



# TIGER PRIDE

A Publication for the Benedict College National Alumni Association

Fall, 2013



## Tigers in Giant Stadium!



The Benedict College tigers took New York and New Jersey by storm on Friday & Saturday, September 13-14, 2013 with the band performing on the State Office Plaza at 126th Street & Lenox Avenue in Harlem, New York. The historic event was arranged by alumni Kenneth Woods '79 and Sylvia Brown Woods '79 (Northern Regional VP), owners of the renowned Sylvia's Restaurant in Harlem.

The weekend was filled with excitement and activities beginning with plaza performance, a Northern Regional Alumni Round Up on Friday night, hosted by the Woods at Sylvia's where alumni dined on southern style cuisine and partied hard with good music and dancing on a crowded floor throughout the night.

Saturday was kicked off with a breakfast where all Northern Region clubs were well represented, and a more impressive alumni turnout at the Urban League's 41st Annual Classic at MetLife Stadium. The Benedict College Band gave an outstanding performance and the Benedict College Football team won over Virginia State, garnering the trophy for a very proud President Swinton.



## 2013 BCNAA Club Presidents' Retreat...



With 19 clubs represented at the BCNAA's 2013 Club Presidents' Retreat held this summer, June 22—24, at Hilton Head, South Carolina, the sessions were informative and lively. The Retreat Planning Committee, Patricia Ackason, Chairman, and members, Essie Williams and Gloria S. Ferguson, worked closely with the Office of Alumni Relations to plan a successful event. The weekend was filled with fun and games to supplement the intense planning sessions. The weekend concluded at a reception with Benedict College Board of Trustees on Sunday night.

A Message from the...

### BCNAA National President



Greetings!

As we convene for our 2013 Annual Fall Conference and Homecoming, I welcome and greet you with sincere appreciation and pride. The Homecoming Committee and Office of Alumni Relations' consistent efforts to provide an organized meeting and good entertainment, deserve our recognition for their tirelessly hard work. We are fortunate to have their planning skills and dedication.

Your presence at this Conference is a demonstration of your commitment to the Association and Benedict College. At the beginning of this Administration, the ground work was laid to expand our sphere of alumni engagement. We are beginning to see the results of the work being done to increase alumni clubs and membership. This edition of "**Tiger Pride**" highlights those activities and accomplishments.

I thank you for your continuous commitment of service to Benedict College and your personal determination to make a difference in educating our youth. These are extraordinary characteristics of graduates of this fine institution. Enjoy your weekend!

*Elsie*

## National Officers 2012—2014

**Elsie King Hamler '71**  
*President*

**Dr. Willie Joe Hill '66**  
*Vice President*

**Walletta Moore '00**  
*Young Alumni Vice President*

**Jacqueline Lawrence '59**  
*Recording Secretary*

**Gloria S. Ferguson '71**  
*Corresponding Secretary*

**Walter Good '71**  
*Treasurer*

**Robert Squirewell '76**  
*Parliamentarian*

**Rev. Willie Wilson III '77**  
*Chaplain*

**Mary Primus Jones '68**  
*Southern Region Vice President*

**Sylvia B. Woods '79**  
*Northern Region Vice President*

**Dr. Mary Gaffney '64**  
*Eastern Region Vice President*

**Barbara Linda Murray '67**  
*Western Region Vice President*

**Virginia Finlayson '68**  
*Mid-Western Region Vice President*

**Ada Brown Belton '77**  
*Assistant VP  
Alumni Relations and  
Advancement Services  
& BCNAA Executive Secretary*

# Office of Alumni Relations...



**Mrs. Ada Brown Belton**  
*Assistant VP  
Alumni Relations  
and Advancement  
Services  
&  
BCNAA Executive  
Secretary*

Greetings,

**With each passing day,** we are reminded that in order to move forward, we must keep our eyes on the horizon where the earth meets the sky. This helps me to reflect on all that we have accomplished within the National Alumni Association and at Benedict College this past year.

Thank you for having shared, reached, accomplished, achieved, both literally and figuratively in the growth of our association and our alma mater. With the strong roots of the Benedict College National Alumni Association to ground us, we are embracing this welcomed economic recovery with tenacity and renewed hope.

I hope you will enjoy reading the enclosed updates about our association and come join us for another wonderful year of providing for those we educate, both young and life learners as well.

## BCNAA Membership on the Rise



**Dr. Willie Joe Hill**  
*National Vice  
President &  
Membership  
Chairman*

National Vice President Dr. Willie Joe Hill, Chairman of Membership, and Patricia Ackason, Co-Chairman, are hard at work with plans to increase alumni membership in the Association. Dr. Hill and the Membership Committee are working multiple strategies to increase alumni participation across the nation.

One successful and innovated strategy was the Committee's Campaign which reached out to those alumni who give every year to the College, but were not members of the BCNAA. This initiative was a huge success and has impacted the bottom line of the Association's membership and operations.

**"The key is to work smarter, not harder as we develop strategies for alumni involvement and engagement"** says Dr. Hill who is known for his analytical approach to implementing solutions.

**Nearing "700" and Counting...**

## Send Us Your News...

All submissions for the TIGER PRIDE newsletter are due by the 15th day of third month to be considered for publication in the upcoming quarterly newsletter. Please submit to the National President, **Elsie King Hamler** at [ekhamler@gmail.com](mailto:ekhamler@gmail.com). All submissions via email - Please type in the subject line of the email: Newsletter Submission. Note: Because the President receives numerous emails, we want to make every effort to ensure that newsletter submissions are not inadvertently overlooked.



### REPORT OF BENEDICT COLLEGE HALF-CENTURY CLUB

September 6, 2013  
Gladys B. Goforth, President

#### *Fall Ushers in Benedict's Rustling Leaves of Grace, Love and Sharing*

Fall is here again and we are grateful for the many blessings that have fallen on us as Golden Alumni of our dear Alma Mater. We say thank you to the many alumni who are still conscientiously supportive of our dear BC morally, physically, and financially.

As our college desperately needs our financial gifts, let us rally to our great institution which has done so very much for us. As we ripen in age, as well as those of us who have not as yet reached this plateau, may we continue to share the wonderful blessings that have fallen our way. Let us give so that those who follow us will be able to reap the harvest that has befallen us.

Many classes (notably those ending in three (3) and those ending in eight (8) will be in reunion this year). Class agents are encouraging each class to proudly boost the superiority of its rank by increasing its financial contributions. All we are asking is that you do the **BEST** you can. If you truly share these blessings which have befallen you, (along with making a sacrifice), you'll be sure to recognize, not only a harvest bounty for Benedict, but a personal gratuity as well.

How proudly do we reminisce? "Where the golden sunshine falls..." Yes, our rustling leaves of progress and goodness continue to provide splendid opportunities of educational growth for present and future generations.

With breezes still whispering 'round the wall,  
Let us answer our Alma Mater's beacon call.  
As we witness our blessings continuing to  
fall; please respond with a healthy,  
sacrificial gift and give our dear  
Benedict a financial lift!

The Half-Century Club realizes that it is more blessed to give than to receive. We trust that ALL BC Alumni experiences this same sentiment.

PS Half-Century members, lets also be mindful of our allegiance to contributing to the emergency Fund we voted on in October 2012 to assist students in some financial crisis. Whatever you donate can be accredited to your total annual giving. All funds should be sent directly to the Alumni Office designating it for the Emergency Fund.

## 2013-2014 Annual Giving in Full Swing

The 2013 -2014 Annual Giving Campaign is in full swing with an aggressive plan to reach the \$1 million dollar mark this fiscal year. The relentless combination of Chairman Marlene McClerkin and Co-Chairman Teshine Good, and the Committee, are in contact with club presidents around the nation to assist them in reaching their 2014 goals.

There is a confidence in the air that if we focus on reaching the clubs' quota, then our goal is obtainable.

***Let's Go Tigers!***



**Mrs. Marlene  
McClerkin**  
*Annual Giving  
Chairman*

## 2013 Spring Planning Meeting - Orlando

Our Spring Planning Meeting in Orlando Florida was a huge success! Mary Jones and Jean Grant, Conference Coordinators, along with the members of the newly revived Orlando Club,



led by Club President JoAnn Ingram-Lys, gave their all and delivered a spectacular event. The conference was well organized with that extra touch to ensure that the guests were taken care of in many ways.



Judge Bevin Perry delivered a powerful message to the banquet attendees that required each one of us to reflect and rebuke the status quo to make a difference in communities across this nation. His speech was packed with revealing statistics of the unjust in our justice system.

Alumni came for the information and to enjoy the fun and sun of Florida.

***Job Well Done!!!***



# BCNAA Regions In Review...

## The Forces at work



**Mrs. Sylvia Brown Woods '79**  
Northern Regional  
Vice President  
New Jersey  
New York  
Pennsylvania  
Connecticut



**Dr. Mary Gaffney '64**  
Eastern Regional  
Vice President  
Maryland  
Virginia  
Washington DC  
West Virginia



**Mrs. Mary Primus Jones '68**  
Southern Regional  
Vice President  
Florida  
Georgia  
North Carolina  
South Carolina



**Mrs. Virginia Serverance Finlayson '68**  
Midwestern Regional  
Vice President  
Include States in Mid-west Corridor of US



**Mrs. Barbara Linda Murray '67**  
Western Regional  
Vice President  
Include States Far west of the Mississippi

The awesome Regional Vice Presidents are making it happen across America. They toil hard and long for Benedict College and the National Association. From Sylvia Woods negotiating the closing of streets for the Benedict College Band to perform on a busy Friday evening; to Dr. Mary Gaffney traveling across the state of Virginia to charter new clubs; to Mary Jones re-instituting the District Coordinators to cover a vast alumni territory; to Virginia Finlayson and Barbara Linda Murray exploring tech savvy and innovated approaches to reaching and rounding up alumni over more than half of the United States territory.

Yes, they are a mighty force to be reckoned with and work their regions like they are getting paid, when in fact, they are spending their time, money and other resources to make outstanding strides and accomplishments for Benedict College.

***The Forces are at Work!***

### Young Alumni Update...

As the results of the efforts of our Young Alumni Vice President, **Dr. Walletha Moore Johnson '00**, there has been an insurgence of younger graduates who are joining the leadership ranks across the Regions. (*partial list*):

- Mary DuRant Dechamps '80, Pres., Raleigh Tri County
- Nicol Martin '94, Pres., NoVA Club & 2013 Banquet MC
- Jamie Thomas '04, Young Alumni Service Awardee
- Shauna Woods '04, Pres., New York Inc.
- Julius Scott '01, Principal, 2012/ 13 Awards Luncheon MC
- Tameka L. Brown '99, 2012/13 Awards Luncheon MC

***Young alumni leaders stepping forward, relying on tradition, yet bringing innovation, to help secure the future of Benedict College!***



### Tigers on the Rise

*With the newly organized/revived clubs...*



- **Clarendon County Alumni Club**  
President: Ms. Barbara Williams King
- **Berkley County Alumni Club**  
President: Mr. Herbert Bodison
- **Darlington County Alumni Club**  
President: Ms. Brenda Warren Herrington
- **Lee County Alumni Club**  
President: Ms. Betty Addison
- **Sumter County Alumni Club**  
President: Ms. Shirley Blassingame
- **Orlando Alumni Club**  
President: Ms. JoAnn Ingram-Lys
- **New York Inc.**  
President: Ms. Shauna Woods

# BENAA Club News & Updates...

## Augusta Alumni Club

The Augusta Benedict Club reports that 2012-2013 has proven to be the best year ever. The Club is growing in membership and has been very successful in our fundraising activities. We are in the process of planning for the 2014 Spring Planning Meeting to be held March 27-30, 2014, at the Marriott Convention Center located on the River Walk. More information will be forthcoming.

For the third year, the Augusta Club has been in partnership with SCSU Alumni Club of Augusta in a major fundraiser. In 2012, we toured Washington, DC; in 2013 we toured Niagara Falls/Toronto and in 2014, we will tour San Antonio, Texas for nine days, eight nights, June 14-22, 2014. This year, the Club is in the process of establishing a scholarship with guidelines to be presented to a student at the High School graduation. The student will attend Benedict College.

The following alumni have joined the Augusta Club: Georgia Ann Barker '68, Leroy Sutton '68, Elizabeth Jones '76, and Benjamin Zimmerman '2010.

Our Club members are very active and committed. Not only are we growing in active membership, we are growing financially. Willie Mazyck '67, challenged the members to match his contribution of \$500. Several members met the challenge and for the first time in our history, we reached the \$20,000 plus level. The members made a commitment to continue the matching concept every year with an increase in their annual contribution.

Jacqueline Lawrence, an eight-year Breast Cancer Survivor, was recognized for her support to the American Cancer Society. Jackie raised the highest amount of money in her support group, "The Pink Magnolias". She raised \$3,775 and received several awards and certificates.



Members of Augusta Benedict Alumni Club

Jackie also represented the Club by attending the Alumni Club Presidents' Retreat and Leadership Training, June 22-24, 2013, in Hilton Head, SC. The Retreat focused on two areas: 1) current activities and plans for reaching the 2012-2013 Annual Giving and membership goals and 2) Plans and strategies for accomplishing the 2013-2014 goals. We had the opportunity to meet and dine with the Benedict College Board of Trustees. The Retreat was very productive and enjoyable.

### 2013-2014 Officers

Jacqueline D. Lawrence, **President**

Richard Johnson, **Vice-President**

Arma J. Gerald, **Secretary**

Vickie Rogers, **Assist. Secretary**

Jane Gibson, **Treasurer**

Charles Lamback, **Parliamentarian**

Rev. James Edwards, **Chaplain**

### **Business Managers:**

Leroy Rogers, Herbert Gerald,  
& Sharon Cook

### **Annual Giving Captains:**

Willie Mazyck & Elizabeth Jordan

### **Publicity:**

Judy Lamback, Eula Chestnut,  
Frances Wimberly,  
& Georgia Ann Barkley

*"The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others."*

*- Mohandas (Mahatma) Gandhi*

# BCNAA Club News & Updates...



## Richmond Virginia Alumni Club

Dr. Mary Gaffney, Eastern Regional VP, along with National President Elsie Hamler, recently traveled to Richmond Virginia to meet with alumni in the area interested in establishing a BCNAA club.

Reverend Tommie Williams, Mr. Woodrow Jackson and Ms. Vivian Stephens Davis have convened to make the Richmond VA Alumni Club a reality. The first of many meetings to come began on Saturday, October 5th, 2013.

The Reverend Tommie Williams has graciously agreed to lead the effort to establish the Richmond Virginia Alumni Club. Recently honored for community service and involvement, Williams has the skills and experience required to accomplish this goal. *Stay tuned...*

## Northern Virginia (NoVA) Alumni Club

Eastern Regional Vice President Dr. Mary Gaffney beams as she greets attendees to the first official meeting of the Northern Virginia Alumni Club at the Trivinia Italian Restaurant in Woolbridge, Virginia on Saturday, October 5, 2013 at 3 PM. The following officers were elected:

President	Nicol Martin '94
Vice President;	Lisa Wright '84
Secretary	Lucy Jones '96
Treasurer	Deloris Lawrence '74
Assistant Treasurer	Nelda Barnes '86
Chaplain	Loretta Hudson '82

Their purpose is to develop a strong Benedict College Alumni presence in the Northern Virginia area. They are planning to have at least 3 signature events throughout the year, attend local church and community sponsored college fairs to represent Benedict if a recruiter is not available, and be an active club in the annual giving campaign.

BCNAA National President Hamler, who was also in attendance at this historic meeting, congratulated the group on a very impressive beginning.





# ***BCNAA Club News & Updates...***

## **Raleigh Tri-County Alumni Club of NC**



An interest meeting to form a new club in the Raleigh Durham area was held at the home of Mary DuRant DesChamps (class of 1980) on September 7, 2013. Fifteen very interested and excited alumni members responded to the invitation to meet and 11 members were in attendance. The following officers and board members were elected for the year 2013-2014.

### Officers:

President: Mary DuRant DesChamps '80  
Vice-President: James Parnell '77  
Secretary: Sherry Pierce Patillo '89  
Treasurer – Harriet Alston Bellamy '79

### Board Members:

Dr. Shirley Brown Barnes '63  
Dr. James Carter '67  
Mrs. Ann Carter '67  
Mrs. Margaret Deas George '79  
Mrs. Rosetta Moore '59  
Mr. Melvin Kelly '82  
Mrs. Shirley Kelly '82

The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for November 9, 2013. Their theme is "Each One Reach One" with all members reaching out to as many alumni in the area to support the goals and objectives of Benedict College.



**“Faithful  
We  
Forever...”**

# UP COMMING EVENTS

October 17-20, 2013	Homecoming/Fall Conference
March 27—30, 2014	Spring Planning Meeting, Augusta , GA
May 10th, 2014	Spring Commencement
June 30th, 2014	Annual Giving Campaign Ends
July 1, 2014	Membership Dues Received by National

## Join us in Augusta, GA. for 2014 Spring Planning Meeting



*March 27-30, 2014, at the Marriott Convention Center  
located on the River Walk.*

## Membership Has Its Privileges...

Dues expire June 30 annually  
Please pay your dues as soon  
as possible.

Why? Your dues help support the Association's  
annual operating budget from July 1<sup>st</sup> to June 30<sup>th</sup>.

Annual membership dues are **\$25.00**.

If you have any questions or suggestions, please send  
to Dr. Willie Joe Hill at [wjhdds2000@yahoo.com](mailto:wjhdds2000@yahoo.com)  
or call 864-967-2054,

or call the Alumni Office at 803-705-4600.

Please visit the College's website at  
[www.benedict.edu](http://www.benedict.edu) for a complete listing of benefits.

## Membership Benefits

**Hotel discounts**

**Car rental discounts**

**15% Bookstore discounts**

**Reserved deck parking on campus**

**First Class mailing and publications**

**Annual meeting and election voting privileges**



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