



TIGER PRIDE



A Publication for the Benedict College National Alumni Association Spring, 2016

Making A Difference at Our HBCU...



Dr. Willie Joe Hill '66

A Message from the... BCNA National President

My Fellow Alumni,

Does it seem like time is going by faster as our years mount? Is it because we all are so active with our life plans and activities that we do not take the time to smell the roses, much less cultivate them? These questions are not meant to sound like complaints but to emphasize how precious our time is at this point in our lives. If you feel like I do, this means that we are working hard for Benedict College, whenever and however we can when time permits.

With the current crises affecting HBCUs, directly and indirectly, our time and resources are needed now more than ever. Recent government regulations choked our student financial pipeline and our student numbers were reduced and Benedict was wounded in process. Thanks to your donations, Benedict is still strong. If our youth are not educated, how will we produce the next President Obama? With help of donors like you, Benedict is a good place to be. Supporting our College is not a one-time event, but a moving target. We need support from all. We rightfully give big thanks to big donors, but remember donors of all sorts make the goals of which we are all so proud.

I am asking that all Alumni and FRIENDS of Benedict become donors with a history of giving. Be in the number that boast, "I give to Benedict every year!" It's not how much you give that makes your history, but how you give much that makes Benedict's history. I have yet to hear a serious supporter say, "It makes me feel bad to help students."

Thanks to all for making our Alma Mater part of your precious time consumption and for sharing your resources. We are looking forward to your participation in this 36th Annual Spring Planning Meeting as we strategize to support our students to become a "Power for good in society."

Willie Joe

Buckhanan Wilson Delivers 2015 Winter Commencement Address...



Congratulations to Alumna Dorothy Buckhanan Wilson, Class of 1980, the 29th International President of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated, as the 2015 Winter Commencement Speaker and honorary Degree Recipient. Dr.

Wilson is also the newest member of the "Audacity to Dream Sponsorship" Committee.

Dr. Wilson is a longtime corporate executive in both the non-profit and for profit sectors with organizations such as Xerox, SC Johnson Wax, and Goodwill Industries. Full Story at:

www.benedict.edu Click on (News Events)

The Unprecedented Crisis Facing America's HBCUs!

Excerpts from an article by Marybeth Gasman, Education Professor, Penn Center for Minority Serving Institutions (MSIs)...

Across the US, historically black colleges and universities are struggling financially — and the nation's oldest public black college is even on the verge of financial collapse. HBCUs have struggled with unequal government funding, declining enrollment, and poor leadership.

These problems have plagued both private and public HBCUs, and have gotten worse following the financial recession at the end of the last decade, according to University of Pennsylvania education professor Marybeth Gasman — who heads the Penn Center for Minority Serving Institutions (MSIs).

Despite their difficulties, these schools have an undeniable impact on minority students — 11% of African-American students are enrolled in HBCUs, even though the minority institutions only represent 3% of all colleges and universities, according to the Penn Center for MSIs' website. Additionally, HBCUs graduate around 20% of African-Americans who earn undergraduate degrees.

Not every HBCU is in danger of closing, though. Gasman noted that even now there is still a wide range in the stability of historically black institutions.

"There are some of them that are quite strong, and have good enrollment, and then there are some that are sort of in the middle, that have to really ramp up their fundraising, and make sure their students graduate," Gasman said. "And then there are some — probably about 15 of them — that are having a really difficult time."

HBCUs often struggle because they have fewer resources than other colleges — typically due to lower endowments and less money coming in from alumni giving, according to Gasman. "HBCUs provide an environment for students who need to feel empowered and need to feel nurtured in their learning environment," Gasman said. These schools, she said, are "doing the work a lot of institutions aren't willing to do."

Perhaps most importantly though, if these HBCUs close, they likely won't be replaced. "We're never going to get more," Gasman said. "You can only get less."

To read the full article...

<http://www.businessinsider.com/hbcus-may-be-more-in-danger-of-closing-than-other-schools-2015-3>

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□

Ada Brown Belton '77

*Assistant VP Alumni Relations & Advancement Services
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Office of Alumni Relations...



Mrs. Ada Brown Belton '77

*Assistant VP
Alumni Relations & Advancement Services*

What a momentous time in Benedict College's 146 year history. The 2014-2015 fiscal year was filled with tremendous challenges and equally great successes. Thank you for helping us to exceed our \$1M goal last year and thank you for getting us off to a great start this year.

We commend you as members of the Benedict College National Alumni Association for continuing to focus your efforts on increasing the Alumni Annual Fund, building BCNAA membership, assisting with recruitment for the College, and increasing young alumni support.

We are working very hard to meet our new goals this year and are confident with your continued support, we will triumph. In addition to our financial goals, we are also working to increase our alumni participation rate from 20% to 30%. We have an urgent need to increase the number of alumni making a gift regardless of size. We appreciate all that you do and will do in helping to invite other alumni to get involved.

However, we are encouraged and confident that together we can accomplish much on behalf of our students. Hope you are having a great year so far. I look forward to seeing you in Greenville at our Annual Spring Meeting.

Sincerely,

Ada Brown Belton



Heading to Greenville, SC - 2016 Spring Planning Meeting

On March 31st, 2016 alumni from around the nation will convene at the beautiful and luxurious downtown Hyatt Regency (the main hotel); and the overflow hotel, the Marriott Hotel on Interstate I-85, which surrounded by excellent restaurants, to participate in what will be a well planned meeting for the Benedict College National Alumni Association. Jimmie DuRant, Club President and a former National President, is leading the Club in planning this Conference.

Mrs. Barbara Moore '71, Vice President for the Division of Institutional Advancement will deliver the State of the College Address at the Luncheon and the Keynote Speaker for the Dinner Dance is Mr. Tim Bowers '10, an inspirational and motivational high energy speaker; and, music by the Jamie Wright Band, a group of talented musicians with a diversified repertoire of musical styles.

In addition to the National Association's business sessions, there will be plenty for attendees to enjoy. Enjoy downtown shopping, sightseeing, museums, etc., all in walking distance. Saturday, there will be a bus trip to Harrah's Cherokee Casino in the scenic mountains of North Carolina. There are plenty of restaurants and shops for your pleasure. The cost to ride the bus is \$10.00.

Read more about our speaker at TimBowersSpeaks.com.

Read more about the Jamie Wright Band at www.thejamiewrightband.com.

BCNAA NEWS...

Southern Region...

The Southern Region, under the direction of Gloria Simon Ferguson '71, continues to make great strides with the reactivation and chartering of alumni clubs.

In January, 2015, **Horry-Conway Alumni Club** was reorganized under the leadership of Rev. Thessalonia Graham. Efforts will be continued to galvanize the Club and recruit local alumni.



The **Anderson Alumni Club** has made some big steps in the last couple of years. Mr. Leroy Best, the long time President of the Anderson Alumni Club, along with Mrs. Sally Boseman have revitalized and energized the Anderson Alumni Club. In one of their most recent meetings, Mrs. Boseman was elected President of their Anderson Alumni Club. Congratulations to Mr. Leroy Best, a legend with the Anderson Alumni Club, and highest praises for his tireless advocacy of Benedict College are extended.



Sally Boseman



Colleton County Alumni Club—On May 30, 2015, Colleton Alumni Club was reorganized under the leadership of Mary J. Reed '73 (center). The Club is officially operating with the election of officers. The group is poised to work hard and make a “Benedict difference” in Colleton County.



Greenwood Alumni Club—March 14, 2015 Greenwood Alumni Club was reorganized under the leadership of Ronald Forrest '71. The reactivation of this club is crucial to the Greenwood area.

Benedict Charleston Alumni Club

September 26, 2015 – The Southern Region was instrumental in chartering a second club in the greater Charleston Area. Queenie Rock Green, '74 was installed as the new president. This recently chartered club will attract many alumni in the surrounding area and become a vital organ in bringing more Benedict graduates into the fold.



“All of the clubs met with much enthusiasm,” says Southern Regional VP Ferguson.

Eastern Region...

Eastern Regional Vice President Nicol Martin has been working hard for the BCNAA. She attended two college and Career fairs in Northern Virginia. The first one was in Alexandria, VA on Feb 21, the Alfred Street Baptist Church HBCU Festival. Over 3000 students attended this fair. There, she collected eight applications from high school seniors and 49 information cards.



The second one was on Feb 27 in Woodbridge, VA, the Prince William County Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority College and Career Fair, where over 200 students attended. Ten information cards were collected.

Yes, recruitment is crucial to Benedict's growth!

Midwestern Region...

Samuel Finlayson, Mid-Western Regional VP, reports that there are 10 states with 173 alumni in the region. A continuing effort has been made by email and telephone with some success to contact members in the region. Regional VP Finlayson shares, “Technology has made the job easier, but with such a vast territory, the concept of “boots on the ground” in certain key areas of the region is also a part of the strategy to make the impact needed for alumni recruitment.”



Efforts are currently underway to establish additional clubs in targeted cities such as Chicago in the mid west and to use technology to connect alumni residing in the outer areas.

Northeastern Region...

The North Jersey Alumni Club recently held a Membership Rally at the home of its Club President, Elouise McDaniels'68. Bobby Capers'65, Kerney Glover'65, Gertrude Edwards '63, and Willye Calhoun'68 convened for the rally. Also in attendance were: Regional Vice President Robert Gillespi '65 and Mrs. Selena Gillespi '65, the 2015 Lula Gambrell award recipient, along with National Vice President Patricia Ackason '67.

BCNAA NEWS...

Another Year and Another Goal in the Making...

Annual Fund Campaign Underway

The Benedict College National Association reached an historic milestone in last year's Annual Giving Campaign when the alumni gave \$1 Million dollars. This outstanding accomplishment speaks to the caliber of graduates and their commitment to the College. These alumni give generously and consistently. It is difficult to ascertain how we compare in giving to other HBCUs of similarly size, but all indicators suggest that we are among the highest donors and have done an outstanding job to giving back to our beloved alma mater.

However, we need to increase the number of givers. The alumni giving rate is critical to institutions when seeking support from foundations. The question is always, "What percent of your graduates give back?" The national average rate is between 30% to 35%. Our challenge here at Benedict is to reach out to our alumni who are not contributing and encourage them to help by giving back in any amount. While the needs are great, it is more important to just give—that is, to be counted in the number of givers.

The Annual Fund Committee is hard at work to reach this year's goal of \$1.15 Million. The Committee's Leadership includes: Elsie Hamler as Chair, with Teshine Good and Marlene McClerklin as Co-Chairs. This mammoth task consists of many parts—Alumni Clubs, Major Donors, Individuals Alumni Givers, and the Audacity to Dream Sponsors. All of these Campaign components are led by very capable and dedicated alumni.

One of the critical components of the Campaign is the engagement of the Alumni Clubs and their need to each meet or exceed their individual club goals. *"The clubs make up the major portion of the Campaign. If each club makes its goal, then we are almost assured to make the overall goal,"* states Teshine Good.

The Major Donors category was added last year which played a significant role in the Campaign's success. Marion Hanna headed up this sub-committee category which resulted in increasing a record number of alumni giving at the \$10,000 level and above. *"Our goal this year is to add more alumni to the list giving at the \$10,000 level. We are focusing on those alumni who have the ability to give but may not have had the opportunity to make Benedict a part to their philanthropic plan,"* stated Hanna, one of the donors at that level.

There are many graduates of Benedict who are not connected with an Alumni Club—perhaps because they do not reside near a city with club, but can and will continue to give if reminded. Heading up this sub-committee is Juliet King who is working with a dedicated team to contact this group of individual givers. *"Over the past several years, the members of this ...cont'd*



**Swinton
Center**

Audacity to Dream Sponsors Support Scholarship & Association

This brainchild, born after many ideas and attempts to develop ways to sustain the Association and its operations, has taken off and delivered on its mission. The Audacity to Dream Sponsors donate funds to the Association's Endowed Scholarship—taking it over the \$100,000 mark last year and is slated to add significant incremental amounts in the years to come.

The Committee is led by Thelma Salmond who is committed to ensuring a successful campaign each year. Salmond's committee members consistently work to maintain relationships with the business community for repeat participation. *"The positive response from most of our donors is due to already established business relationships,"* states Salmond.

This group of donors understands and supports the mission of this Committee and gives generously to help make a difference. *"The Audacity to Dream Committee was created with the intent of soliciting individuals with resources who would become sponsors to build the Endowment and increase the Association's capacity, and we have been quite successful"* declared Ada Belton, Assistant Vice President Alumni Relations and Advancement Services for the College.

The intent was to identify alumni and business owners who would join the initiative and fill a gap that exist in our fundraising efforts to provide student support.

Annual Fund Chair Hamler states, *"The funds generated by these sponsors are crucial to our operations. As the organization grows, so will the need for funds to accommodate that growth. Our goal is to increase the Association's Endowment to a level that will provide greater impact for our student scholars."*

Annual Fund Campaign Underway, cont'd ...

committee have steadfastly worked to make contact and solicit these individual donors. They do their work quietly yet with persistence and reliance. They are true professionals in their own rights," said Juliet King.

"The future of HBCUs are at stake, and every donor counts in helping these institutions. Benedict's survival is our focus," stated President Hill.

BCNAA News...

Profiles of "Powers for Good"...



Alumni Membership... Crucial to College Survival

As articles are being written about the survival of Historically Black Colleges and Universities, graduates of these institutions must rally to support them. *"That means joining the alumni associations and giving back of your time and financial resources,"* states BCNAA's National Vice President Patricia Ackason.

Patricia Ackason '67

Ackason understands the need, and has dedicated many hours over the past several years to increase the membership on a national level.

There are several initiatives currently underway: an effort to name a Membership Chair in each alumni club; special membership drives nationally to recruit and reclaim members; and the use of social media in the campaign "Each One Reach One" to make contact with the younger graduates.

There have been recent recruitment activities conducted by both the North Jersey and the New York, Incorporated clubs with the assistance of the National Membership Committee.

Under Ackason's leadership, the Association has seen a spike in the number of Benedict graduates becoming members of the Association. When college graduates join their alumni associations, it usually leads to support on various fronts—financially and in-kind service.



James White '15 Sales Consultant

James White III, Benedict's **Student of the Year**, recently graduated Summa Cum Laude (Fall 2015) from Benedict College. He is currently working for Kia of Union City as a Sales Consultant in a sales management training program while preparing to attend law school in the Fall 2017.

James had a stellar record, receiving many awards and accolades for his academic achievements while attending Benedict College. He served as an intern for the Attorney General of South Carolina, Alan Wilson, the South Carolina Legislative Black Caucus, as a UNCF -Walton Education Reform Fellow, and has met a number of distinguished individuals including The President and Vice President of the United States, Barack Obama and Joe Biden.

While he is proud of these accomplishments, he says, "none of it would have been possible without the grace and mercy shown me throughout my journey by friends, family and strangers. It has been grace and mercy that has profoundly changed the trajectory of my life."

Profiles of "Powers for Good"...



Tawanda Ward '07 American Airlines

Tawanda Ward is a graduate of Benedict College, Class of 2007, with a degree in Therapeutic Recreation.

Currently, she is a graduate student at Coppin State University in Baltimore, Maryland, emphasizing Rehabilitation Counseling. Ward's ultimate career goal is to become a Certified Rehabilitation Counselor (CRC) Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor, a noble profession dedicated to improving the lives of people with disabilities.

Tawanda was recently invited to join the Chi Sigma Iota, an international honor society for professional counselors

Tawanda works full time for American Airlines while attending graduate school.

Faithful We Forever!

Profiles of "Powers for Good"...



James Rice '00

Head Women's Basketball Coach

In three years as head women's basketball coach, James Rice has proved to be one of the top coaches in the SIAC. Last season, Rice guided the Lady Tigers to a 23-7 record and their second straight trip to the NCAA Tournament. The Lady Tigers won the SIAC East Division title.

The Lady Tigers have advanced to the championship game of the SIAC Tournament all three years under Rice, and won the title in 2014. In his second year, Rice guided the Lady Tigers to a 20-9 record and the SIAC Championship and was named the tournament's Most Outstanding Coach. In his first season, he led Benedict to a spot in the SIAC Championship game, winning 11 of their last 13 games to finish 18-13.

Rice has made defense a cornerstone of his teams. In 2012-13, Benedict led the NCAA with 14.9 steals per game. In 2013-14, the Lady Tigers lead Division II in field goal percentage defense, allowing opponents to shoot just 33.4 percent from the floor. Benedict also ranked fifth in the NCAA in scoring defense, allowing opponents just 56.7 points per game. Benedict also finished second nationally in rebound margin. In 2014-15, Benedict led the nation in rebounding margin and was third nationally in field goal percentage defense.

Rice took over the head coaching duties prior to the 2012-13 season after serving as an assistant coach for the Lady Tigers since 2007. Prior to that, he served as an assistant coach with the Benedict men's basketball team for five seasons.

Rice is a 2000 graduate of Benedict College, with a Bachelor of Science degree in Therapeutic Recreation and a minor in Community Recreation. Rice has been an integral part of four conference tournament championship teams, with five NCAA Division II Tournament appearances and one NAIA Division I Tournament appearance. He has been a part of the Tiger program since 1993, when he became a member of the men's basketball team.

Prior to embarking on his coaching career, Rice enjoyed a successful campaign as a student-athlete while attending Benedict College. He played a very instrumental role in the Benedict Tigers putting together four conference regular-season championships, two of which were 30 win seasons. All four years, his team was ranked nationally. Rice received the John E. Brown MVP award, which is presented to the Benedict College Student-Athlete of the year. He currently holds the school's records for most basketball games played and won in a career. He excelled as a student-athlete in other sports also, earning All-Conference honors in Cross Country and Team Handball.

Rice is the father of two children, D'Asia Gregg and James Rice II.

SIAC 2016 Basketball Champions & Sweet Sixteen Finalist... Benedict's Women Basketball Team is All That & More

Thanks to Kim Hunter, Assistant Vice President for Communications and Marketing, for her dissemination of information via the web, alumni across the nation enjoyed following the progress and success of this outstanding team of young ladies who have made us all proud. Congratulations Women's Basketball Team!!



Profiles of "Powers for Good"...



Reverend Arthur W. Goforth, III '78

Benedict College's **2016 Founder's Day Speaker**, the Reverend Arthur W. Goforth, III '78, is a "Power for Good" in society. A native of Gaffney, South Carolina, he attended public schools in Gaffney. However, he is a 1974 honors graduate of the C.A. Johnson High School in Columbia, South Carolina. He received his Bachelor of Arts degree from Benedict College in 1978, as part of the first Criminal Justice Administration major class. In 2005, he received a Masters of Arts degree from Columbia International University Biblical Seminary, Columbia, SC. He has done additional studies at North Texas State University in Denton, Texas, and the Interdenominational Theological Center Continuing Education Program at Benedict College.

Following his graduation from Benedict College, Reverend Goforth worked in the criminal justice system as a youth counselor with the Department of Juvenile Justice; employed for 13 years as a special negotiator with the Office of Child Support Enforcement; a self-sufficiency caseworker and adoption specialist with the Department of Social Services; and as a diversity consultant with Irvin, Goforth, and Irvin Training and Communication.

He is a U S Army Veteran is currently employed with Richland One School District in Columbia working with learning disabled students.

In 1982, Reverend Goforth became a licensed minister under the auspices of his father, Reverend Dr. A.W. Goforth II of Christ by Zion Baptist of Columbia. He gained ministerial training and experience at Mount Calvary Baptist Church, Denton, Texas; Saint John Baptist Church, Tacoma, Washington; and Zion Baptist Church, Columbia, SC. In 1986, he was ordained by the Gethsemane Baptist Association of South Carolina. He is the former pastor the Sweet Home Baptist Church of Columbia, SC. In 1998, he was called to become the Lord's under-shepherd of the Mount Zion Baptist Church in Bowman, SC.

Reverend Goforth's religious and civic affiliations are numerous and include serving as the Former Moderator of the Orangeburg-Calhoun Missionary Baptist Association; and Former Member of the Benedict College Founders Day Planning Committee.

Reverend Goforth is married to the lovely Mrs. Vanessa Taylor Goforth, and the parents of three children: Jonathan (Krystal), Arthur IV, and Gabrielle and one granddaughter, Kailani Nicole.



Dr. Albert M. James '67

Benedict College's **2016 Mamie L. Duckett Award Recipient**, the Reverend Albert M. James, Ed.D., DRS is a native of Camden, South Carolina. This ordained and anointed man of God became pastor of Second Providence Baptist Church in May 1981. After moving to Augusta, Georgia, he united with the Greater Mt. Canaan Baptist Church where he is very active. He has always enjoyed serving the Lord and being a blessing to others.

Dr. James received his Bachelor of Arts Degree from Benedict College; a Master of Education from South Carolina State University; Doctorate of Educational Administration, Nova Southeastern University, Fort Lauderdale, Florida; Doctorate of Religious Studies, Trinity Theological Seminary, Newburg, Indiana; and has done numerous additional graduate studies to include Morehouse College in Atlanta, Georgia.

Dr. James worked in the Georgia public school system for thirty years having retired as principal.

Dr. James is a long time supporter of Benedict College and he encourages the members of Second Providence Baptist Church, North Augusta, SC and pastors and churches in the Mount Canaan Baptist Association, Trenton, SC to financially support Benedict College. In addition, he is an active member and financial supporter of the Augusta Benedict Alumni Club.

He is moderator of the Mount Canaan Association, Trenton, SC; affiliated with the Baptist E & M Convention of SC serving as Region Three V P; and the National Baptist Convention USA Inc. Dr. James supports Providence Baptist Church in Togo, Africa, an extension of the Second Providence Baptist Church, North Augusta, SC. He is also President Board Chair for the Christian Haitian Outreach, Inc., (CHO) in Haiti.

Dr. James is married to Dr. Dorothy K. James. They are the parents of two children, Michael and Melissa (deceased) and two granddaughters, JaBreia and Jasmine James, and a lovely daughter-in-law, Furga.

His motto is, *"If I can help somebody as I pass along then my living shall not be in vain."*

A Significant Milestone for... Class of 1966



Congratulations to the Class of 1966 on their induction into the Benedict College Half Century Club. The Half Century Club, led by Mrs. Gladys Goforth, consists of alumni who have been graduates for fifty years or more.

REMINDERS...

March, 2016

Spring Planning Meeting-March 31-April 3, (Greenville, SC)

April, 2016

Charter Day - April 13

Spartanburg Benedict Club Annual Fundraiser - April 29

2015-16 Late Membership Deadline - April 30

May, 2016

BCNAA and Mather Election Ballots Mailed - May 1

Spring Commencement - May 7

June, 2016

Annual Giving Campaign Ends - June 30

Class Gifts Deadline - June 30

July, 2016

2016-17 BCNAA Membership Due - July 1

BCNAA Mather Ballots Deadline - July 15

Mather Annual Meeting - July 29-30 (Atlanta, GA)

September, 2016

Homecoming Early-bird Registration ends September 1

Benedict's First Home Football Game

& Palmetto Classic - September 3

October, 2016

2016 Annual Meeting and Homecoming - October 19

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 1st to June 30th.

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

If you have any questions or suggestions, please **call the Alumni Office at 803-705-4600**.

Please visit the College's website at 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!