

THE BULLDOG CONNECTION

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

WINTER 2022

MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Greeting Bulldogs,

I am again proud to greet you on behalf of the Executive Board of the SCSUNAA Atlanta Alumni Chapter. We are grateful for your commitment and support which has led to continuous growth within the chapter. This growth has helped us to maintain our scholarship commitments to the students who we support from the Atlanta area and also support the university. I am very excited about the work that continues to be done by our committees. They are working to ensure that the chapter continues to be a premier chapter within the national association.

Over the past few months, we devoted our resources to support the Giving Tuesday Campaign (scholarship funds) and gave directly to the university which supported the "Ready All to Do or Dare Campaign." Thank you for your loyalty and unselfish donations which helped our dear alma mater. Your recent donations helped the university to exceed the goal set by Interim President, Alex Conyers to have unrestricted funds available to the university.

Loyal Sons and Daughters, thanks for your recent support during the Cricket Celebration Bowl. We were the host to many alumni and friends from near and far. We worked long hours with the Cricket Celebration Bowl team and university staff to ensure that this was one of the best bowl games to date. Thankfully, our team showed up and represented in a way that is still making us proud Bulldogs. I am grateful to those who supported the Friday night event featuring Willie Bradley. These funds help support the "Ready All to Do or Dare Campaign."

Welcome, to our newest chapter members! Please continue your unwavering support of chapter events and fundraising efforts which allow us to do great things for our students, alumni, and our community.

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.

Bulldogs, again thanks for your loyalty to the chapter, the national association, and our beloved university. Continue to remember those in our bulldog family who have lost loved ones and need our prayers.

With Bulldog Tenacity,

Michael A. Patterson, '82

Chapter President Atlanta Alumni Chapter, mapque84@bellsouth.net



FAMILY TRADITIONS

Thanksgiving is the season of gratefulness for the goodness of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, all HE has sustained and brought us through as a people and as a family. I remember as a child attending a mid-day football game on Thanksgiving Day on the campus of South Carolina State College. The stadium would be packed to capacity, the fans were dressed to impress and the 101 was all male and featured a single female as a solo majorette and the all-male band amazing.

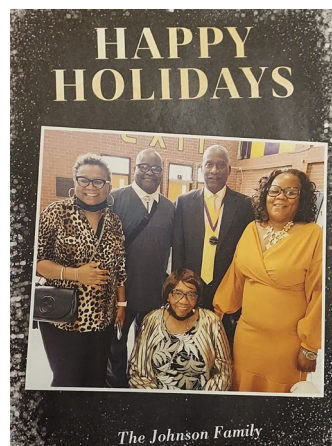
Family gatherings for Thanksgiving were a mainstay and something we looked forward to always. My family travels to Metro Atlanta for Thanksgiving annually. My mother, sister, sister-in-law and I would all work together in our Herring kitchen to prepare scrumptious meals. We worked together always and continue to give thanks still at how blessed we are as a family. While my parents who were rock solid in their faith and love of family are no longer alive my siblings and our families continue to gather at Thanksgiving!

Included on picture: Deborah, SCSC '80, Paul, USC '82, Leslie, SCSC '88, Spouse: John, Claflin 77', Sherri, '83, Children: Jia Hampton '10, Paul III, SCSU '12, John III, JSU '12, Sadia, SCSU '14, and Julian our grandson, for whom the sky is the limit!!

Article submitted by Deborah Robinson Herring '80



FAMILY TRADITIONS



We are an extension of the Johnson family and is ecstatic to carry on a tradition in honoring our grandmother, Maggie Johnson. Our grandmother was a jewel loved and received by the community for her helping hand and kind spirit.

One of our family traditions is to take a picture with mom to send out as our holiday card for the season. Our card usually represents a special event that took place throughout the year

or the family having a joyous time. On the card is mom (who is 86), sister, Linda, SCSU '75, brother, Tommy, cuz Terry, and me (not pictured, brother, Glenn). Our mother, Beverly is the lovely matriarch and holds true in strengthening the family bonds.

The picture is one that we took at homecoming. Our brother, Tommy was installed as a 2021 Wilson High School Hall of Famer for his service to the Florence community.

Article submitted by Brenda Mitchell Holmes '81

54TH ORANGEBURG MASSACRE COMMEMORATION UNVEILING AND DEDICATION

South Carolina State University held its 54th anniversary of the Orangeburg Massacre through a virtual ceremony on February 8 with

a new monument that features the busts of three young men: two SC State students, Henry Smith and Samuel Hammond, along with Delano Middleton, who was 17 years-old and a local high school student.

They were murdered by state police after they opened fire on 200 unarmed Black students fighting to intergrate the local bowling alley.

The 2022 keynote speaker for the ceremony was civil rights activist Dr. Cleveland Sellers Jr., who survived the massacre.

The busts of Henry Smith, Samuel Hammond, and Delano Middleton will permanently be on SC State's campus.



BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Every February, the United States honors the contributions and sacrifices of African Americans who have helped shape the nation. Black History Month celebrates the rich cultural heritage, triumphs and adversities that are embedded in this nation's history. With the turmoil, racial inequality, and health disparities among African Americans, this year's theme focuses on Black Health and Wellness. Media scholars and health care providers in response to the third year of COVID-19 focus on the disproportionate impact the pandemic has had on the Black community.

Carter G. Woodson, the "father of Black history," first set out to promote and educate people about Black contributions and history. Originally he established Negro Week and chose February because the second week coincided with Abraham Lincoln and Frederick Douglass's birthdays since they were both influential in ending slavery. As you celebrate Black History Month, challenge yourself to learn the histories of our people, their contributions, sacrifices, and perseverance.

JOHN LEWIS STATUE DISPLAYED ON SC STATE CAMPUS



ORANGEBURG, S.C. – John Lewis was a towering figure in the struggle for civil rights in America. Now, his image fittingly towers on the campus of South Carolina State University. Bound for its permanent home in Washington, D.C., a 7-foot likeness of the iconic social justice warrior was installed at the historically Black university's campus for a weeklong exhibition. It was displayed at SCSU thru Friday, February 11.

"Today is a very, very special day for South Carolina State University and this community," SC State Interim President Alexander Conyers said in a ceremony commemorating the statue's arrival. "When I think about John Lewis, I certainly know that John Lewis possessed the same Bulldog tenacity that we do here on this campus – not only that Bulldog tenacity but courage (and) intestinal fortitude."

Lewis, who died at age 80 in July 2020 amid his 17th term in the U.S. House of Representatives, dedicated his life to advancing the cause of freedom and equality in America through nonviolent protest. Lewis often was met with injurious violence. In 1965 Alabama state troopers in Selma attacked Lewis and other demonstrators with clubs and tear gas after they crossed the Edmund Pettus Bridge during a march for voting rights. Lewis suffered a fractured skull. Two decades later, in 1986, Lewis was elected to Congress, where he continued to fight for justice and voting rights.

Saying that John Lewis symbolizes what a public servant is about, South Carolina State Rep. Jerry Govan (D-Orangeburg) considered it fitting that the Lewis statue shares the plaza with the Smith Hammond Middleton Monument.

"I'm extremely proud as an alumnus of this great university in terms of seeing that this statue stands on this holy ground," Govan said in Friday's ceremony. "To the young people who are here today, truly we stand on the shoulders of greatness and truly ... we must remember that it's not about us, it's about those that we serve."

The statue was sculpted by artist Gregory Johnson with support from the National Monumental Foundation, an organization founded and led by Rodney Mims Cook Jr. for the development of civic and historic restoration projects. Lewis was a personal friend of Cook and his late father, the late Rodney Mims Cook Sr., a Georgia lawmaker known for advancing civil rights in that state.

At Friday's ceremony, Cook Jr. called upon the SC State students in attendance to research the civil rights legends he got to know through his father and his own work, including Lewis. "Look him up. Remember him," he said. "He is one of the most important men to grace human history."

Designed with Lewis' input before his death, the statue was cast from the same mold as the original, which adorns Rodney Cook Sr. Peace Park in Atlanta. The replica is mounted on a 2000-pound plinth designed and sculpted by students at the American College of the Building Arts in Charleston. The statue depicts Lewis wearing the Medal of Freedom then-President Barack Obama presented to Lewis in 2011. It shows Lewis with his hand raised for a greeting.

Article: SC State University Office of Institutional Advancement

2021 CRICKET CELEBRATION BOWL

The Cricket Celebration Bowl is a postseason college football game featuring the conference champions from the Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference (MEAC) and the Southwestern Athletic Conference (SWAC). The event's mission is to provide the schools, alumni, fans, and sponsors with a first-class bowl experience while continuing to celebrate the heritage, legacy, pageantry and tradition of Historically Black Colleges and Universities. It is managed by ESPN Events, a subsidiary of ESPN, which owns and operates a large portfolio of collegiate sporting events worldwide, including 13 postseason bowl games. ESPN partners with The 100 Black Men of Atlanta to manage the game's ancillary events, which included a Youth Symposium, Robotics Showcase, Gospel Night and Fan Experience. John Grant serves as the Celebration Bowl's Executive Director.



SC State won the 2021 Cricket Celebration Bowl Against Jackson State University 31-10.

Alumnus Willie Bradley and his band performed at the Atlanta Marriott Buckhead Hotel on December 17, 2021 at the Cricket Celebration Bowl pregame Jazz Soiree. Willie and his band was awesome in keeping us in that perfect jazz mood the entire night. Kudos to them for a great performance!



CHAPLIN'S CORNER

Aht aht!!! – Rev. Raushanah N. Butler

Usually, when I go grocery shopping, my daughter assists me by getting the heaviest bags or boxes since I'm not supposed to lift over a certain weight. Well, a few days ago, we were unloading the car and I leaned over to pick up a bag that looked to be light. As soon as my hands touch the handle, I heard a loud "Aht aht!" coming from my daughter, proceeded by her telling me that the bag was too heavy. I assured her that I got it, then went to pick it up only to realize that the bag was indeed too heavy.

I'm just reminded that many times we try to pick up things that are too heavy for us to carry when we really don't have to. Matthew 11:28 (TPT) encourages us when we find ourselves in these situations, "Are you weary, carrying a heavy burden? Come to me. I will refresh your life, for I am your oasis." My brothers and my sisters, it's easy to take on a lot when we're used to doing so, but in this season we need to truly learn to give it to God; whatever that "it" is. How can we do that you ask? Well, remember that "No." is a one-word sentence that doesn't require an explanation, begin to delegate so that everything doesn't fall on your shoulders, practice self-care by taking time only for you, and put whatever it is down when it gets too heavy. We were created to live and not just simply exist. So, let's lighten the load and allow The Heavy Load Bearer to carry our concerns, our issues, our troubles, and our worries for us!

HBCU BATTLE OF THE BANDS FEATURING THE MARCHING 101

Gas South Arena brought the "HBCU Culture Homecoming Fest & Battle of the Bands" to Atlanta. The event featured 5 of the most entertaining showstyle bands: Alabama State, Benedict College, Fort Valley State, South Carolina State, and Alabama A&M.



In addition to being a showcase for the trademark bands from the five HBCUs, the event serves as the official launch for the HBCU Culture Legacy Foundation's "\$1 million Scholarship Initiative," with proceeds from tickets and sponsorships supporting its fundraising goal for 2022.

A donation of \$30,000 to the HBCU Culture Legacy Foundation was donated by Aisha DeBerry, Gas South's manager of Diversity, Equity & Inclusion to support their drive toward the \$1 million in 2022.

Frank Johnson is the founder of HBCU Culture Legacy Foundation along with his wife, La Keisha. Frank was forced to drop out of school his senior year when he had tragedy in his family; he started this organization to ensure other students wouldn't have to face similar situations. He is grateful to Gas South and other sponsors for their support of the event and mission.

Our president, Michael Patterson along with his wife, Paula attended the event. He stated, "It was great being in attendance and watching the Marching 101 along with the other bands perform. Our band represented us well and their performance was stellar. Marching bands are a very big part of the HBCU experience and our culture. Thanks to all the sponsors that allowed us to enjoy HBCU bands at their best. And thanks to each of you that showed up to support the Marching 101."



COMMITTEE UPDATES:

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

The Marketing Committee ensures that our Alum at South Carolina State University gain useful sufficient information about the status of our wonderful institution and promote in our newsletters what is taking place in our communities. We value to – and get sufficient value from – each committee. Please submit your marketing information to Pia Scott at drpscott2016@gmail.com or Brenda Holmes at holmesrbhr@bellsouth.net.

TECHNOLOGY (Angela Jones - ajonesscsualum@gmail.com)

Technology maintains multiple portals to showcase our SC State Alumni Pride to the world. Our committee maintains the following:

- Email (via Constant Contact)
- Website (via the GoDaddy platform)
- SM platforms (Facebook, LinkedIn, and Twitter)

Yes, your time and talents are needed. Do you need to be a website developer? No. Do you need to have a technical background? No. Can you copy and paste? Do you possess good attention to detail? Good time management? If yes, well your time and efforts will thrive on this committee.

WAYS AND MEANS (Carla Hawkins - jbhaw1005@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 fundraising activities/events for the Atlanta Chapter of the South Carolina State University National Alumni Association.

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

A. “Giving Tuesday” Campaign

Currently, the monthly goal has been \$500 with an average of 13 alumni giving per month.

We would like to increase monthly giving to \$1000 for the this fiscal year (July 1, 2021 – June 30, 2022); commitment is needed from 20 additional alumni, to meet the next goal amount of \$1000.

Thank you for making the commitment.

Please consider recurring monthly payment/giving. Auto draft, credit/debit card, PayPal, Zelle, 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 and you rallied to her call and met the goal of \$25,000!!

A check was received, by Athletic Department, in the amount of \$20,401.42. \$4598.58 includes:

- Season tickets purchased; amount donated to the Bulldog Relief Fund.
- STATE Club Membership (tickets and parking); also donated to the Bulldog Relief Fund.

A big Bulldog thank you to all the contributors of the Bulldog Relief Fund!

To view the donors please click on the link below:

<https://scsuatlbulldogs.org/bulldog-relief-fund>

ALUMNI GIVING TEMPLATE

Yearly, SCSUNAA request the total amount of direct donations made by the chapters and their members to the university, SCSU Foundation, and SCSUNAA. Please note; each month we will send out a template by Constant Contact to request your contributions made and ask you to send the information to Delores Fulton by the 15th of each month.

You can include on template campaign such as: Giving Tuesday, Bulldog Relief Fund, 125 Years of Excellence, Reunions (do not include dues or donations). If you have any questions, please contact Delores Fulton at 404-314-5957 or email dlegend92@aol.com.

2022 ELECTION YEAR/NOMINATIONS

Attention all chapter members! We are in an election year. If your are a financial member and have consider and/or would like to run for an office in the chapter, please see the qualifications outlined below:

In order for a candidate to qualify for office:

- Must be in good financial standing.
- Must be eligible to run for the office for which they are being nominated, per vetting process
- Any voting member who has served on the executive board for at least one term in the chapter may become a nominee for president.

Terms

- The term of each office shall be for a minimum of two years.
- The president can only serve two succeeding terms for a total of four years.
- All election for officers shall be made by ballot and shall be determined by the majority of the votes cast by financial members.

To submit your name for consideration, please send your full name and contact info, and the office title for which you are interested in running for, to the Nominating Committee at bcurryscsualumna@hotmail.com. Vetting will be of all nominees will be on March 1st - March 10th.

Beverly P. Curry, Alumna, Class of 1987, #weareTHATclass

UPCOMING EVENTS

- In celebrations of President’s Day/Black History Month, visit the High Museum for the The Obama Portraits Tour. On view now, until March 20, 2022.
- HBCU Run/Walk is held annually in Atlanta’s Piedmont Park on Saturday, Jun 25, 2022. WARM UP - 7AM RACE START - 8AM. Click the link to join [SCSU team](#).
- SCSU 126th Founder’s Day Scholarship Gala & Tribute, Saturday, March 5, 2022, 7:00 PM, Smith-Hammond-Middleton Memorial Center Campus of SC State University. The Gala requires a donation but Founders Day (Speaker: Dr Andrew Hugine former SCSU President) is open to everyone.
- Cricket MEAC/SWAC challenge Kick-off Bowl tickets go on sale March 4! The game is on August 27, 2022 at Center PARC Stadium, Atlanta, GA. Teams are Howard Bison VS Alabama State Hornets.
- Every third Tuesday in February will be known as HBCU day in the state of South Carolina. Thanks to SCSU Student Government Association President Javonni D. Ayers.

BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT



Dr. Portia Gifford Moss is a pharmacist by trade and recently opened Charli's Web; which is a web design company developed to create top level quality websites and solutions for new entrepreneurs with minimal touch points at affordable prices. The vision of the company is to meet the needs of businesses who have limited resources.

Corporate business strategies and qualities are used to assist businesses "to succeed" and compete in a competitive marketplace.

Charli's Web is providing reachable resources for businesses and individuals to showcase themselves and their products with minimal effort. They tackle the hard stuff so clients can focus and have time for other things. Some of the specialty products they offer are: business and personal branding, scheduling support, virtual leadership and career development courses, mock interviews, regulatory audit support, resume/CV building and showcasing, and call lead support.

Charlisweb.com

Portia Moss, CEO, 470-524-2345

MONTHLY VIRTUAL MEETINGS

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

Cash App: \$AtlantaAlumniSCSUNAA

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

Zelle: finance@scsuatlbulldogs.org

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

E-mail address: alumni@scsuatlbulldogs.org

Website: www.scsuatlbulldogs.org

Twitter: SCSU Atlanta Alumni@SCSUATLALUMNI

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

THE BULLDOG CONNECTION

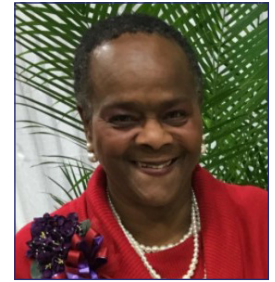
Sponsored by: Marketing & Communications Committee
(Raushanah Butler, Brenda Holmes, Pia Scott, Doug Stewart, Faye Brown-Stone, and Greg Williams).

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) or Brenda Holmes (holmesbrbh@bellsouth.net).



ALUMNUS HELEN A. CORBETT-BRANDYBURG TO BE INDUCTED INTO THE THOMAS E. MILLER SOCIETY

Congratulation to Alumnus Helen A. Corbett-Brandyburg ('74 & '75) who will be inducted into the Thomas E. Miller Society on Friday, March 4, 2022! She and others will be recognized formally during the Gala on Saturday, March 5, 2022!



Alumni receiving this distinguished honor are recognized for their cumulative philanthropy which totaled \$100,000 or more! Additional information regarding the Miller Society can be viewed by clicking on the link <https://www.scstategives.com/giving-societies/>.

In interviewing Helen, this is her response to receive such a great honor. "To be an inductee into the Miller Society at SCSU is humbling. I did not plan for this day when my giving began, which was as soon as I graduated in 1974. Last year when I saw my name appear on the short list (Hopeful "to one day reach the \$100,000 level of giving to SCSU over a life time"), I was amazed. I was not amazed because I was on the list, but by the fact that the list was not longer. As years went by as I made contributions both financial and in service, I was simply trying to be a Good and Faithful Bulldog. Please join me and a few others to celebrate this significant honor at the Gala, March 5th and Founders Day March 6th in Orangeburg. Start your donation journey now, if you have not already and watch what a difference your consistency of giving will reap over a period of time."

We know our Atlanta Chapter Family will be front and center to witness this special occasion!



SC State University Website:

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

803-536-7186

