



TIGER PRIDE



A Publication for the Benedict College National Alumni Association Summer, 2018

Role and Need for Our HBCUs Still Crucial...



Dr. Willie Joe Hill '66

A Message from the... BCNAA National President

Greetings Fellow Alumni:

In this last minute in time, we have been witnesses as well as part of history of our Alma Mater. We have bid our former president of Benedict a gracious farewell; we have spiritually welcomed our new and first female president into our Benedict family with a royal procession of inaugural events which included participation by your BCNAA President Dr. Willie J. Hill.

The BCNAA is very active in pushing its programs to support our Alma Mater. The Alumni Club Presidents have been meeting via conference calls and reporting fund raising activities and accomplishments. I am especially proud of the relationships that are developing surrounding our school and especially our future leaders, our students.

We salute our members who are struggling to recover from illnesses but still show a concern for our Alma Mater; those who have lost family loved ones and yet find time to continue their support; and we hold on to fond memories of alumni who are no longer with us but graced us with a presence that will sustain the Association for years to come. With special memories of Mr. Mingo Dicks, we smile with thoughts of his love for Benedict and his entertainment and intellectual sharing with us in meetings. To Mrs. Mingo Dicks: Thank you for sharing him with Benedict College.

This BCNAA Leadership has aspirations of having an alumni building (or space) larger so that we can better serve our alumni. We also need a bit more help with our growing needs to efficiently serve our alumni. My prayer and wish are that the future leadership will endorse this growth and development.

Finally, as we close another fiscal year, I am appreciative of the hard work being done by so many to ensure that membership is increasing and that we make our \$1 million dollar goal for the fourth consecutive year.

My sincere thanks to our faithful Alumni Office and its leader, Mrs. Ada Belton, and her Staff for the outstanding work that they do on behalf of the Association.

May God embrace us all for our good intentions.

Sincerely,
Willie Joe

Dr. Roslyn Clark Artis Delivers Keynote Speech at 2018 Spring Planning in Myrtle Beach...

All attendees at the Spring Planning Meeting that Dr. Roslyn Clark Artis delivered a powerful and insightful message on the state of the College, and she shared her thoughts on the plight of HBCUs.



Dr. Artis brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to Benedict College which will be instrumental in the sustainability of the institution.

For more information on our new leader, please visit: www.benedict.edu

Significance of HBCUs in 21st Century

Source: Wiley Online Library.
As Roebuck and Murty (1993: 3, 4) describe them:

"Historically black colleges and universities (HBCUs) are black academic institutions established prior to 1964 whose principal mission was, and still is, the education of black Americans. ... They were founded and developed in an environment unlike that [of] surrounding other colleges—that is, in a hostile environment marked by legal segregation and isolation from mainstream U.S. higher education. ... They have maintained a very close identity with the struggle of blacks for survival, advancement, and equality in American society. ... These institutions have championed the cause of equal opportunity, have provided an opportunity for many who would not otherwise have graduated from college, and have served as the custodians of the archives for black Americans and as centers for the study of black culture."

National Officers

2016—2018

Dr. Willie Joe Hill '66

President

Patricia Ackason '67

Vice President

Jamie Thomas '04

Young Alumni Vice President

Cedelle Gates '71

Recording Secretary

Teshine Good '74

Corresponding Secretary

Moses Mims '68

Treasurer

Jasper Salmond '54

Parliamentarian

Barbara Linda Murray '67

Chaplain

Gloria Simon Ferguson '71

Southern Region Vice President

Debora L. Devaughn '93

Northern Region Vice President

Dr. Mary Gaffney '64

Eastern Region Vice President

Samuel Finlayson '67

Western Region Vice President

Margaret Olawoye '66

Mid-Western Region Vice President

□

Ada Brown Belton '77

*Assistant VP Alumni Relations &
Advancement Services
& BCNAA Executive Secretary*

Publications Committee

Shirley Kelly '82, *Chair*

Elsie King Hamler '71

Office of Alumni Relations...



**Mrs. Ada Brown
Belton '77**

*Assistant VP
Alumni Relations &
Advancement Services*

What a momentous time in Benedict College's 148 year history! The 2017-2018 fiscal year was filled with tremendous challenges and equally great successes.

We commend our Benedict Tigers for continuing their focus on increasing the Alumni Annual Fund, building BCNAA membership, assisting with recruitment for the College, and increasing young alumni support.

We have worked very hard this year to meet our goals 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. We hope you are having a great year so far and look forward to seeing you in Columbia at our Annual Meeting in October.

Sincerely,

Ada Brown Belton



2018 Spring Planning Meeting--Myrtle Beach, SC



Mrs. Cedelle Gates '71
Tiger West



Ms. Ethel Adams '66
Columbia Club #1



Mr. Tommy Mack '80
Columbia Club #2

Successful Tri-Club Leadership

Hats off to a very successful 38th Annual Spring Planning Meeting held in Myrtle Beach, SC on March 22—25, 2018. A triad of alumni clubs coordinated the hosting of the events: Columbia Club #1 under the leadership of then President Elizabeth B. Holmes and current President Ethel Adams, Columbia Club #2 under President Tommy Mack, and Tiger West under President Cedelle Gates. The club presidents served as co chairs of their committee, Benedict Midlands Tri Club Committee which consisted of twenty-one members.

This inaugural event for the Benedict Midlands Tri Club Committee was a labor of love and received outstanding support from the members. Under the capable leadership of President Willie J. Hill, the conference was a huge success with productive business planning sessions and committee reporting.

BCNAA News...

Another Year and Another Goal in the Making...

Annual Fund Campaign Underway

The Benedict College National Association continues to exceed the annual fund goal each year since reaching the \$1 Million dollars milestone in 2015.

"We are ahead of our goal at this point", states Ada Belton, Assistant Vice President, who is charged with ensuring that the Alumni Campaign is a success.

This outstanding accomplishment speaks to Mrs. Belton's leadership and the caliber of graduates and their commitment to the College. Our alumni give generously and consistently. However, we need to increase the number of givers. The alumni giving rate is critical to institutions when seeking support from other sources. 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.

Mrs. Belton commends the Annual Fund Committee who is hard at work in helping to reach this year's goal of \$1,025,000. 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—and are led by very capable and dedicated alumni, to include: Marion Hanna (Major Donors), Juliet King (Individual Alumni Givers), Thelma Salmond & Jimmy DuRante (Audacity to Dream), and Mary Gaffney and Truman Brightman working with Good and McClerklin (Alumni Clubs).



**Swinton
Center**

Membership on the Rise...



**Patricia
Ackason '67**

BCNAA'S National Vice President & Membership Chair, Patricia J. Ackason has dedicated many hours over the past several years to increase membership on the national level. Several initiatives have been utilized including "Each One Reach One" which encourages members to also recruit non-member family and friends to join the Benedict College National Alumni Association. With the help of her committee, composed mostly of the National Regional Vice Presidents, personal contact was made to club presidents and alumni whose memberships had expired. Benedict College National Alumni Association's membership has soared to over 950. In addition, the Benedict Charleston and Lee County Alumni Clubs have been reactivated, which is a crucial component and strategy for increasing membership.

It is important for us to support our own institutions and to give back to help the students who are our future leaders. When college graduates join their alumni associations, it leads to support of their institution's financial resources and much needed in-kind services. Recruiting new members is an ongoing process and the Membership Committee welcomes help from all tigers.

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...Alumni traveled across the country and converged at the Embassy Suites by Hilton in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina to plan the business of the BCNAA and partake of the exciting and relaxing amenities of the Grand Strand. The Theme, "Inspiration and Celebration," was the guiding principle of the weekend. Benedict Alumni were inspired by the selection of our fourteenth president, Dr. Roslyn Clark Artis, the first female president of the college and her vision for the college "#TheBESTofBC." The alumni celebrated the tenth anniversary of the BCNAA Volunteer Corp and Mrs. Rosena Lucas' leadership of the Corp.

The Alumni Luncheon, always a stellar event, began with greetings from the Honorable Henry L. Nichols, Mayor of Loris, SC; Mrs. Leandra Hayes-Burgess Benedict College Vice President for Institutional Advancement; and Mrs. Gloria S. Ferguson BCNAA

Southern Region Vice President. Minister Sean Gilchrist's exhilarating vocal renditions demanded repeated thunderous applause. And then President Dr. Roslyn Clark Artis rose to deliver the keynote address in her inaugural BCNAA Spring Planning Meeting. Attendees who filled the room to capacity rose and welcomed her with an arousing applause. The invigorating style of the accomplished speaker captivated the audience as she expounded on the State of the College, the improvement of Benedict's competitive position, and HBCU's matter in our world.

The weekend closed with the Alumni Fish Fry and Seafood Boil which was hosted by the recently reorganized Horry County Alumni Club led by President Thessalonia Graham; and music by vocalist Sean Gilchrist. The Horry County Club event culminated the weekend, and etched a lasting impression. The Benedict Alumni were inspired, and they celebrated!

BCNAA ...A Time for Planning



Congratulations to Mrs. Ada Belton on your recognition as the 2017 Lula J. Gambrell recipient



*The 38th Spring Planning Meeting in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina on March 22—25, 2018.
Right: Young Alumni Vice President, Mr. Jamie T. Thomas.*



Mrs. Leandra Hayes-Burgess Benedict College Vice President for Institutional Advancement



2018 Spring Planning in Myrtle Beach...

An Invitation

JUNE 22ND

GREENVILLE BENEDICT ALUMNI CLUB
PRESENTS
THE 2018 HONOREE GALA
- HONORING -
DR. WILLIE J. HILL, JR.

EMBASSY SUITES
670 VERDE BLVD.
SEMI-FORMAL ATTIRE
TICKETS \$60

TO PURCHASE TICKETS CONTACT:
TAMEGA JONES | 340.489.5992
OR
ANY MEMBER OF THE BENEDICT CLUB

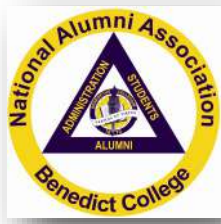
A Time for Working and A Time for Having Fun...



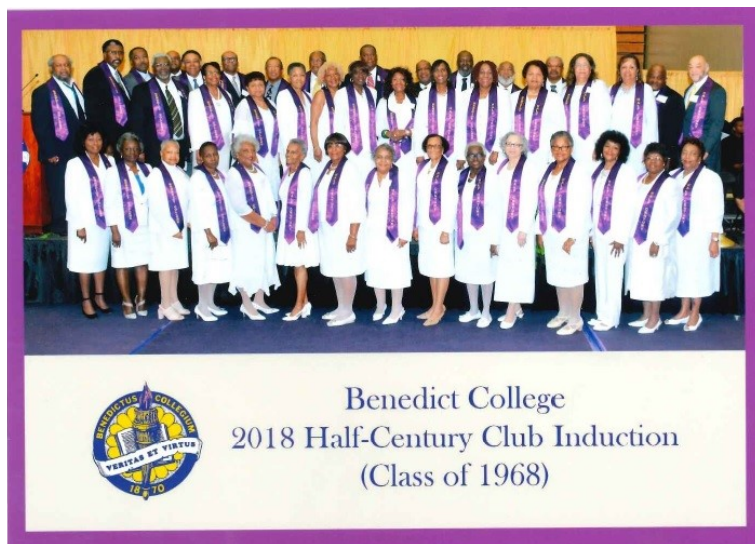
*Dr. John Summers,
Luncheon MC*



*The Honorable
Henry L. Nichols,
Mayor of Loris, SC*



A Significant Milestone for... Class of 1968



*Congratulations to the Class of 1968 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 more than fifty years.*

Audacity to Dream Sponsors Support Scholarship & Association

This Campaign plays a significant role in the overall sustainability of the Association's operations and its Annual Scholarship Initiative.

Since its inception, it has successfully obtain sponsors who consistently give of their financial resources in support of the BCNAA.

Our sponsors understand and support the Association's mission to give back and give generously to help make a difference. The mission of the Campaign is 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.

A special thanks to Mr. Jimmie DuRante for taking a leadership role in this year's campaign; and agreeing to work along with Mrs. Thelma Salmond, who has so aptly led the charge since its inception.

REMINDERS...

June, 2018

BCNAA and Mather Election Ballots Mailed - June 30

Annual Giving Campaign Ends - June 30

Class Gifts Deadline - June 30

July, 2018

2018-19 BCNAA Membership Due - July 1

BCNAA Mather Ballots Deadline - July 15

Mather Annual Meeting - July 26-29 (Charleston, SC)

September, 2018

Homecoming Early-bird Registration ends September 1

Benedict's First Home Football Game

& Palmetto Classic - September 23

October, 2018

2018 Annual Meeting and Homecoming - October 18

Membership Has Its Privileges...

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

Dues expire June 30th 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.

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!