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# Black Alumni Society

## Mark Your Calendars:

- October 29, 2005: Homecoming 2005
- April 7-9, 2006: 2nd Annual Black Alumni Conference
- November 2005  
BAS will be unleashing a new web site.
- All events are posted and updated on the BAS 'EVENTS' page throughout the year.

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## Second Annual Black Alumni Conference

Last year we held a successful, informative Inaugural Black Alumni Conference in Raleigh North Carolina. At that time we took suggestions from attendees, listened to many NC State administrators, honored Irwin Holmes (1<sup>st</sup> African-American NCSU graduate), and reconnected with alumni from years past. The 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Black Alumni Conference (BAC) plans are almost final and it is sure to pack a stronger punch. Mark your

calendars from Friday – Saturday, April 7-8, 2005. We will post the conference agenda on the Black Alumni Society website ([www.marbelinc.com/bas](http://www.marbelinc.com/bas)) with registration information immediately following NC State University's 2005 homecoming. Check the BAS website for updates, and mark your calendars today to ensure you do not miss the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Black Alumni Conference.

*Marcus Belvin '01 | President*

## Black Alumni Society Homecoming Recap

The social was held on Friday night and had over 100 attendees that signed-in. The General Body meeting was held the following morning at 8am prior to the tailgate. Minutes will be posted on the BAS website within the next two weeks.

Marcus Belvin '01 | President

Coming off of the Black Alumni Society social the night before there was a lot of uncertainty about how many people would make it to the 10am tailgate for the football game. The BAS Executive Board was very pleased to see a well attended tailgate filled with many Alum's who fellowshiped (partied) with us the night before, as well as those who were new faces coming to greet their Wolfpack brethren.

Wilbur's barbeque was the caterer of choice supplying heaping portions of Barbeque, potato salad, coleslaw, and some home-cooked banana pudding. As we ate the food it was nice to

meet new alums that came from as far as Florida and New York. The turnout of our black alumni was especially encouraging when measured against the slow start of our football team; showing that homecoming is about more than a game, but more about fellowship and the connection of generations through their common experiences at NC State.

Throughout the tailgate several University Administrators made their way over to visit with the tables of Black Alumni. Alumni Association Board of Director member Portia Burston greeted fellow alums as she sat down to eat. Dr. Larry Neilson the University Provost made his entrance greeting BAS with hearty welcomes and the usual slew of jokes. He moved fluidly through the tables introducing himself and his wife to the various tables of Black Alumni. As he made his way Dr. Thomas Stafford the long standing Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs exchanged greetings and introduced himself and his wife,

along with exchange a few one liners with the familiar faces he has come to know within Black Alumni Society.

The BAS tailgate and events preceding it would not have happened without the diligent work of the Black Alumni Society, the University Alumni Association, Lisa Dyer, and the many faithful alums who came out. As Black Alumni Society continues to grow, events like the social, and the tailgate become important in uniting the Black Alumni of this university and also creating an inviting network for the young people who will come after us. Black Alumni Society Programs are happening every month, make sure you are on the mailing list and we look forward to meeting you.

*Decker Ngongang '03 | Vice President*

## An Alum Responds to Hurricane Katrina

*Disclaimer: The following article reflects the opinion of the author, and does not represent or convey the opinion or stance of the NCSU Black Alumni Society or any other organization/entity/persons affiliated with the Society.*

In the weeks after the tragedies of Katrina and Rita some critical reflection has taken place within the many segments of our society, to the extent that we now see how this tragedy has uncovered issues rarely addressed, but often tiptoed around by our communities. The tragedy of Katrina has without warning uncovered America's deep dark secret; our unabashed complacency with poverty and the helplessness of the condition. Thousands of people were at the mercy of not only Mother Nature during the hurricanes wrath but they were at the mercy of an inactive government in the hurricanes aftermath. As the worlds "black bourgeoisie", we were reminded maddeningly of the political powerlessness we descend from and how despite our capital power are still unable to wield the power necessary to protect the poor and disproportionately black.

Even more apparent is the need for minority communities and poor communities to come together across this nation and vote. The initially tepid and lazy response to Katrina in the Gulf Port regions wasn't just racist neglect as musician Kanye West insinuated; it was partly the product of the devaluation of the entire experience of poor communities, which are disproportionately black. Where is the planning we are enacting in Iraq? How do fail to provide the same level of preparation and technological resources we com-



Source: Associated Press

mit overseas in foreign countries? To me it shows we have yet to fully understand the plight of being poor in this country.

We as a country in the over the 48-60 hrs it took to get federal assistance for these people, wrote off whole communities largely because they didn't possess political capital to bite lazy politicians (black and white) in the butt come election time. Black people listen up because WE DON'T VOTE - so any anger shown by Kanye, by us, by the Congressional Black Caucus is moot. As long as we as a black people fail to exercise our long fought-for right to vote we will continue to be dependent on political welfare.

Those poor black folk who the media shot with their cameras and those black "looters" who the Governor of Louisiana wanted to shoot with a sniper

rifle; the black poor of New Orleans were politically irrelevant because they just like many in poor communities across our nation have been incapable of holding anybody politically accountable for their tenuous state. My peers and myself are angry because we have dear friends who still can't find family and friends, but I am also angry because this disaster happens on a smaller scale across our nation.

As we pray and struggle to wrap our minds around this tragedy we as a black community must sit and really digest the images before us. Millions of blacks across the world watched fellow brothers and sisters video taped like elephants in the wild, we saw them die worse deaths than dogs and cats in this country, and there was nothing we could do about it. We sat in front of our televisions while our black leadership cries to the president

about a lack of response, and secretly they lament their inability to force the hand of the federal government.

What have WE as the

*...continued on Page 3*

young black leadership done to really assess the health of our communities? New Orleans is 70% black, 40% poor meaning, for each New Orleans there is a city, community, neighborhood that suffers the same poverty stricken helplessness but on a different more drawn out scale. We had to wait, curse, and beg for someone to do something about kids dying in the streets of New Orleans, lets make sure we don't have to do the same for our people.

In my 24 years on this earth, having read history I see an expedited erosion of Civil Rights legislation, growth and investment in the black prison industrial complex, the dysfunctional nature of the electoral process, the

tragedy of urban schooling, the growing obsolescence our historically black religious institutions, and an unchecked criminal justice system that matriculates more black men than our schools do.

As Wolf Blitzer said on his post Katrina CNN broadcast said, "these people are so poor and so black". Like the victims of Katrina, poor black folk die everyday because they can't get away; get away from drugs, get away from violence, get away from horrible schools, get away from prisons that welcome them back, get away from hopelessness, and in this incident - get away from a big ole hurricane. We wonder why our vote gives us power; it gives us power because it makes the most down and out among us relevant. It is the reason why Ella Baker fought and marched in the streets just to get the chance to vote. It is why the literacy test was unconstitutional, because our right

to participate in this democracy is at the foundation of our humanity. Our vote is our voice, much like the voices of the slaves singing spirituals in the fields of the south; much like the voices of those marching through Mississippi; our generation has been given the vote as our voice, and combined with that of our brothers and sisters can further write our existence into the annals of a country we helped build. So as you give money to the Red Cross, or a charitable organization give something to yourself, give yourself the power to change the world; vote. We can be almost anything we want to these days but 50+ years removed from "the struggle" are we even able to save our own brothers and sisters lives.

**Register to vote.**

*Decker Ngongang '03 / Vice President*

## Legacy Ladies: Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. 30th Anniversary

At its 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration, Delta Sigma Theta's Mu Omicron Chapter will honor and recognize the sorority's organizing colony that formed the chapter's early beginnings. From Spring of 1971 through Spring of 1972 pioneer women laid the ground work for what later became the Mu Omicron Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta at North Carolina State University.

With the assistance of the Raleigh Alumnae Chapter, local political leaders, and student leadership, NC State administrator Carolyn Jessup and "other powers that be" agreed to accept Delta Sigma Theta as a campus sorority. After much preliminary activity to lay the ground work, the Raleigh Alumnae Chapter agreed to host a formal meeting with the young women who would form the first Delta interest colony on campus. The colony included: Annette Exum, '72 President, Risa Pitman, '72, Vice President; Cecelia Simmons-

(Beckford), '73, Treasurer; Diane Hill-(Becton), '73 Secretary; Martha Manuel, '74 Parliamentarian, and VThomas-(Bonner), '72 Asst. Secretary.

From these beginnings, in 1975, Delta Sigma Theta, Inc. became the first historically African American sorority on the NC State campus. Although the organizing process completed in 1972, regrettably, none of the original colony pledged at NC State because the remaining numbers in Fall of '72 would have been too small to form a chapter once the process finally completed. In 1972, the entire African American student population at NC State only totaled 91. Of these students, only sparse handfuls were women.

Still from the hard work and dedication of the early efforts, Mu Omicron could emerge and come to life, grow and thrive. The rest is history.

*Annette Exum*



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## Mission:

The Black Alumni Society strives 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. The Black Alumni Society serves as a conduit for increasing alumni interaction with their alma mater through communication,



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**BAS President Marcus Belvin ('01) with Faith Pearl Leach ('05) at the Inaugural Black Alumni Society Conference**

## Looking Ahead

### 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Black Alumni Conference:

Mark your calendars!!! The 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Black Alumni Conference will be held April 7 – 9, 2006 in Raleigh, NC. Visit the 'CONFERENCE' link on the BAS website for updates and registration information as the end of October approaches.

### Chapter Expansion:

BAS Chapter creation is underway in the Washington, DC area. Contact Harold Pettigrew ([harold.pettigrew@gmail.com](mailto:harold.pettigrew@gmail.com)) or Derrick Coley to ensure you are a part of this historic action. We are still gauging interest in the Atlanta, GA area for a chapter, so if you would like to assist in such

an effort, contact me at [bas\\_president@yahoo.com](mailto:bas_president@yahoo.com).

### Get Active:

Visit the 'POSITIONS' page on the BAS website to view the many volunteer committees. If you have a passion for one or more of them, please contact the committee chair to express your interest.

### Executive Board Nominations:

The 2006 is election year for the BAS Executive Board. Nominations will be accepted from March 1st to April 30th. Elections will be held during the 2006 Homecoming General Body meeting for all positions that have multiple nominees. The

nomination (bio.) form is available on the BAS website's 'POSITIONS' page. Begin thinking about what positions or committees you would like to participate in or chair in preparation for the upcoming nomination and election period.