



# NAA-SAU Newsletter

**March 2021**

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National Alumni Association of  
Saint Augustine's University

## NAA-SAU PRIVACYPOLICY

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### **Survey Update**

**We recently emailed a survey to NAA-SAU members to gauge interest/concerns about attending in-person activities for Homecoming 2021. Many expressed concerns about the continued exposure to COVID-19. We plan to send out another survey in May/June to get updates from each member. Thank you for your support.**

## **NAA-SAU Welcomes Dr. Christine McPhail**

Dr. Christine Johnson McPhail was selected as the President of Saint Augustine's University (SAU), effective as of February 24th. Dr. Christine J. McPhail is the widow of Dr. Irving Pressley McPhail, former SAU president, who after three months in office succumbed to COVID-19. Dr. Christine McPhail previously served as President of Cypress College in California and was the Founding Professor and Director of the Community College Leadership Doctoral Program at Morgan State University.

In a statement, Dr. Christine McPhail said that she is committed to the success of the University and each of its students and feels a responsibility to carry on her late husband's work to establish the university as a twenty-first century, learning-centered institution.

In our March 4 letter of congratulations to Dr. McPhail, the NAA-SAU noted that it stands ready to assist her as she executes plans to move the University and its students forward. It is critically important that all alumni and Saint Augustine's stakeholders provide the necessary support for our new president to help her ensure the success of our alma mater. Dr. McPhail will be invited to meet with our Executive Council and full membership at her earliest convenience.

Read Dr. McPhail's biography and learn more about our new president on the Saint Augustine's University website [here](#).

## **NAA-SAU UPDATE**

### ***NAA Assistant Secretary Appointment***

Lillian Scott Lee, Life Member, Class of 1972 has been appointed to serve out the remainder of Shirley Colden's term. Lillian is the 2016 National Alumni Association Queen and a member of the Raleigh Retired Chapter.



## ***Membership***

Membership continues to grow (particularly during a pandemic), with our numbers increasing in all categories. We continue to expand the number of chapters in the NAA-SAU and anticipate having at least two new chapters by the end of the fiscal year.

Increasing our membership numbers and alumni participation are especially important when soliciting donations and foundation grants from organizations who often look at the level of alumni participation as a criterion in their willingness to support our alma mater.

The use of our new platform, *Wild Apricot*, to collect membership dues and donations has really helped to facilitate this process and make it more efficient to make payments to the NAA-SAU. We recently added an on-line store for purchases of alumni memorabilia. We continue to offer for sale SAU garden flags and other alumni memorabilia to support our giving to our alma mater.

*Wild Apricot* allows the NAA-SAU to record your payment, issue a receipt and track membership. It affords an opportunity for members to review their payments and donation by [logging into your membership record](#) (Email and password required).

Alumni are encouraged to visit the [NAA-SAU website](#) where important information is available to view and download on the operations of the NAA-SAU, Chapter contacts, Bylaws, Meeting Minutes, and other useful information.

<b>NAA -SAU Membership Update</b>
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	2018	2019	7/1/2020	11/19/2020	3/15/2021	Change
<b>General Members</b>	35	113	115	150	165	+15
<b>Life Members</b>	331	335	346	363	366	+3
<b>Subscribing Life Members</b>	31	36	45	48	44	-4
<b>Dual Life</b>		16	32	36	36	
<b>Dual Subscribing Life</b>			10	8	8	
<b>Family Life # 1</b>			2	2	2	
<b>Family Life # 2</b>			4	4	4	
<b>Recent Graduate</b>			1	2	2	
<b>Young Alumni Council</b>			6	12	12	
<b>Associate Member</b>					1	+1
<b>Total</b>			561	625	640	+15

### ***Donations to SAU***

As noted in our November 2020 Newsletter, donations to Saint Augustine's University from your NAA-SAU will continue even in these difficult fundraising times with COVID-19. Our goal for academic year 2020-2021 was reduced somewhat from 2019-2020, but we made a donation during the 2020 Virtual Homecoming. Alumni and Chapter Giving had increased over the last few years prior to FY 2020, when several fundraising events were cancelled.

Just as a reminder, total Alumni and Chapter Giving was: FY2016: \$174,315; FY 2017 \$361,295; FY2018: \$594,264; FY2019: \$376,574 and FY2020: \$310,854, with a 4-year average of \$410,746. It is worth noting that we were on our way to a record year in FY2020-2021, until COVID-19 pandemic.

Unfortunately, the large NAA-SAU sponsored Spring 2021 events have been canceled again, so our total alumni giving will be down substantially.

With the number of COVID-19 vaccinations increasing, we may consider scheduling fundraisers that could be held around our Summer Conference scheduled to be held in Raleigh. We are currently working with the Office of Alumni Affairs to plan some events; however, the type, venue, and dates are dependent upon several factors, including alumni willingness to participate in in-person activities, at that time due to continuing concerns over COVID-19.

Many of you in a recent Survey Monkey questionnaire noted reluctance in participating in events involving large gatherings through September 2021 (Homecoming) and we are factoring those concerns in our event planning. We will conduct another survey around the May 2021 time frame.

## ***2021 Planning: Fundraising, Philanthropy and Recruitment***

### Fundraising

The NAA-SAU will be working with the Alumni members of Gamma Psi Chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity in celebration of 75 years on the campus of Saint Augustine's University in its ***Drive for \$225K by 75*** fundraising capital campaign. The goal is to raise \$225,000 for scholarships and tuition shortfalls. **Visit the Gamma Psi Chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity [website](#) to make a donation.**

The NAA-SAU is encouraging all Greek Letter organizations (particularly the Gamma Chapters) on Saint Augustine's campus to start their own seventy-fifth anniversary fundraising drive and partner with the National Alumni Association in raising \$1M by time of their their own anniversary. The NAA-SAU can and will help in the collection of donations and record keeping.

### Philanthropy

Several NAA members have volunteered to be part of our *Philanthropy Network* (and we need more volunteers). Although progress is slow, we are moving forward to contact individuals who can help Saint Augustine's University identify ways to be included in conversations with wealthy philanthropist, Foundations, celebrities, and corporations that are considering giving to HBCUs. If you know of an alumnus whose is a part of a philanthropic organization, please contact us so we can reach out to make contact.

SAU alumni have in the past played a significant role in supporting philanthropy giving from corporations and foundations. Currently, we lack an effective marketing plan to utilize in explaining the benefits of donating to SAU to prospective donors. Philanthropists want to know how their dollars are going to be spent and what will be the impact, e.g., will more students graduate on time, will our students be prepared for good jobs or graduate school and twenty-first century careers, etc.

We will have a marketing plan soon that we hope will be endorsed by the University and interested stakeholders.

The surrounding community has, over the years, shown significant interest in assisting SAU in developmental projects in and around the campus, such as the Saint Agnes hospital renovation, which could be quite a theme for raising significant revenues for the school, enhancing educational options for students, and enhancing the University's bond with the community.

At a time when several philanthropists are looking to invest in HBCUs, we can use this as an opportune time for the University to start a project for fundraising centered on the rebuilding of the Saint Agnes Hospital. *Health, Community and an HBCU* growth for the 21st-century could be quite a marketing theme.

### Recruitment

Recruitment is even more challenging considering COVID-19, but Alumni Chapters are still participating in recruitment activities in 2021, either virtually at college fairs, high schools, or county sponsored events. Saint Augustine's University alumni have contacts in numerous school systems along the East coast---high school principals, counselors, teachers, and/or have connections through high school alumni associations.

The NAA-SAU encourages chapters to reach out to these individual who can inform high school students about opportunities at Saint Augustine's University. A strategy is needed for recruitment in the COVID-19 environment that keeps Saint Augustine's competitive in the recruitment of students, who would traditionally consider matriculating at our alma mater.

It is very important that alumni continue to be advocates and promoters for Saint Augustine's, especially in view of the fact that the pool of students going to universities/colleges is getting smaller and the competition for students has become very competitive. The good news is that more *students of color* have, through *Black Lives Matter* and *Social Justice Initiatives*, become more aware of the value of HBCUs and other minority serving institutions, thus interest has peaked among the current generation in attending universities, like Saint Augustine's University.

The NAA-SAU participates in the UNCF National Alumni Council and their efforts to raise awareness about HBCUs. We also support SAU student participation in the *UNCF Pre-Alumni Council*. The NAA-SAU will continue to support the University's recruitment activities even in challenging times.

## **NAA-SAU National Mentoring Program**

Recruitment of students to attend Saint Augustine's University is only a part of several issues confronting the University's ability to become a twenty-first century school. Another significant problem is student retention. The University currently loses more than 60 percent of an incoming class by the end of their sophomore year due to such reasons as students not being academically prepared, financial challenges, student life adjustments.

For many students, navigating four years of college can be a very daunting experience, with questions about college majors, curriculum choices, financial needs, student life, family, etc., but some of this anxiety can be reduced with *a resource called a mentor.*

The NAA-SAU has developed a plan for our Chapters to provide mentors to any SAU student who would like to have one. We will work with the University to make this program part of the University's overall mentoring efforts to help reduce some of the challenges for students who need to talk to privately about any issue/challenge.

The program and mentors will have specific guidelines, including training modules available on how to be a mentor. The NAA-SAU Mentoring Committee is currently working with Saint Augustine's leadership to develop an implementation plan. We anticipate that this effort will lead to better student performance and higher retention.

If you or you know of someone who would like to participate in this NAA-SAU program, please contact a Chapter President or Roland Otey, NAA-SAU Executive Director.

## **2020-2021 CIAA**

Normally we would have been celebrating a big CIAA Basketball Tournament win for the Falcons at the new venue in Baltimore, Maryland, but with COVID-19 it appears that we will have to wait until next year.

The CIAA did sponsor a virtual conference this year with an array of events and entertainment to maintain interest in the tournament for next year, which was impressive, but nothing can substitute for the "real thing" and hopefully, we will see many of you live in Baltimore next year.



*Note: Hopefully you saw the Saint Augustine's banner on the HBCU participants monitors during the NBA All-Star Game on Sunday, March 7, 2021. We were hoping for a shout-out, but it did not happen.*

## ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

### In Memoriam



All of us probably know someone who passed away from the COVID-19 virus over the past year. The NAA-SAU Family has suffered a number of losses, including our **Assistant Secretary, Shirley Colden, '79**. We continue to extend our condolences and prayers to all the families and friends adversely impacted by the virus.

### Individuals



Hilton O. Smith retired as Senior Vice President of Turner Construction Corporation, the largest commercial builder in the United States after serving the company for 44 years.

He served as chairman of the Saint Augustine's University Board of Trustees on two occasions. Hilton was inducted into the United Negro College Fund Hall of Honor, honored as Saint Augustine's University as Alumni of the Year in 2005 and he was the recipient of Washington, DC Metropolitan Alumni Chapter's *William Jefferson Jackson Award*. He was honored by the Saint Augustine's National Alumni Association, under then president, Dr. George Brown for becoming one of the first group of *Life Members* of Saint Augustine's University National Alumni Association.

Hilton received *Congressional Record* acknowledgement three times-- from Congressman Louis Stokes, Ohio; Sheila Jackson Lee, Texas; and Edolphus Towns, New York. He was recognized by The New York One Hundred Black Men as *Corporate Professional of the Year*.

He graduated from Saint Augustine's in 1968 with a B.A. in Sociology and Political Science, from the Cornell University School of Labor Relations and received a *Doctor of Humane Letters* from David Meyers University.

Hilton was ordained as a Minister at Union Baptist Church, Stamford, Connecticut. Hilton is a member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc.

To his fellow alumni, Hilton says, "May God bless Saint Augustine's and the National Alumni Association".

## Chapters



**Metro Atlanta Alumni Chapter**

Hello, Falcons!

Please join our team, Saint Augustine's University Falcons, for the 2021 Atlanta HBCU Alumni Alliance VIRTUAL 5K Run/Walk. Simply register for the race and run or walk a 5K on the treadmill, around your neighborhood, along your favorite walking trail or in your own backyard anytime between **Friday, June 25th and Friday, July 2nd**. Registration is open to individuals of all ages, so invite your family and friends to register also. **The \$25.00 early bird registration ends March 31st**. The registration price increases by increments of \$5.00 for each subsequent month leading up to *race week*. Donations are also welcome.

Race payouts are based upon the number of registrants and amount of donations received. The more registrants we have, the greater the payout for SAU student scholarships. **Our goals are to have 100 registrants and raise \$2,500.00 in donations.**

Team SAU Falcons, let's register, make donations and spread the word to our family and friends!!! Please click on the link below.

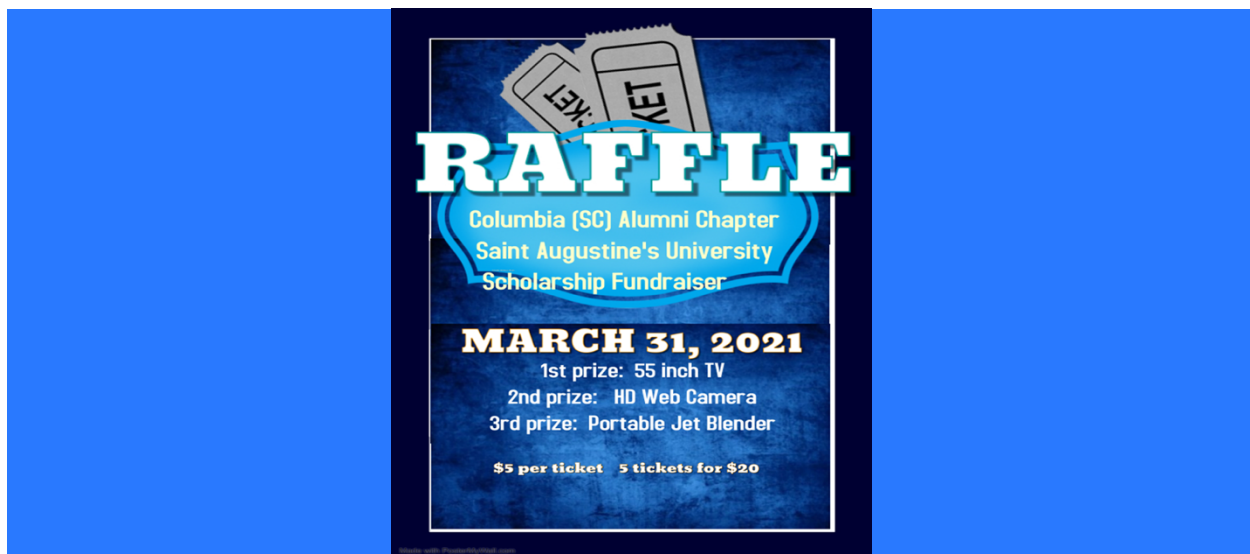
<https://raceroster.com/events/2021/44518/14th-annual-hbcu-virtual-5k-runwalk-atlanta-georgia/teams>

Should you have questions, please send them to [metroatsacalum@gmail.com](mailto:metroatsacalum@gmail.com) or call (678) 644-4739.

Falcon pride,

Ortharine Williams, President, Metro Atlanta Chapter of the National Association of Saint Augustine's University

John Moore III, Chapter Representative, Atlanta HBCU Alumni Alliance



**The Columbia (SC) Alumni Chapter** is holding its annual scholarship raffle. Please click on the link below to purchase your raffle tickets or to make a donation.

<http://bit.ly/Columbia-SC-AlumniChapterRaffle>

The **Columbia Chapter** is also proud to share that one of Dr. Johnelle Sherald's former elementary school students, Rhonda Britton, who is an educator in Georgetown, SC, honored SAU by displaying a pennant, a bag, and other SAU items during Black History Month. The door is an amazing tribute to SAU—Getting our name out there!



## “A WOMAN EXTRAORDINAIRE”

Birthday Celebration – Mrs. Rosia DeLaine Butler



The **Raleigh Retired Alumni Chapter** honored Mrs. Rosia DeLaine Butler on the occasion of her 100<sup>th</sup> birthday. Mrs. Butler was born on **March 10, 1921**. Mrs. Butler is a member of the Saint Augustine’s College Class of 1941, and has been a life-long member of the Chapter. She serves as Chapter Chaplain and provides inspirational devotions and prayers at each meeting.

**SAU**  
ALUMNI  
Raleigh Wake Alumni Chapter  
PRESENT


**MAR1-APR30**

# **BATTLE**

**OF THE ORGANIZATIONS**  
**HELP US REACH \$20,000**



**RALEIGH WAKE ALUMNI CHAPTER NEEDS YOUR HELP TO RAISE \$20,000 TO AWARD SCHOLARSHIPS FOR STUDENTS ENROLLED AT SAINT AUGUSTINE'S UNIVERSITY. WE ARE INVESTING IN OUR FUTURE. YOU CAN MAKE YOUR TAX DEDUCTIBLE DONATIONS VIA:**

 **Cash App \$RWCFALCONS**

 **RWC  
PO BOX 26483  
RALEIGH NC 27611**

## **LET THE BATTLE BEGIN!!!**

Raleigh Wake Alumni Chapter is challenging you to participate in the **Battle of the Organizations**. Help us raise \$20,000 to award scholarships for students enrolled at our beloved university. You can make a tax-deductible donation via CashApp \$RWCFALCONS or mail to RWC, PO Box 26483, Raleigh, NC 27611. Include your organization's name when submitting funds. If you have any questions, contact us at [rwacbattle2021@gmail.com](mailto:rwacbattle2021@gmail.com). The organization that contributes the most money will be recognized. **LET THE BATTLE BEGIN!**

## SAVE THE DATE!

Class of 1971  
Virtual Cocktail Sip - May 1, 2021 at 7:00 pm.

### FUND RAISING, FUND RAISING, AND FUND RAISING!

As Alumni, we must do all we can to raise money for University

scholarships, infrastructure and athletics and to support a dedicated and competent faculty and staff. As part of your *Resolution to Give* to your alma mater, please pledge your support, time, talent and treasure (money) to your alma mater.

This Newsletter represents an opportunity for NAA-SAU Chapters/Members to submit items of interest that they would like to share with all Alumni.

Please submit content to the NAA-SAU Website/Communications

Coordinator ([naasauwsm@gmail.com](mailto:naasauwsm@gmail.com)) for review.