

A History of the NCCU Association of Retired Personnel

The North Carolina Central University Association of Retired Personnel was founded in the fall of 1994 with the support of North Carolina Central University alumnus, Julius L. Chambers, B.A. 1958, Chancellor of the University, 1993-2001. Many members of the Association are also alumni, as degrees and dates following their names will indicate.

Members of the Organizing Committee for the Association were the late Ozie F. Brown, B.S.C. 1948; Walter M. Brown, B.S. 1948 and Ph.D. 1955; Dorothy W. Campbell, B.A. 1946; William Paul Evans, B.S. 1962; Willia W. Lewis; the late Alyce P. Little; Brooklyn T. McMillon, B.A.1946, M.S.P.H. 1947, Hon.D. 1990; Clyde Moore, Jr.; the late Alexander "Alex" Rivera, B.A. 1941; Earl A. Sanders; Ellis Smith, B.A. 1961; the late Marian H. Thorne, B.S.C. 1951; Lula G. Thorpe, B.A. 1957; and the late David Witherspoon. (All members of the Organizing Committee were retired, except for Evans, Rivera, Smith, Thorpe, and Witherspoon.)

Walter M. Brown became the first president of the Association. The late Rosemary Allsbrook Johnson, 1947, served as Vice President, the late Marian Henderson Thorne, Recording Secretary; the late Marian Evans Covington, Corresponding Secretary; Mildred Oakley Page, M.S.P.H., 1948, Assistant Corresponding Secretary; and Stewart "Twiggy" Fulbright, Treasurer.

Brown was a professor and the first Dean of the North Carolina Central University School of Education. Johnson and Covington were, respectively, secretaries and administrative assistant to Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, Cecil Patterson, and Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs Roland Buchanan. Thorne taught in the School of Business; Fulbright was professor and dean of the School of Business. Page continues to teach part-time in the Department of Health Education, now the Department of Public Health.

All persons who retire from North Carolina Central University – physical plant support staff, academic support staff, faculty members, and administrators – are urged to join the Association. Currently, membership is comprised of individuals from each of these areas. The Association is a service and social organization, dedicated to assisting the University in various ways and to supporting its retired persons.

In 2000 Mary Hawkins, B.S.A. 1956, M.S.P.H. 1961, began publishing *Encore Update*; the *Newsletter of the Association of NCCU Retired Personnel* which includes the agenda for the upcoming meeting, minutes and committee reports of the previous meeting, announcements, and news of members' activities.

To date, the single most engaging constant venture of the Association is its annual scholarship.

Members have assisted the NCCU Alumni Association with phone-a-thons. Consistently, members represent the Association at University events and functions; often they assist as hosts and ushers. Members serve on University Committees; the Association has taken political positions in regard to University matters.

The Association initiated a successful effort to have the Science Complex named for the late Mary McLean Townes. In addition, William Paul Evans led his class to commission Art Museum Director Kenneth Rodgers to paint a portrait of Townes which is to be unveiled in the Mary McLean Townes Science Building during the Centennial Celebration.

The Association has sought vigorously to assist in the preservation of the history of the University. Brooklyn T. McMillon, retired faculty member and retired Registrar, has been the University's Archivist and Historian since 1982. Long before that time, however, he had started collecting, classifying, and filing the University's documents.

To promote the welfare of members, the Chair of the Courtesy/Benevolence Committee sends notes to members who are ill and supports members' families in various ways during bereavements. Individuals support members and other retired persons, as well.

The Association has a number of interest groups which attend athletic events and theatre productions, visit art museums, take day trips, and read and discuss selected works. Often, it has a summer picnic. Over the years the Association has enjoyed events at the Chancellor's residence at the invitation of Chancellor Emeritus Chambers and of Chancellor Charlie Nelms.

The Association meets on the first Thursday of March, June, September and December from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. At each meeting, time is set aside for a message from the Chancellor, or his representative.

Initially the Association met in the Conference Room of the L.T. Walker Complex; later it met in the Activities Center of Holy Cross Catholic Church. During the 2002-2003 academic year, it met at St. Joseph's AME Church. Subsequently, it has met in the Eagle Landing Residence Hall and at the Alfonso Elder Student Union. In June 2009 the Association began meeting in the new W. G. Pearson Cafeteria.

The Association of North Carolina Central University Retired Personnel envisions ever expanding ways by which it may continue to serve the University, members of the organization, and the community.

Prepared by Arthrell Dupree Sanders, Ph.D.
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APPENDIX

Officers of the Association of Retired Personnel 1996-2008, and the positions from which they retired.

The officers for 1996-98 were Davesene Wiggins Lawson, 1960, President; the late Rosemary Allsbrook Johnson, Vice President; the late Marian Thorne, Recording Secretary; Mildred Oakley Page, Corresponding Secretary; the late George H. Williams, M.S. 1957, Assistant Corresponding Secretary; and, the late Miriam Ricks, M.S.L.S. 1955 Treasurer. Lawson who was professor and associate dean is teaching part-time in the School of Business; Williams was professor in the Department of Biology; and Ricks taught in the School of Library Science, Early Childhood Learning Center.

From 1998-2000 the officers were Gwendolyn Davis-Tait Haskins, M.A. 1960, President; the late Marjorie King, Vice President; Georgetta Thompson-Kee Parker, B.S.C. 1977, Recording Secretary; Ernestine Nelson Osler, B.A. 1990, M.A. 1991, Corresponding Secretary; and William "Bill" McDonald, Treasurer. Haskins taught in the Department of Music; King taught in the Department of English. Parker was secretary and continues part-time in the School of Education; Osler retired from the Budget Office of the University; and McDonald was Director of Physical Plant.

The officers for 2000-2002 were Charles Nicholson, President; Gwendolyn Thompson Paschall, B.S.H.E. 1948, M.A. 1959, Vice President; Georgetta Thompson-Kee Parker, Recording Secretary; Julia Spencer, 1951, Corresponding Secretary; Mary E. Hawkins, B.S.A. 1956, M.S.P.H. 1961, Assistant Corresponding Secretary; and, William "Bill" McDonald, Treasurer.

Nicholson was a professor in the School of Education; Paschall taught in the Department of Home Economics, now The Department of Human Sciences. Spencer was secretary in the Department of Sociology; Hawkins taught in the Department of Health Education, now, the Department of Public Health Education, and continues in the Department as academic advisor and mentor to students.

Officers for 2002-2004 were Arthrell Dupree Sanders, B.A. 1953, President; William P. Evans, B.S. 1962, Vice President; Hazel Davis, Recording Secretary; Sandra Howard Brunson, 1966, Corresponding Secretary and Mary E. Hawkins, Treasurer. Sanders taught in the Department of English, served as interim chair for one year, and succeeded Walter M. Brown as University Marshal. Evans was Director of Alumni Affairs and Special Assistant to Chancellor Tyrone R. Richmond. Sanders and Evans are now co-chairs of the North Carolina Central University Centennial Planning Committee. Davis was secretary to Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs Buchanan; Brunson was secretary and receptionist for the Department of Theatre.

Sanders, Evans, Davis, and Hawkins retained their respective offices for the 2004-2006 term. Angela Owens Terry was secretary.

Current officers (2006-2008) for the Association are Angela Owens Terry, President; Floyd C. Hardy, B.A. 1956, Vice President; Edna B. Becton, Secretary; Linda Barfield, B.A. 1988, Assistant Secretary; Davesene W. Lawson, Corresponding Secretary; Lola T. McKnight, Treasurer. Terry was Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs; Hardy was Director of Library Services; Becton retired from the Accounts Payable Office; Barfield retired from the Physical Plant; and McKnight was Director of Student Accounting and Loan Collections.