A History of the Office of Alumni Relations

The office of alumni relations sustains and strengthens the lifelong bond between alumni and North Carolina Central University. The Office works closely with the Alumni Association to connect and reconnect alumni, former students and friends to the university and to each other. Since the University’s early years, alumni have kept watch over their beloved institution and have enjoyed soaring on a legacy of “Truth and Service.”

Through involvement of chapters, class reunions, alumni organizations such as The Eagle Club, the NCCU Marching Sound Machine Booster Club and campus alumni activities, there are a myriad of ways for alumni to re-experience the sloping hills and verdant green. Alumni efforts today are a reflection of Dr. Shepard’s vision to create the National Religious Training School and Chautauqua 100 hundred years ago. Indeed, the legacy of “Truth and Service” continues - a legacy that has allowed North Carolina Central University alumni to continue to have an impact on the state, the nation, and the world.

Office of Alumni Relations Staff

For the past sixty three years, the University has supported alumni activities with staff and financial resources. Although the position has evolved over time, the responsibilities include the planning and implementation of programs and projects that strategically engage alumni; create and maintain pathways for alumni participation that advance the goals of the Institution; encourage partnering with development colleagues to identify, cultivate, solicit and steward alumni giving; and serve as a liaison between the Alumni Association, academic and administrative leadership. Those individuals serving in the role of director and their terms are listed below:

Marion S. Johnson ’31 1947-1952
George S. Nixon ’53 1968-1971
William P. Evans ’62 1971-1986
Ellis H. Smith ’61 1986-1996
Alfred E. Richardson ’58 1996-1998
Roger R. Gregory ’71 1999-2004
William P. Evans ’62 Feb. 1, 2009-June 1, 2009
Anita B. Walton Aug 24, 2009 – Present

North Carolina Central University Alumni Association, Inc.

Beginning with its first known president, Richard L. McDougald ’18, the alumni association has served the University for nearly 85 years. The objectives and purpose of the Association are to promote the spirit of fellowship among its graduates and past students, and to strengthen their relations with the University. Articles of incorporation were filed on July 28, 1969 with the North Carolina Department of The Secretary of State, signed by H. M. Michaux Jr., B.T. McMillon, and Robert L. McAdams. The North Carolina Central University Alumni Association, Inc. (NCCUAA) has awarded numerous scholarships on the local and national level, provided resources and support to the University, recruited students and provided countless hours of community service in the name of Dear Old N.C.C. As we look to the next century, NCCUAA will preserve and continue the legacy, playing a vital role in helping Eagles past, present, and future remain connected to the University held so dear to our hearts.

Presidents of the National Alumni Association

Officers of the Association are elected at the annual meeting for a term of two years or until a successor is elected. The president serves as the official spokesperson of the Association, presiding at all meetings, serving as an ex-officio member of all committees, and representing the Association at University events and programs. Those individuals serving in the role of Alumni Association President and their terms are listed below:

Richard L. McDougald ’18 1925-1927
Dr. James M. Hubbard ’15 1927-1929
Richard L. McDougald ’18 1929-1936
George A. Harper ’29 1936-1937
Dr. James M. Hubbard ’15 1937-1939
Irwin R. Holmes ’34 1940-1942
World War II (Activities suspended) 1942-1944
Asa T. Spaulding, Sr. ’25 1944-1951
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Years</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>James T. Taylor '21</td>
<td>1951-1954</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Irwin R. Holmes '34</td>
<td>1954-1956</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thomas E. Malone '48</td>
<td>1956-1957</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>William A. Marsh, II '53</td>
<td>1957-1961</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>George S. Nixon '53</td>
<td>1961-1964</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Charles H. Strayhorne '56</td>
<td>1964-1966</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moses C. Burt, Jr. '53</td>
<td>1966-1967</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Henry M. Michaux, Jr. '52</td>
<td>1967-1970</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lawrence G. Cooper, Jr. '54</td>
<td>1971-1977</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Roger R. Gregory '71</td>
<td>1977-1982</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dora E. Carrington '59</td>
<td>1982-1986</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peggy M. Ward '76</td>
<td>1986-1988</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>David L. Avery '63</td>
<td>1988-1992</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ronald Gant '73</td>
<td>1992-1994</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kay Thomas '66</td>
<td>1998-2002</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Melvin White '70</td>
<td>2002-2006</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Richard Smith '81</td>
<td>2006- Present</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Milestones and Accomplishments**

Below are selected historical highlights from the Office of Alumni Relations and the North Carolina Central University Alumni Association, Inc.

**1937**
The NCC Alumni Association met in the Avery Auditorium and the officers elected were as follows:
Dr. James M. Hubbard - President
Raymond Hocutt - Vice-President
General Secretary - James T. Taylor
Recording Secretary - Edna L. Albright
Treasurer - C. J. Ingram

**1938**
The NCC Alumni Association met in the Algonquin Tennis Club House.

**1948**
NCC Alumni Association announced in February 1948 the largest campaign ever -- $15,000.00 -- which was the most far-reaching program ever attempted by the North Carolina College Alumni Association. Governor R. Gregg Cherry, United States Senators William B. Umstead and Clyde R. Hoey, and President Elder endorsed the program.

**1956**
Mildred Lewis Staton - Vice-President
Dr. Walter Brown - General Secretary
Roxie J. Holloway was crowned Miss NCC Alumni of 1956

**1957-1958**
The NCC Alumni Association met in the Auditorium of the Education Building and elected the following officers:
William A. Marsh – President
Brooklyn T. McMillon - Vice-President
Lindsey A. Merritt – General Secretary
Roxie J. Holloway - Recording Secretary
Irwin W. Knight – Treasurer

**1960-1961**
The NCC at Durham Alumni Association met in May, 1960 and elected the following officers:
William A. Marsh - President
Jerome Dudley - Vice-President
Velma Sims Wilson - Secretary
Aletha Rease - Treasurer
General Secretary - George Nixon
Executive Committee: Howard Alston, Dr. Walter Brown, John Holloway, Irvin Holmes, Brooklyn T. McMillon, Joseph Parker, and George Thorne.
1961
The NCC National Alumni Association elected at their annual meeting on June 3, 1961, the following officers.
George Nixon - President
Harry Smith - Vice-President
Ella Pone - Secretary
Aletha Rease - Treasurer
Executive Committee: Jerome Dudley, Swannie M. Richards, J. E. Batts, William A. Marsh, Howard Fitts, and Alfred Fisher.

1969
The NCCU Alumni Association was incorporated on July 28, 1969, under the presidency of H. M. “Mickey” Michaux.

1970-1971
William P. Evans - President
C. B. Richardson - Vice-President
Dora Carrington - Secretary
Robert McAdams – Treasurer

1972-1973
NCCU Alumni Association provided $4,000 in scholarships to seven National Alumni Scholars.

1973-1974
Lawrence G. Cooper, Jr. - President
Dora E. Carrington - Vice-President
Charlene B. Daye - Secretary
Robert L. McAdams - Treasurer
Lawrence G. Cooper received the “Alumnus of the Year” award for 1974-1975.

1975-1976
Lawrence G. Cooper - President
Roger R. Gregory - Vice-President
Charlene Daye - Secretary
Robert L. McAdams – Treasurer

President Gerald R. Ford delivered speech honoring the University’s 50th Anniversary as a state-supported liberal arts college, the first in the nation for African Americans.

Dr. LaFayette Williams Lipscomb was named Ms. Alumni for 1975-1976.

1976-1977
Lawrence G. Cooper, Jr. - President
Charlene B. Daye - Secretary
Roger R. Gregory - Vice-President
Robert L. McAdams – Treasurer

Mr. and Ms. Alumni for 1976-1977 were William Joyner and Antoinette Tupponce
The first national alumni convention was held on May 20-22, 1976, during Commencement and Alumni weekend.

1977-1978
Roger R. Gregory - President
Dora Carrington - Vice-President
Anna Heartley - Secretary
Robert L. McAdams - Treasurer

Mr. and Mrs. Alumni Contest winners were Elaine Hardy Holland and Antenor J. Adams raising a total of $26,181.00.

The second National Alumni Association Conference was held during the Annual Meeting on May 19-21, 1977, in Durham, North Carolina.

1978-1980
National Officers now serve for two year terms.
Roger R. Gregory - President
Dora E. Carrington - Vice President
1979
Roger R. Gregory received “Alumnus of the Year” award at the Fourth National Alumni Convention.

Mr. and Mrs. Alumni Contest expands to include individuals and memberships.

1980-1982
Roger R. Gregory - President
Dora Carrington - Vice-President
Peggy M. Ward - Secretary
Robert L. McAdams - Treasurer
Assistant Secretary - Muriel K. Yett
Assistant Treasurer - Mary M. Irving
Parliamentarian - Barbara B. Nichols

“T” shirts are sold by the NCCU Alumni Association.

“Chapter of the Year” award was given to the Detroit chapter.

Shirley L. Staten and William H. Thomas were named “Alumni of the Year.”
Margaret G. Barbee and J. Hargrove McKoy served as Mr. and Ms. Alumni for 1981.

Calvin Kearney was named “Alumnus of the Year.”

More than 40 former choir members joined 110 present NCCU Touring and Concert Choir members in a reunion.
NCCU returned to the CIAA after having joined the newly founded MEAC as a charter member.

1981
NCCU’s Life Membership Program was adopted in 1981.

Mr. and Ms. NCCU Alumni for 1981-1982 are Reginald Boone and Evelyn L. Fennell, grossing over $25,000.00 as 16 chapters made contributions.

NCCU Alumni Association presented a check for $5,000.00 to the University to be used for student recruitment scholarships.

1982
The First Life Membership plaque was presented to Ms. Robbie B. Robinson.
Dora Carrington - President
Peggy M. Ward - Vice-President
Calvin Kearney - Secretary
Mary M. Irving –Treasurer

1983
Carol D. Eggleston and Hiliary H. Holloway, Jr. reigned as Mr. and Mrs. Alumni for 1982-1983.

NCCU’s Life Membership Dues were approved at $300 for individuals and $560 for couples.

Dr. Albert N. Whiting retired on June 30, 1983.

1984
Dora Carrington - President
Peggy M. Ward - Vice President
Calvin Kearney - Secretary
Mary M. Irving - Treasurer


1984-1985 The entire academic year was observed as NCCU’s Diamond Anniversary Year, its 75th Year of service.
Ms. Alumna was Sophronia Anita Quails.

1986
On May 10, 1986, North Carolina Central University awarded its Distinguished Alumni Award to Attorney Hillary H. Holloway and Dora E. Carrington, the first alumna to be president of the alumni association.

On June 1, 1986, Peggy M. Ward was elected national president after serving as national vice president and formerly national secretary.

Peggy M. Ward - President
David L. Avery - Vice-President
Joyce Lattimore - National Secretary
E. Joyce Grant - Treasurer

On July 1, 1986, Dr. Tyronza Richmond was named Chancellor of North Carolina Central University. He formerly served as Dean of the School of Business.
The 11th National Convention was held in Richmond, Virginia, on July 24-26, 1986.

The Alumni Bulletin in fall 1986 included for the first time a section entitled “Student Viewpoint” which was a column authored by Dr. Floyd Ferebee, ’66. The column focused on student opinions on issues affecting our Alma Mater.

There were a total of 13 Alumni Scholars for the 1986-1987 year.

1987
Ms. Alumni 1987-1988 was Sylvia S. Alston.

1988
“Preparing for the Future” Administrative Theme for 1988-1989
David Avery - President
Ronald Gantt - Vice-President
Joyce Lattimore - Secretary
Larry Holman – Treasurer

Mr. and Ms. Alumni for 1988-1989 were Dr. Perry A. Massey and Geraldine Thorne.

1989
North Carolina Central University’s Alumni Association’s 14th National Convention was held on July 20-22, 1989, in the Norfolk Hilton, Norfolk, Virginia.
Mr. and Ms. Alumni 1989-1990 were John Bynum and Anna Newkirk.
This year marked the 20th year of NCCU as a University. The School of Law and the School of Library and Information Sciences, both celebrated their 50th Anniversaries as schools.

Over 200 donors contributed to the establishment of an Alumni Center and Guest House that was to be in the Jordan House on the campus.

NCCU’s men’s basketball team captured the 1989 NCAA Division II National Basketball Championship.

The NCCU Alumni Association reconstructed the “Victory Bell” on Eagle-Campus Drive.

There were a total of 16 National Alumni Scholars for the 1989-1990 year.


1990
On May 11, 1990, the following officers were elected for the 1990-1992 term to the National Alumni Association:
David L. Avery - President
Ronald Gantt - Vice-President
Kay Thomas - Secretary
Larry Holman – Treasurer

The NCCU Alumni Association Life Memberships reached 381 in June of 1990.
North Carolina Central University celebrated its 80th Anniversary.
NCCU Alumni, Faculty, Legislators, and friends rallied to save the NCCU Nursing School from closing.

Mr. and Ms. Alumni for 1990 were Ms. Norris Burton and Mr. Doug Mauney.

**1991**
There were a total of 21 National Alumni Scholars for the 1990-1991 year.


The 15th National Alumni Association Conference was held on July 11-13, 1991, in the Omni Inner Harbor Hotel, Baltimore, Maryland

**1992**
Mr. and Ms. Alumni for 1992 were Robert Corbitt and Sherri Lindsay.


---

The Alumni House

**1993**
A total of $25,000.00 was raised for the Alumni House and Guest Center.
The 16th National Alumni Association Conference was held on July 15-17, 1993 at the Richmond Marriott, Richmond, Va.

Richard Dewitt Smith was named “Alumnus of the Year” at the National Conference. The D.C. Chapter was named “Chapter of the Year” at the National Conference.

Life Membership in the NCCU Alumni Association reached 601 in June of 1993.

The 17th National Alumni Association Conference was held on July 13-16, 1995, at the Doubletree Hotel, Washington, D.C.

**1999**
Former national alumni president Roger R. Gregory was tapped to serve as Director of Alumni Relations and served until 2004.

**2004**
Norma Petway served as Director of Alumni Relations from 2004-January 31, 2009. During her tenure the National Black College Alumni Hall of Fame Foundation, Inc. recognized five distinguished alumni.

2006 Dr. Dwight D. Perry, Jr. (Medicine)
2007 Benjamin S. Ruffin (Lifetime Achievement)
2008 Julius L. Chamber, Esq. (Government & Law)
2009 Ernest Eugene Barnes, Jr. (Arts & Entertainment)
2009 Samuel Jones (Lifetime Achievement)

**2006-2008**
Richard Smith - President
Tania B. Davis - Vice-President
Dr. Joan Vann-Johnson - Secretary
Warren Leggett - Treasurer

2008-2009
Richard Smith - President
Tania B. Davis - Vice President
Shauna Askew - Secretary
Chevella Thomas – Treasurer

2009
William P. Evans served as Interim Director of Alumni Relations beginning on February 1, 2009 and ending on June 1, 2009. Anita Walton joined the staff as Director of Alumni Relations beginning on August 24, 2009 and is currently in the position.

Notable Alumni
Dr. Shepard stated, “The Eagle is no common, ordinary barnyard fowl.” With over 40,000 alumni, North Carolina Central University boasts a number of notable alumni with distinguished, local, state, and global service to humankind. Below is a small sampling of Eagles with distinguished service and leadership.

Dr. Dudley E. Flood ’54, a retired public school administrator and active civic leader and lecturer. He served as vice chairman of the NCCU Board of Trustees and is now a member of the U.N.C. Board of Governors. He served in the N. C. Department of Public Instruction for twenty-one years. He was associate director and later director of the Division of Human Relations for the Department; he was later named Assistant, then Associate State Superintendent of Public Instruction, and retired as the Executive Director of N. C. Association of School Administrators.

*Dr. Francis A. Kornegay ’35, (1913-2000) a native of Mt. Olive, North Carolina who served with distinction as the Executive Director and President of the Detroit Urban League and was elected Chairman and President of the United American Healthcare Foundation. He was the founder of the NCCU James E. Shepard Society and became the founding chairman of the NCCU Foundation.

Carolyn Morris ’60, served as Assistant Director of the FBI and Director of the Information Resources Division.

*Henry McKinley Michaux, Sr.’21, was a noted businessman in Durham for over sixty years. He was a founding member of the James E. Shepard Memorial Foundation and Founding Director of the NCCU Foundation, Inc. He was recognized in 1985 and given the Chancellor’s Citation for his support of the NCCU.

H. M. “Mickey” Michaux, Jr., ’52 and ’64, who received his undergraduate and law degrees from NCCU, was the first black United States Attorney for the Eastern District of North Carolina. Currently a member of the NC General Assembly, he is considered the “Dean” of the Assembly.

* Judge William Gaston Pearson, II ’36 and ’54 (1914-1985), Durham’s First Black Judge- A native of Durham, he attended Durham City Schools graduated from NC College for Negroes in 1936 and received a law degree in 1954. Following service in the military and several business ventures, he embarked upon a career in law and established Pearson, Malone, Johnson and DeJarmon, the first black law firm organized in the state of North Carolina. At the time of his death, he was a retired judge of the Fourteenth Judicial District, Durham, N. C., having been first appointed by Governor James B. Hunt and subsequently elected to the post in 1978 and 1982.

*Asa T. Spaulding, Sr., ’23 (1902-1990), A native of Columbus County, N.C., he was educated at the National Religious Training School, now NCCU, receiving his diploma in 1923. He served as the fifth president of NC Mutual Life Insurance Company in 1958 and retired in 1967. The Asa T. Spaulding Chair in the School of Business at North Carolina Central University was funded by a gift from Wachovia Bank of North Carolina, N. A., and presented to NCCU in July 1993.

Dr. Walter M. Brown, ’48 and ’55, a native of Durham, N.C. received his B. S. degree from NCC at Durham in 1948, the M. A. degree from NYU in 1950 and the Ph. D. degree from NCC at Durham in 1955. He has the distinction of being the first recipient of five whom received the Ph. D. degree from NCC at Durham. From 1980 to 1992, Brown was a professor of Education at NCCU. In 1986, he became the first University Marshal and from 1989 to 1992 he was Dean of the newly established School of Education.

Julius L. Chambers, ’58, former president of the NAACP Legal Defense Fund, was the first alumnus to be Chancellor of North Carolina Central University.

*Maynard Jackson, ’64, an alumnus of the NCCU School of Law, was the first black mayor of Atlanta.
*Clarence Lightner, ’42 was the first black mayor of Raleigh, N. C., NC State Senator and owner of Lightner Funeral Home.

*Hiliary “Hip” Holloway, ’75 served as vice-president and general counsel of the Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia, as a member of the NCCU Board of Trustees, and as national pole march (“president”) of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc.

Grady Tate ’59 is one of the country’s leading percussion artists.

Hilda Harris, ’58 is a mezzo-soprano formerly with the Metropolitan Opera.

*John Baker, ’58, a former All-Pro professional football lineman, was the first African American elected Sheriff of Wake County, N.C.

Dr. Cleon F. Thompson, Jr., ’56 and ’58, received his bachelor’s degree in biology in 1956, the master’s in 1958, and the Ph. D. degree in educational administration at Duke University in 1977. He served as president of Winston Salem State University.

Dr. Linda K. Clayton, ’1971, is Assistant Professor, Department of Medicine, Harvard Medical School and Doctor with Brigham and Women’s Hospital.

Danielette Tucker Jackson, ’54, is a native of Liberia and 1954 alumna who, upon graduation, returned home to become the first female accountant in Liberia. She was the first woman and the first native of her country to serve as auditor for the Republic of Liberia.

Floyd Benjamin ’65 earned a bachelor of science degree and master of science degree from NCCU. He was promoted to the post of chief executive officer of Akorn Inc., in Chicago. This appointment made Mr. Benjamin in 1999 the only African American CEO of a pharmaceutical company in the United States. Presently, he is CEO of Keystone Pharmaceuticals, Inc, Laguna Hills, California.


Herman “Ike” Boone, ’58 received his bachelor of arts and master’s degree from NC College and was an award winning coach and the inspiration for the hit movie “Remember the Titans”.

Reverend Douglas Moore, ’49, in 1957 he made history as pastor of the Asbury Temple Methodist Church, when he led a group that participated in the 1957 Royal Ice Cream Parlor sit-in in Durham. This sit-ins preceded all other sit-in in America.

*Deceased

Prepared by Mrs. Anita Walton
February 11, 2010

*Information provided by Andre Vann ’93 of the North Carolina Central University Archives, Records and History Center

The Ceremonial Mace commissioned by The NCCU Alumni Association, designed by Melvin J. Caver, Ph.D., Chairman of the Department of Art, and crafted by Mr. Frank Barrow, Shelby, N.C. 2002