@icloud.com.

The SCSU Atlanta Alumni Needs YOU! Please become an active and financial member. WE look forward to your membership.

TECHNOLOGY (Angela Jones - ajonesscsualum@gmail.com)

Callings on committed and enthusiastic Bulldogs to join our committee. Please note technical and/or website experience is helpful but not necessary. Contact committee chairperson Angela Jones to sign-up today.

WAYS AND MEANS (Carla Hawkins - jbhawk1005@gmail.com)

The goal of the Ways and Means Committee is to raise financial resources by planning and executing an annual giving campaign and other activities/events for the Atlanta Chapter of the SCSUNAA.

Use of Funds: Support chapter operations, Warren Reese Scholarship fund, University Scholarship Gala, provide financial assistance to Atlanta students.

A. "Giving Tuesday" Campaign

The goal for fiscal year July 1, 2021 - June 30, 2022 is \$1,000 monthly. Previously, an average of 13 alumni give on a monthly basis. A commitment is needed from 20 additional alumni in order to meet the new monthly goal. The funds are used to support the financial needs of metro Atlanta students who attend SCSU.

Please consider recurring monthly payment/giving. Auto draft, credit/debit card, PayPal, and mailed payments are accepted. However, the "preferred" method is recurring – auto draft.

B. Bulldog Relief Fund - SCSU Athletics

A call was made for alumni support of this campaign. We rallied to her call and met the goal of \$25,000!! The Bulldog Relief Fund check was received, by Athletics, in the amount of \$20,401.42.

The additional \$4598.58 came from: season tickets purchased and STATE Club Membership (tickets and parking).

A **BIG** Bulldog thank you to all the contributors of the Bulldog Relief Fund! Click to view Donors: <https://scsuatlbulldogs.org/bulldog-relief-fund>.

2022 STELLAR ALUMNI CALENDAR

SCSUNAA is excited to begin working on the 2022 Stellar Alumni Calendar. Again, they will honor twelve (12) alumni representing twelve categories; The Arts, Athletics, Business, Community Service, Education, Government, Engineering, Law, Military, Medicine, Religion and Science/Technology.

The qualifications are: must be a member of the National Alumni Association (life, regular, at/large) and submit the appropriate paperwork. The complete packet must be **POSTMARKED BY JUNE 15, 2021**. Winners will be announced at the annual meeting, SCSUNAA conference in July.

If you are interested and meet the qualifications for submission, you can email Michael Patterson mapque84@bellsouth.net. The date of the unveiling of the calendar will be announced later.

CONGRATULATIONS! RAUSHANAH N. BUTLER ('99)

(Raushanah currently serves on the Marketing and Communications Committee)

Raushanah was ordained as an Itinerant Elder in the African Methodist Episcopal (AME) Church on May 5, 2021.

She graduated with a Master of Divinity degree from Columbia Theological Seminary on May 22, 2021.



"It has taken me 3 times longer than most to complete this degree, but I just wanted to remind someone that speed doesn't matter, forward is forward. Cry, kick, and scream if you have to, but it is certainly never too late to finish what you start. So, it is with confidence that I can say that God can turn every mess into a message, every obstacle into an opportunity, every stumbling block into a stepping stone, and every test into a testimony...God is the plug, I brag different."

ATLHBCU ALUMNI ALLIANCE 5K VIRTUAL RACE

Click to register: [Registration](#) is Open Until JULY 2, 2021

RACE WEEK KICK OFF - FRIDAY JUNE 25, 2021

END OF RACE WEEK "COOL DOWN" FRIDAY, JULY 2, 2021

MONTHLY VIRTUAL MEETINGS

Monthly chapter meetings are held the 2nd Saturday of each month, unless otherwise indicated. 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

Cash App: \$AtlantaAlumniSCSUNAA

PayPal: <https://scsuatbulldogs.org/membership>

E-mail address: alumni@scsuatbulldogs.org

Website: www.scsuatbulldogs.org

Twitter: SCSU Atlanta Alumni@SCSUATLALUMNI

SCSUNAA new website: <https://scsunaa.site-ym.com/>

THE BULLDOG CONNECTION

Sponsored by: Marketing & Communications Committee

(Raushanah Butler, Brenda Holmes, Pia Scott, Doug Stewart, Faye Brown-Stone, and Greg Williams).

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



CONGRATULATIONS! Newly Elected & Returning 2021-2023 SCSUNAA Officers



President
Hank Allen



1st Vice President
Valerie Wrice



2nd Vice President
Yolanda Williams



Recording Secretary
Sandra Mack



Financial Secretary
Carl May



Corresponding Secretary
Kesha Berry



Treasurer
LeToya Johnson



Chaplain
Constance Barnes

2021 SC State Football Schedule

Date	Opponent	Time/TV	Tickets
Saturday Sep. 4	at Alabama A&M Bulldogs Louis Crews Stadium, Huntsville, AL	Time TBA ET TV TBA	
Saturday Sep. 11	at Clemson Tigers Memorial Stadium, Clemson, SC	Time TBA ET TV TBA	Buy Tickets
Saturday Sep. 18	at New Mexico State Aggies Aggie Memorial Stadium, Las Cruces, NM	Time TBA ET TV TBA	
Saturday Sep. 25	OFF		
Saturday Oct. 2	Bethune-Cookman Wildcats Oliver C. Dawson Stadium, Orangeburg, SC	1:30pm ET TV TBA	
Saturday Oct. 9	at Florida A&M Rattlers Bragg Memorial Stadium, Tallahassee, FL	Time TBA ET TV TBA	
Saturday Oct. 16	Morgan State Bears (HC) Oliver C. Dawson Stadium, Orangeburg, SC	1:30pm ET TV TBA	
Saturday Oct. 23	at Delaware State Hornets Alumni Stadium, Dover, DE	Time TBA ET TV TBA	
Saturday Oct. 30	at NC Central Eagles O'Kelly-Riddick Stadium, Durham, NC	Time TBA ET TV TBA	
Saturday Nov. 6	Howard Bison Oliver C. Dawson Stadium, Orangeburg, SC	2:00pm ET TV TBA	
Saturday Nov. 13	North Carolina A&T Aggies Oliver C. Dawson Stadium, Orangeburg, SC	1:30pm ET TV TBA	
Saturday Nov. 20	at Norfolk State Spartans William "Dick" Price Stadium, Norfolk, VA	2:00pm ET TV TBA	

SC State University Website:

<http://www.scsu.edu/>

803-536-7186

