

# 2007 Annual Report

## NC State Black Alumni Society



## 2007 Executive Board, Chapter President, and Representatives

### OFFICERS

President - Keon Pettway (2005)

Vice President - Dr. Tracey Ray (1993, 1997, 2001)

Treasurer - Jinea Turk (2002)

Secretary - Tovah McDonald (2003)

### COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Athletic - Elwood Becton (1973)

3rd Annual Black Alumni Reunion and Conference - Faith Pearl Leach (2005)

4th Annual Black Alumni Reunion and Conference - Maria Thorpe (2006) and Tashima Garner (2006)

Business Development - Johnny Chapman (1985)

Faculty/Staff Relations - Dr. Orlando Hankins, Sr. (1980, 1985)

Historian - Diane Becton (1973)

Immediate Past President - Marcus Belvin (2001)

Membership - Ashley Washington (2005)

Scholarship - Carlos Goins (2004)

Social Programs - Kisha Hill (2005)

Student Development - Al Leaston (2005)

### CHAPTER PRESIDENT AND REPRESENTATIVES

Washington, District of Columbia (D.C.) - William Johnson (2002) President

Charlotte, North Carolina - Myron Marsh

Atlanta, Georgia - Nick Harris (2001)

Los Angeles, California - Shequeta Smith

Brooklyn, New York - Jolon Shields (2001)

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings alumni/alumnae, students, faculty, staff, and university friends.

The Black Alumni Society thanks all of our supporters and volunteers for 2007. We had another great year and look forward to working with everyone to propel the Black Alumni Society and NC State to greater levels.

As we celebrate the achievements of our NC State family, we must remind ourselves that we affect the future of NC State by the fruits of our labor. The Black Alumni Society fosters opportunities for African American alumni, students, faculty, staff, and university friends to become actively involved in enriching NC State now and in the future. As the years go by, we are presented with new and exciting challenges and demands that we must meet with persistence and open minds.

2007 marked the 50th anniversary of the first black undergraduates at NC State. We are privileged to have trailblazers in our presence, and they serve as a constant reminder of the history and talent of NC State African American alumni. The university still has milestones to reach, and you can do your part by helping us get there. Whether it's donating to scholarships, volunteering for event planning, or providing resources for alumni...we can make a difference together.

Sincerely,

Keon Pettway  
President, Black Alumni Society

*As alumni, we have a great responsibility to our alma mater. Do your part by getting involved.*

## JOIN THE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION: YOUR MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

There is no membership fee to be a member of the Black Alumni Society, although, all alumni/ae are encouraged to become an Alumni Association member. The Alumni Association supports the Black Alumni Society with funding for events and newsletters. Membership dues make this possible, so please make sure that your Alumni Association membership is current. You'll be contributing to the BAS and joining a family of alumni and friends who support NC State and one another. The resulting network strengthens your alma mater and increases the value of your NC State degree. Join today at [www.alumni.ncsu.edu/join](http://www.alumni.ncsu.edu/join) to connect, stay informed and share your pride in NC State.



### **WITHERSPOON STUDENT CENTER**

The Center houses the African American Cultural Center, Library, and Art Gallery, the Nubian Message, the Technician, the Student Cinema, Student Government and other departments. It is named after alumnus Dr. Augustus M. Witherspoon (1971).

## **GIVING BACK TO THE NC STATE COMMUNITY**

The Black Alumni Society promotes the growth, progress, and general welfare of alumni and students of African descent at North Carolina State University. Through our service and dedication to NC State, we are positioning the organization as a vital part of the university community.

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### **AFRICAN AMERICAN CULTURAL CENTER ENDOWMENT**

The Black Alumni Society provides financial support for the African American Cultural Center (AACC). The AACC is an integral academic unit that operates under the auspices of the Provost's Office and supports the academic, cultural, and social needs of NC State's African American community and the greater community. Programs by the AACC include the annual Dr. Lawrence M. Clark Lecture, Heritage Day, and the African American Heritage Series.

### **AFRICAN AMERICAN SYMPOSIUM**

Each year, the African American Symposium is offered to African American students as a part of the university-required New Student Orientation. The Black Alumni Society assists Multicultural Student Affairs by gathering alumni/ae to be speakers at the symposium. The symposium fosters a sense of community for incoming first-year students and provides them with information about campus resources, support personnel, coping strategies, and African-American cultural heritage and contributions as a basis for helping ensure their academic, social and emotional success at NC State.

## SUPPORTING STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS

### 2007 Black Alumni Society Undergraduate Scholarship



Naimah Jabali-Nash '07 | Scholarship recipient

The Black Alumni Society Undergraduate Scholarship was established in July 1985, and its endowment has awarded one to three scholarships each year. In April 2007, Naimah Jabali-Nash received the 2007 Black Alumni Society Undergraduate Scholarship, which helped to enhance her education and experience at NC State. Her long-term career goals include becoming a fashion buyer and writer for a fashion publication like *Vogue*. She was also the Arts and Entertainment editor of the Nubian Message, a student-run African American newspaper at NC State, and participated in the 2007 African American Textile Society Fashion Show.

Major: Textile and Apparel Management with a concentration in Fashion Development

## PREPARING STUDENTS TO BE LEADERS OF TOMORROW

Students are the leaders and masters of the future. The Black Alumni Society established and participated in initiatives to help students with leadership, professional, and educational development.

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### ALUMNI MENTOR PROGRAM (AMP)

On October 25, 2007, BAS launched a pilot mentoring program to assist students with professional and career development. In a partnership with Multicultural Student Affairs and the Peer Mentor Program, the program provides support and guidance for undergraduate students as they determine their career path.

### CAREER DEVELOPMENT SEMINAR

On October 8, 2007, the Career Development Seminar provided students with the opportunity to take control of their future by enhancing their career preparation skills. Students participated in mock interviews, resume reviews, and a session on career development.

### 24TH ANNUAL UNIVERSITY-COMMUNITY BROTHERHOOD CELEBRATION

Proceeds from the University-Community Brotherhood Celebration supported Black Alumni Society scholarships, as well as scholarships for St. Augustine's College and Shaw University. The contribution allowed the Black Alumni Society to continue serving undergraduate and graduate students by providing more scholarship opportunities.

### SUNTRUST OUR CAUSE PROMOTION FOR UNDERGRADUATE SCHOLARSHIPS

The Black Alumni Society participated in SunTrust's My Cause promotion to increase the number of Black Alumni Society undergraduate scholarships. Through December 31, 2007, SunTrust donated \$100 to the scholarship when alumni, students, faculty, staff, and friends opened a SunTrust personal or business checking account.

## 3RD ANNUAL BLACK ALUMNI CONFERENCE

The Black Alumni Society held its 3rd Annual Black Alumni Conference on March 30 - March 31, 2007. The theme of the conference was “50 Years and Counting: Believing, Achieving and Succeeding,” reflective of the golden anniversary of the enrollment of first African American undergraduates to attend NC State University. Genevieve C. Sims (1969), a private practicing attorney specializing in family law, served as the closing banquet keynote speaker. Conference attendees also participated in the Pan-Afrikan Festival, hosted at NC State by the Black Students Board.

Since its inception, the conference has provided an opportunity for alumni to participate in the affairs of NC State and to connect with friends, alumni, faculty, staff, and students.

### **2007 Leadership**

Faith Pearl Leach '05, Conference Planning Committee Chair

### **Conference Events**

- o 100 Most Influential Alumni Unveiling and Reception
- o Dorothy and Roy Park Alumni Center Building Tours
- o Yancey's Jazz Social
- o Campus Updates
- o The Worth of the Black Dollar: Real Estate, Entrepreneurship and Black Enterprise as a Change Agent
- o Take Care of Home: African American Graduation and Retention Rates
- o From Student Leadership to Global Leadership
- o Red Carpet Affair with Seven Entertainment Group
- o Black Alumni Conference Banquet
- o Becton Distinguished Alumni Award Presentation

## PUBLICATIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS

### **Black Alumni Newsletter**

The Black Alumni Society and the NC State Alumni Association publishes a newsletter that includes information about Black Alumni Society events, NC State news, and other community information.

### **Launch of new website**

In 2007, the Black Alumni Society launched a new website, [www.ncsublackalumni.org](http://www.ncsublackalumni.org), to serve as a dynamic channel of communication.

## CONNECTING WITH OUR ALMA MATER

Events such as the Black Alumni Conference and Homecoming festivities allow the Black Alumni Society to foster opportunities for African American alumni, students, faculty, staff, and university friends to become actively involved in enriching NC State now and in the future. Connecting with our alma mater increases alumni interaction and communication.

## 2007 HOMECOMING

On the week of October 26-27, 2007, the Black Alumni Society hosted alumni, students, faculty, staff, and friends during NC State's 2007 Homecoming. Alumni from various regions of the country attended the festivities as the NC State Wolfpack clashed on the gridiron against the Virginia Cavaliers.

### **Leadership**

Keon Pettiway '05, Homecoming Planning Committee Chair

### **Events**

- o Yancey's Jazz Social
- o Homecoming Tailgate
- o Masquerade Party by Blue Goose Entertainment
- o Legacy Group Party by the Legacy Group