

NOMINEES FOR ALABAMA A&M UNIVERSITY ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

Nominees for the Office of President:

Mr. Albert Benifield, Jr.



Albert Benifield, Jr. graduated from Alabama A&M University in 1978 with a B. S. Degree in Mathematics. He is Lead Quality Assurance Engineer with BMC Software-Houston, Tx. Mr. Benifield is actively involved in several community organization such as American Diabetes Walk to raise funds to fight for a treatment and cure for Diabetes, Alzheimer's Walk, contributed to the Habitat for Humanity, Doctors without borders, United Negro College Fund (UNCF). Served as Chairman of the board of the Ronald E. McNair Omega Scholarship Fund a (501) C3. He is a Life Member of the Alabama A&M University Alumni Association, Life Member of (National and District) of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. Worked on the committee to establish the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity Nu Epsilon Scholarship Endowment which exceeded \$100,000 for AAMU.

Currently Mr. Benifield is serving as Alabama A&M University National Alumni President. He also has served as National Vice President, served 2 terms as Regional Vice President Region IV. Served as President of the Houston Alumni Chapter. Past Treasurer of the Houston Alumni Chapter. Executive sponsor for the membership committee and a member of the National Alumni Association Scholarship committee. Chair of the National Alumni Association 2012 Conference. Lead the effort to establish the Alumni Association Endowed Scholarship and got Association reappraised for CFC. Annual donor to AAMU.

Mr. Benifield's goal for the Alabama A&M Alumni Association is to continue building on the foundation established and moving the National Alumni Association forward through Leadership and Vision. As President, he will continue to work intimately with Alums to provide a medium through which alumni and friends can work to advance the growth and development of Alabama A&M University.

Mr. Timothy C. McCanelley



Mr. Timothy McCanelley graduated from Alabama A&M University in 1982 with honors with a B.S. in Computer Science. He is a recipient of the Academic All-American Football in 1982. He also served as National Alumni President from 2014-2016 and currently serve on the National Alumni as a Board Member. He is employed as a Quality Assurance Program Manager Anthem Corporation in Fort Worth, TX.

Tim has served as Member at Large for National Alumni Association. Life Member of the National Alumni Association. Received Alumni of the Decade Award. Charter Member of the Raleigh Durham Alumni Chapter. Current Member of the Dallas Alumni Chapter. Increased Immediate Scholarships from \$18,000 to over \$30,000 in first year. Increased membership growth over 20% in first year. Increased Association revenue over 25% in a 12-month period. Increased fund-raising focus at homecoming and Magic City Classic. Personally, raised over \$10,000 in scholarship donations for 2016 students. Converted Football Season Skybox into a scholarship funding venture. Co-founded and endorsed the Homecoming Throwback Scholarship Fundraiser for the Huntsville Alumni Chapter. Past board member of AAMU Foundation. Past member of the AAMU Board of Trustees Selection committee. Member of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. Mr. McCanelley community involvement includes Volunteers and Career Lecturer, University of Texas Dallas, Feed the Hungry Program, High School Mentoring, Coats for homeless, plan your future speaker, sponsor college transportation.

Mr. McCanelley's goal for Alabama A&M University Alumni Association is to continue to grow the membership with all generations of graduates, grow the annual scholarships offered by the association to \$50,000.00, to expand the Alumni brand globally and reactivate the international chapter, continue to help increase the Alumni voice and improve Alumni and University relations.

Nominees for the Office of Vice-President:

Mrs. Mary Jones Moore



Mrs. Mary Jones Moore is a 1983 Graduate of Alabama A&M University with a B.S. Degree in Electrical Engineering Technology. She also has graduate studies in Computer Science. Mary is employed with KBRWyle as a test engineer for the 17 years. She also served as a member of the Board of Directors for CAS Cares (A non-profit organization within the company), A Touch of CAS (Event group within the company).

Mary is an active member of Progressive Union Missionary Baptist Church, Huntsville, Al where she serves as an usher and chairperson of the Scholarship Committee. She is lifetime member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. and has served in the Huntsville Alumnae Chapter for 30 years. She is a lifetime member of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), Co-Founder of the Baby Bulldogs Cheerleaders, serves as Assistant Treasurer Friends of Laura Hall State of Alabama District 19.

Mrs. Mary Jones Moore is a Lifetime Member of the Alabama A&M University Alumni Association which she is affiliated with the Huntsville-Madison County serving on various committees. She also received Outstanding Alumna of the Year (2009-2010), volunteered for the 2017 AAMU Class Reunion and currently as a Class Agent for the upcoming 2018 Class Reunion. She is a Financial Donor for the University as well as Football Season Ticket Holder.

Mrs. Mary Jones Moore Loves her AAMU, she is a former Cheerleader and Volleyball Team Player. Her personal skills include leadership, organizational, and interpersonal skills. She is a dedicated and hard-working team player.

Mr. Perry Caudle, Jr.



Perry Caudle, Jr. is a member of Alabama A&M University National Alumni Association's Charlotte Queen City AAMU Alumni Chapter and a 1978 graduate of Alabama A&M University (AAMU). Upon graduating he was commissioned a Second Lieutenant in the United States Army and retired with the rank of Lieutenant Colonel. Perry's career in the United States Army included successful assignments of increased responsibility such as company executive officer, company commander, intelligence officer, operations officer, and inspector general. After leaving active duty, Perry was employed with Abbott Laboratories where he served successfully as an operations manager, customer service manager, research and development laboratory manager and sales/business development manager.

Mr. Caudle accomplishments include: Boards of Directors - AAMU National Alumni Association, 2016-2017, Board of Directors-AAMU National Alumni Association, 2016-2017, Chairman-AAMU National Alumni Association's National Conference, 2016-2017

Chairman-AAMU National Alumni Association National Conference Committee, 2016-2017

Member-AAMU National Alumni Association Fund Raising Committee, 2016-2017-Class Agent-Class of 1978 40th Class Reunion, 2017; President - Charlotte Queen City AAMU Alumni Chapter, 2014-2016

Community Involvement: Vice Basileus, Pi Phi Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. Volunteer, Family Forum, Board of Directors Charlotte's Volunteers in Medicine Clinic Counselor for Steve Harvey Foundation Mentoring Program.

Mr. Perry Caudle has a professional record of achieving outstanding results and building positive relationships. He has strong leadership, planning and organizational skills. He is an effective communicator and builds effective teams that can accomplish assigned tasks. Perry was very instrumental in motivating and galvanizing alums in the Charlotte North Carolina area which resulted in the reactivation of Charlotte Queen City AAMU Chapter in 2014. In 2015, Perry led the chapter in the planning, execution and hosting the AAMU National Alumni Association's 2016 National Conference. Perry is a visionary and adept at solving problems. His leadership and organization skills and "can do" attitude makes him the perfect person to serve as Vice President of Alabama A&M University's National Alumni Association.

Nominee for the Office of Recording Secretary:

Ms. Karen Epps



Ms. Karen Renea Epps is the daughter of Arthur and Gattie Epps of Phenix City, Alabama. She graduated from Central High School, continuing her postsecondary education at Alabama A&M University (AAMU), where she earned a B.S. degree in Business Administration. She has also attended Memphis State University and earned an MBA from Bowie State University.

A Life Member, Karen is a member of the Board of Directors for the National Alumni Association where she currently serves as the Regional Vice President for Region IV. In this capacity, she is a member of the Membership and Program Committees. She previously served as a Member-At-Large and it was in this position that she re-established the Scholarship Committee in 2010. Since that time, she has worked tirelessly with committee members to expand and increase the amounts and numbers of scholarships awarded to students annually. An avid supporter of AAMU, Karen has served on the Constitution and By-laws, Program, Social Media and Sky-box Committees. Karen initially became active with Alumni Association while in Augusta, GA with the then Augusta/CRSA chapter. She participated in fundraising events, staffed college and career fairs and promoted AAMU.

Upon relocating to Washington, DC in 1989, she discovered the local AAMU alumni chapter was inactive, and along with six fellow Alums in the area, chartered the now Washington, DC Metropolitan Alumni Chapter. Since that time, Karen has been active, and continues to serve in several capacities. As an active member in the Washington, DC Metropolitan Alumni Chapter, Karen is the Vice President of the chapter and supports the president whole heartedly. She is the founder and chair of the chapter's Scholarship Committee and was instrumental in commencing the first scholarship awards to two deserving students from the metropolitan area attending AAMU. She has served on as a committee member of the Annual Scholarship Award and Recognition Breakfast, and for the past two years, served as Chair of the committee. Karen's goal is to continuously increase the amount and/or number of scholarships awarded annually for deserving local students attending AAMU.

Karen has also served as chair of the Student Recruitment and College Fairs Committee, which proved to be job within itself. She has been instrumental in connecting current students with the local chapter members as well as motivating graduates to become financial Alums. She planned and managed the initial annual student luncheons, and has since expanded the concept, when in 2012 to include first-time freshmen and their parents/guardians as well as current AAMU students. This is now an annual chapter even where the scholarship awards are provided to the recipients. Karen has also chaired the Constitution and By-law Committee responsible for the most recent update and has served on the Website Committee.

She writes articles for the chapter newsletters and serves on the Alabama Big 3 HBCU Scholarship Gala and Annual Cookout Committees, joint ventures with the local alumni chapters of Alabama State and Tuskegee Universities. She has worked on the program committee, secured keynote speakers, and the emcee. A member of the hospitality committee, she greets, serves as a Judge, and the do whatever is necessary to ensure the event is a success.

Karen is employed with the U.S. Department of Education as a Senior Program Manager with the Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) and Predominately Black Institutions (PBIs) Division. She oversees more than \$500 million dollars awarded to Minority Serving Institutions. She previously worked with the Federal TRIO and GEAR Up Programs, White House Initiative on Historically Black Colleges and Universities and Federal Student Aid, better known for the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid).

In her current position, she provides University officials and faculty with continuous funding opportunities, internship and employment opportunities for students and faculty exchange fellowships. Last summer, she was instrumental in getting the Secretary of Education Bus Tour to Huntsville, AL, which included an AAMU student serving on the panel with Secretary Duncan. Known for her professional, standard of excellence and dedication, she is a quiet storm behind the scene getting things done.

Karen began her federal career with the U.S. Department of Defense in Chambersburg, PA while matriculating as a student at AAMU. As a Cooperative Education student, she accepted a full-time position upon graduation. Eleven months later she was selected for the Defense Logistics Agency's Supply Management Intern Program. This three- year program relocated her initially to Columbus, OH and later to Memphis, TN where she worked as an Analyst. After three short years, she became an Investigator with the U.S. Office of Personnel Management in Augusta, GA. A promotion relocated her to the Washington, DC area to train newly hired and Supervisory Investigators.

Karen is a member of Reid Temple African Methodist Episcopal Church in Glenn Dale, MD, and serves as a Steward, Stewardess and the Director of the Dr. Avis Y. Pointer Higher Education Ministry. She is a member of the Scholarship Committee, which awards over \$150,000.00 annually to graduating high school seniors and one recurring postsecondary education student. She is a member of the Women's Leadership Team, and was elected in 2014, to chair the Women's Day Committee for two years. In the first year, Karen led the women with the help of God in contributing over \$100,000.00.

Karen's goal is to increase the number of active Alums in the association and to ensure Alabama A&M University remains a fiscally sound institution by raising the visibility of AAMU and educating Alums about the importance of giving back and the impact they can make on AAMU and the federal and state funding. Karen believes every Alum should know that AAMU belongs to them and as such they are responsible for ensuring our beloved Alma Mater continues to thrive for generations to come.

Karen continues to give financially to both AAMU and students directly. She purchased a Brick Payer, contributed to her sorority's sister scholarship fund as well as supported WJAB's Campaign. She has contributed to the Annual Fund, the Washington, DC Endowed Scholarship fund, and previous initiatives such as the Council Challenge and the AAMU Tom Joyner Morning Show Fundraiser. Most recently, she has been instrumental in several persons joining the National Alumni Association as well as recommending persons for appointed positions. Karen appreciates the education and experiences afforded to her as a student and remembers her AAMU journey, which provided her with what she needed for the lifestyle she now enjoys. Karen Renea will always cherish her experiences, which is a

testament that Alabama Agriculture and Mechanical University has much to offer students in preparing them academically, culturally, socially, and spiritually to be the best. Karen endeavors to reflect the Normalite spirit and exemplify "Service is Sovereignty".

Nominee for the Office of Treasurer:

Mrs. Chiquita Goodloe Suggs



Mrs. Chiquita Goodloe Suggs Graduated from AAMU in May 1983 with B.S. Degree in Accounting and M.S. Degree in Acquisition and Contract Management.

Lifetime Member of Alabama A&M University since 1998; affiliated with the Nashville Alumni Chapter (1995-1999); served as Treasurer for a short -time; currently affiliated with the Huntsville/Madison County Alumni Chapter; acted as Treasurer for a brief time in 2011-2012; and currently the Treasurer for 2015-2016. Served as 1983 Class Agent for Homecoming 2013.

Currently employed with NASA-Marshall Space Flight Center as a Cost/Price Analyst; 2004-2010 was employed by Corps of Engineering - Huntsville Center as an Auditor; 1989-2004 was employed by Defense Contract Audit Agency as an Auditor.

Active Member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. - Huntsville Alumnae Chapter; currently I am working on the Audit Team.

Member of Progressive Union Missionary Baptist Church, Huntsville, AL

Daily work activities include the use of Microsoft Excel and Words; affiliated; but limited experience in the use of Quicken accounting software.

Nominees for the Office of Regional Vice President:

Ms. Erica McClain Vice President Region 1



Ms. Erica McClain graduated from Alabama A&M University in 1991 with a B.S. Degree in Business Administration with a concentration in Logistics & Procurement. Erica also has a graduate M.S. Degree in Management with a concentration in Contract Management from Florida Institute of Technology.

A Reliable, dedicated and a woman of tremendous faith, Erica McClain is set on inspiring the live of others through service and mentoring. A native of Birmingham, Alabama, Erica chose to utilize her knowledge of business and leadership skills to increase her efforts toward educating others in achieving their goals and impact her community in a positive way.

Erica has been a member of Alabama A&M Huntsville-Madison County Chapter for over 22 years serving on various committees including being the Hospitality Chair for the National Alumni Association coordinating the National Alumni Homecoming “Big Tent” event, decorating for the Founder’s Day Alumni Scholarship Award’s Breakfast, coordinating and providing food/refreshment and entertainment in the Hospitality Suites for the Alumni Association during Founder’s, A&M Homecoming and the Magic City Classic.

Ms. Erica McClain has been instrumental in raising the awareness of the importance of giving and becoming an active member of the AAMU Alumni Association, Inc. She believes that helping and supporting students is the key to developing a dedicated Alum.

Mr. Brandon Brown
Vice President Region 2



Mr. Brandon Brown is a 2011 Graduate of Alabama A&M University earning a Degree in Political Science.

Bandon Brown is serving his final term as the Vice President of the Metro Atlanta Chapter and currently serves as the Region II Vice President. During his time in Atlanta, Brandon has held other leadership roles - Interim Scholarship Chair, Gala Chair and committee member for a II Metro Atlanta Chapter's programs and events. The Metro Atlanta Chapter has seen an increase in membership, fundraising levels and interaction with Alabama A&M students as well as potential students under his leadership.

As Region II VP, Brandon has helped re-establish the Miami Dade Chapter, Re-establish the Metro Nashville Chapter. The new Chattanooga chapter was chartered also under his leadership. In addition, under his leadership the state of Georgia became the first state to raise the funds to bring an Alabama A&M (Georgia) license plate to all A&M Bulldogs in Georgia.

Professionally, Brandon Brown has worked with public and private higher education schools in Georgia. He has experience in institutional advancement and enrollment management.

Mr. Brown brings to the Association the gift of bridging the gap between seasoned and younger alumni. His affiliation with Alabama A&M University extends prior to his college years as a young child in St. Louis, Missouri.

Mr. Brandon Brown's Goals and Objectives are to Continue to implement programs to encourage lifelong relationships with Alabama A&M University and position the Association as a catalyst for developing those relationships, A to continue to increase the number of recent graduates in the Region and introduce these graduates to the concept of giving and to establish three new alumni chapters including a chapter in Bahamas and enhance the existing chapters.

Ms. Elizabeth R. Russell
Vice President Region 3



Ms. Elizabeth R. Russell is a 1969 graduate of Alabama A&M University with a Degree B.A. Degree in Sociology with Graduate work in Psychology.

Her professional experience includes: Social Worker, Huntsville City School System Rehabilitation Counselor Supervisor, Massachusetts Rehabilitation Commission, Boston, MA, Retired, Los Angeles Job Corps Center, Los Angeles, CA in 2013, with 32- year tenure in Counseling and Counseling Management.

Ms. Russell's alumni involvement as a Long term member of Pasadena Chapter and is serving 2nd term as Chapter President. She previously served as chapter Secretary and Interim Treasurer. She represents Pasadena Chapter on Inter-Alumni Council/United Negro CollegeFund. She Served as a member of the National Alumni Nominating Committee for the 2016-2018 Election. Elizabeth functions as a member of the Council of Presidents and Represented the Pasadena Chapter at the 2016 National Alumni Convention in Charlotte, N.C. and she is a recipient of the William Hooper Council Service Award May 2016.

In her Community Involvement, Ms. Russell is a member of Tau Gamma Delta Sorority, Inc., serves on the Board of Directors and hold offices at the National, Regional and Local levels. She elected members of Los Angeles City Neighborhood Council and served as chair of Social Services Committee.

Ms. Elizabeth Russell's reason for nomination to the board is to support the National President, grown membership in chapters in the Region, increase annual scholarships/grants awarded to students, generate more financial support for growth and development projects at Alabama A&M University.

Ms. Sharon Langford-Jones Vice President Region 4



Ms. Sharon Langford-Jones earned her undergraduate degree from AAMU in Business Administration and began her career in federal service. After 36 years of service in various roles of increasing responsibilities, Sharon retired from the Sodat Security Administration.

Upon relocating to Jackson MS in 2009, she joined the Houston Alumni Chapter & where she served as a dutiful member despite the distance & virtual challenges. urtrmately, Sharon used the knowledge she gafned to pursue starting a chapter in the state of Mississippi where none existed. She led the effort to charter the Mississippi Alumni Chapter and served as the President from 2012-2016.

As President 1 Sharon set a target for the chapter though smaH in number & short tenured to develop a scholarship fund for a student from MS to attend AAMU. This goal was achieved beginning with the Fall Semester 2016. Sharon also served on the Alumni Association 2014 Nomination and Election Committee.

Sharon has the leadership skills and has experienced the challenges and difficulties start-up chapters & presidents face. She is goal-oriented and willing to volunteer her time, talent & thoughtfulness. Sharon is equipped to serve as RVP and champion the causes of alumni & the Association.

Sharon also serves as a mentor to federal professionals and young women both in her church and community. Sharon is the mother of two and the grandmother of four with three generations of AAMU Bulldogs Graduates.

Because Ms. Sharon Langford-Jones loves Alabama A&M University, she wants to be part of the of the success of AAMU through serving the National Alumni Association as Region 4 VP.

**Mr. Leonard Phillips, Jr.
Vice President Region 5**



Mr. Leonard Phillips, Jr. studied Education as a student at Alabama A&M University and currently pursuing a Master's in Business Administration.

He currently serves as President of The Detroit Chapter of Alabama A&M University. He previously served as Vice-President of the Detroit Alumni Chapter and as Membership Committee Co-Chair.

While a student at AAMU, he served as President of the Alabama A&M University Chapter of the NAACP as well as President of the NAACP Alabama State Youth and College Division. In 2009, at the NAACP Centennial Convention Mr. Phillips received the Gloster B. Current Leadership Award and was elected to the NAACP National Youth Work Committee which is sub-committee of the NAACP National Board.

Mr. Phillips was a member of the nationally renowned Alabama A&M University Choir where he served as President for two years from 2006-2008. In 2009, Mr. Phillips also founded a mentorship program that would become the Collegiate 100 of Alabama A&M University, a subsidiary of the 100 Black Men of America.

Mr. Leonard Phillips, Jr. through his candidacy and hopeful election, will help to institute programs that will attract young professionals and millennials to become more involved with the Alumni Association.

**Ms. Leticia Drakeford
Vice President Region 6**



Leticia Drakeford, daughter of Luetta J. Drakeford and the late Willie J. Drakeford, is a native of Chicago, IL and reared in Andalusia, AL since the age of 12. A 1997 graduate of Alabama A&M University, she received a B.S. in Chemistry and went on to earn an M.S. in Analytical Chemistry from Clark Atlanta University in 2000. She has been a chemist with the Federal Government for over 16 years and currently works for the U.S. Department of the Treasury in the Washington, DC metropolitan area.

As an early career federal employee with the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Leticia began working in worker safety and health as a collateral duty. These duties continued at her present job with the U.S. Department of the Treasury. Her interest and commitment in worker safety and health led to management to create a position to lead and revamp the Scientific Services Division's Safety Program as well as managing the \$7 million capital asset inventory located in the Maryland and California laboratory facilities. The 2016 Federal Viewpoint Survey results for the division noted an increase in employee satisfaction of worker safety, which was mostly attributed to Leticia's efforts for enhancing safety awareness at the laboratory.

A member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., Prince George's County Alumnae Chapter, Leticia serves as a co-chair of the Emergency Response Team which teaches the community and sorority members emergency preparedness. She co-authored her chapter's All Hazards Plan which provides guidance to the chapter's 800+ members on how and where to evacuate, shelter, shelter-in-place or go on lockdown should the need arise during a chapter meeting. She also participates in educating members on emergency preparedness in their home and work settings.

Leticia has been invited by community organizations, churches and schools to participate in STEM Fairs and other panel discussions in the Washington, D.C. Metropolitan area. She shared her experiences as a chemist with elementary and middle school students and introduces them to chemistry using common household items. She also serves on the Dr. Avis Y. Pointer Higher Education Ministry at Reid Temple AME Church in Glenn Dale, Maryland.

She currently serves as Northeast Regional Vice-President of the National Alumni Association where she led the data gathering and validation efforts for the National Alumni Association's Membership Survey. She is currently working with alumni from New York to reactivate the chapter. She also chairs the Combined Federal Campaign (CFC) Committee. From 2012-2014, Leticia was a Member-At-Large

where she served as the she Membership Committee Chairperson as well as serving on the Program and Convention Committee. From 2014-2016, she served as the Association's Executive Secretary.

Serving the Washington D.C. Metropolitan Chapter, Leticia currently serves as the chapter's corresponding secretary, chairperson of the Chapter's College Fair and Student Recruitment Committee and is an AAMU Office of Admissions and Enrollment Certified Alumni Recruiter. In addition, she has served as Chairperson of the Chapter's Annual Scholarship and Recognition Breakfast and Chapter Treasurer as well as serving on the StudenUParent Luncheon and Alabama Big 3 HBCU Committees. She has lent her creativity in providing gifts and care packages to DC metro area students on The Hill.

A Life member of the National Alumni Association, Leticia is a 2011 recipient of the William Hooper Council Service Award. She was honored with the 2014 Award of Distinction by the Metro DC Alabama Big 3 HBCU Alumni Organization for her work and service to alumni chapter and the organization and awarded the Washington D.C. Metropolitan Chapter's Service award in 2016. In 2017, she was selected Alabama A&M University's Alumna of the Year. Leticia has financially contributed to the Alabama A&M University Endowment, the National Alumni Association and the Washington, D.C. Metropolitan Chapter as well as other non-profit organizations. She continues to demonstrate "Service is Sovereignty" through her valuable contributions to her profession, community and the Alumni Association on the local and national levels.

Nominees for Member At-Large:

Ms. Phyllis Gordon



Ms. Phyllis Gordon is a native of Chicago, Il and reared in Birmingham, Al. She is a 1981 graduate of Alabama A&M University with a B.S. in Special Education. She worked in the Federal Government in the Washington, DC Metropolitan area before settling in the Atlanta Metro area.

She has been an active community member with a background in education and would love the chance to give back by lending her advisory skills to the Alumni Association and University.

Service has been a part of her profession throughout her life and she has been praised for her ability to reach and motivate people. She enthusiastically seeks the opportunity to serve as Member-at-Large and put her knowledge to use.

Of note, Phyllis obtained formal training in Legacy and Planned Giving from the Georgia United Methodist Foundation. She has been recognized as the first Heritage Inductee at Miles College for establishing an endowed scholarship in her brother's honor. She is Legacy and Planned Giving

Committee at Cascade United Methodist Church. Project Coordinator for Alzheimer's Walk at Kennesaw State University, Co-Chair for ASCEND Program, mentoring High School Students, and Project Coordinator for Think HBCU. Ms. Phyllis Gordon has an array of experiences and knowledge to bring to both her community and University. She is a local member of Metro Atlanta AAMU Alumni Chapter for 20 years. She has served as the Recording Secretary for the Atlanta Chapter for 4 years, A member of the Metro Atlanta Chapter Scholarship Committee Member for 15 years, Metro Atlanta Chapter Historian, National Alumni Association Fundraiser Supporter. She is also the 2011 recipient of the William Hooper Council Service Award.

Phyllis is confident that she would be an asset to the position as a board member of the National Alumni Association. Her goals include enhancing student and alumni recruitment efforts, increasing scholarship funds through various fundraising venues and encouraging continued collaboration and relations with the University administration, faculty and staff.

Dr. Bernice Carter Richardson



Dr. Bernice Carter Richardson is the immediate past Chairperson (Retired), the Department of Family and Consumer Sciences at Alabama A&M University. She earned the B.S Degree from Alabama A&M University, the M.S. Degree from Tuskegee University and the Doctor of Education from University of Alabama. The distinction of Professor Emeritus was conferred upon her by AAMU in 2016.

A current member of the Board of Directors and Co-Chair of its Government Relations Committee, Dr. Richardson is a Life Member of the AAMU Alumni Association and holds membership in the Huntsville-Madison County Chapter where she is Parliamentarian. She has chaired and served on various committees including fundraising, Audit, Freshman Welcome Activity. She is an active participant in the AAMU Presidential Engagement Bus Tour, which she helped to organize. Dr. Richardson is responsible for two fully endowed scholarships at AAMU.

Mr. Johnny Kirk

Mr. Johnny Kirk is a 1979 Graduate of Alabama A&M University with a B.S. Degree in Civil Engineering Technology.

Mr. Johnny Kirk is the founding President of the Middle Georgia Alumni Chapter which is serving as President for the past 2 years. He has chaired 3 very successful golf tournaments raising over \$10,000. He is a member of the National Alumni Association Scholarship Committee. He was instrumental in the Middle Georgia Alumni Chapter donation of \$2,500 to The Tom Joyner Scholarship Foundation. He also chaired the class of 1979 AAMU Class Reunion.

Ms. Joyce Harris



Ms. Joyce Harris is a 1983 Graduate of Alabama A&M University with a B.S. Degree in Accounting.

Joyce Harris is a life member of the Alabama A&M University National Alumni Association, Inc. and has been an active member of the Metro Atlanta Chapter for more than 25 years. She is an enthusiastic supporter of alumni initiatives and works with various committees. Joyce previously worked with the Membership Committee at the Association level and supports the Metro Atlanta Chapter efforts with membership recruitment, scholarship fundraising, student and social activities. She currently serves as the Financial Secretary for the Metro Atlanta Chapter and as a Member at Large at the Association level, supporting fundraising efforts during the Magic City Classic weekend. Joyce also serves as a mentor for a current student at Alabama A&M University.

Joyce is native of Birmingham, Alabama. She is a retired federal auditor with 35 years of federal service in the accounting and audit fields. Joyce is a Certified Fraud Examiner (retired). She is a life member of Blacks in Government and a member of the Association of Government Accountants and former member of the Institute of Internal Auditors.

Ms. Joyce Harris goals for Alabama A&M National Alumni are: To assist with the growth and advancement of the Alabama A&M University National Alumni Association, Inc., to mentor Alabama A&M University students and recent graduates and provide them with resources for success, while encouraging them to have a lifelong commitment to the university and to develop new and successful methods of fundraising for the Association.

Ms. Karen Howze-Samuels



Ms. Karen Howze-Samuels is a 1982 Graduate of Alabama A&M University with a B.S. Degree in Business Administration. She is also a 1990 Graduate of Alabama A&M University with a Master of Business Administration in Accounting.

Karen is currently employee with AT&T as a Billing Ops Analyst for the past 33 years. She is also an H&R Block Senior Tax Advisor for the past 34 years.

Ms. Karen Howze-Samuels is a Life Member of the Alabama A&M National Alumni Association where she currently serves as National Financial Secretary since 2014. She also served as Secretary for the National Alumni Association from 1996-2002. She is a local member of the Greater Birmingham Alumni Chapter servicing as Financial Secretary since 2013. She also serves as AT&T Pioneers Alabama Chapter-Treasurer {10 years}

AT&T Pioneers Metro Council - President (3 years), Past Treasurer (4 years) Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., BAC - Past Internal Audit Chair, Member Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., BAC - Member, Internal Audit Committee Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., BAC - Past Co-Chair, Member Services Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., BAC - Past Treasurer and Kiwanis Club of Vulcan-Member, Past President.

Ms. Howze-Samuels has attended several National Alumni Conferences in the past and most recently attended the Atlanta, Houston and Charlotte conferences. She has also attended several AAMU Founder's Day events and assisted with the auctions held during the Alumni Scholarship Awards Luncheon (formerly Breakfast), assisted the Membership Chair with the collection of dues during Homecoming in the Big Tent and in the Hospitality Suite during both Homecoming and Magic City Classic., and as the Association's Financial Secretary I have handled the MCC Scholarship Fundraiser which involves mailing the tickets to each Board Member and Chapter Presidents. As well as collecting tickets and money, reporting funds received, overseeing the drawing and depositing the monies.

Ms. Karen Howze-Samuels goal is to continue to be the very best servant leader for the National Alumni Association which will continue to show my love and loyalty for our beloved Alma Mater.

Dr. Cynthia Wright-Toles



Dr. Cynthia Toles

Dr. Cynthia Wright-Toles graduate from Alabama A&M University with a B.S. Degree in History and Minor in Sociology. She also received an Associate degree from Gadsden State Community College in History, University of Alabama Master of Arts - Elementary Education, Jacksonville State University AA Certification - Elementary Education; University of Alabama in Birmingham Ed.D. -Educational Leadership; Doctoral Thesis: "An Investigation of Characteristics Exhibited by Alabama Public Schools Designated as Alert, Caution and Clear: A Comparative Study" and Birmingham School of Law- Pursuing law degree.

Dr. Toles accomplishments and recognitions include: Teacher of Year, Eura Brown Elementary; Principal of the Year, Educational Resource; Distinguished Principal Nominee for District V, Alabama Association of Elementary School Principals; SCLC Leadership Recognition and Gadsden State Community Service. Teacher Consultant for the Alabama Geography Alliance, Evaluator Standards of the Alabama Professional Education Personnel Evaluation Program; SACS Facilitator; Alabama Technology Trainer and Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Membership Intake Trainer. Cahaba Girl Scout Troop Leaders; Board Member, Big Brothers/Big Sisters.

Dr. Toles has received extensive training in Classroom Organization Management, State and National Reading Renaissance, Alabama Reading Initiative/Principal/Retooling, Improving Community Relations; School Incident Reporting, Literacy Partner: A Principal's Guide to an Effective Library Media Program for the 21 Century, School- Wide Enrichment Model; Special Education Outreach Project, Conflict Resolution/Peer Mediation, Attention Deficit Disorder and Attention Deficit Hyperactivity, Student Assessment: The Instruction Connection and Talents Unlimited.

Dr. Toles considers one of the highlights of her career to be when she was selected as the administrator to travel to Nairobi, Kenya for an International Africa Educators Conference. While there, she received a welcome from the American Embassy in Kenya. In 2012, she traveled to Lagos, Nigerian where she served as the principal of the Communion School for 13 months. While in Lagos, she was a presenter at the Annual Nigerian International Conference held at the American International School of Lagos.

Dr. Toles is an involved educational, corporate and civic leader serving with: Alabama Association of Elementary Principals; Southeastern Council of Elementary Principals; Council of Leaders in Alabama Schools; National Association of Elementary Principal where she serves as the Minority Foundation Director for Elementary Principals, K-8 across the United States; President of Gadsden Alumnae Chapter, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority; Gadsden Etowah Chapter of Alabama A&M Alumni; Gethsemane No. 882; Martha J. Glover Heroine of Jericho; Etowah County Voters ' League; Donehoo P.T.A.; and the Rhapsody and Blue Book Club.

With a strong belief in Christian principles, Dr. Toles is a member of the Antioch Baptist Church Gadsden, Alabama. She serves as Sunday School Teacher for the Women's Class and the Women ' s Bible teacher. She has served as Teacher, Secretary and Dean of Christian Education for the Wills Creek Congress of Christian Education. While a member of Mount Pilgrim Baptist Church Gadsden, Al, Dr. Toles was active in the choir, served as member of usher board, Missionary Society; in addition, she served as Church Trustee, Church Clerk, Vacation Bible School Directory and Sunday School.

Dr. Toles is currently elected as Vice-President of the Gadsden-Etowah County Chapter of AAMU Alumni Association. She also served as Secretary and Program Chairperson in this chapter.

Ms. Richetta A. Wilkerson



Ms. Richetta A. Wilkerson is a 1978 Graduate of Alabama A&M University with a Degree in Social Work and a Minor in Criminal Justice.

MS. Wilkerson is a Member of AAMU Huntsville-Madison County Alumni Chapter, A Life Member of the AAMU Alumni Association, Member of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority Inc. and employed with the Department of Defense HQ Army Material Command at Redstone Arsenal as a Logistics Management Specialist with 33 years of Service.

Her accomplishments include:

- *Received the 2016 AAMU Alumni Association Alumna of The Year Award
- *Received the 2015 Arthur Pillar Award
- *Board member non-profit organization Operation Making a Difference Inc. Located in Huntsville, AL.
- *She is a 2015 graduate of the Tennessee Valley Diversity Leadership Colloquium
- * Consistently volunteers with the AAMU Office of Alumni Affairs during Founders Week, class Reunion and other activities,
- *A supporter of Alabama A&M University and the AAMU Alumni Association Scholarship Fund
- Member of AAMU Bulldog Pride Committee Where First Lady Abbiegail L. Hugine is Chair
- **Created the AAMU Alumni Association Facebook site with over 3000 members with daily postings*
- *Serving as the AAMU Alumni Association Custodian for 2016 -2018,
- *PRESENTLY AND PROUDLY serving as AAMU Alumni Association Membership Chair since 2014,
- *Work closely with the AAMU Alumni Association Board Members and the AAMU Office of Alumni Affairs Monthly membership meetings with the Vice President and Regional Vice-Presidents,

***Homecoming and Magic City Classic Membership Drives each year. Received new and renewing members at each membership drive. Increase in online membership and Associate membership**

***Worked with TEAM Redstone Kickoff Campaign for the Combined Federal Campaign in support of the AAMU Alumni Association Scholarship Fund,**

***Worked with Chapter Presidents on membership and encouraged new members to join a Chapter,**

***Worked with the AAMU Office of Alumni Affairs and the Alumni Association on the Senior Send Off and Alumni Open House in 2016 and 2017,**

***Attended the Charter Ceremony for the AAMU Alumni Association Chapter in Chattanooga, TN.**

Ms. Richetta Wilkerson is an energetic Bulldog supporter and unconditional lover of Alabama A&M University and the Alabama A&M University Alumni Association for Life. "Service is Sovereignty"