



TIGER PRIDE

A Publication for the Benedict College National Alumni Association

Spring, 2012



BCNAA Adds, Reactivates Clubs Nationally

This past year, Regional Vice Presidents worked diligently to energize, reactivate and charter new clubs. As part of this effort to energize and become more effective, clubs from around the nation joined together to participate in Regional meetings in their respective areas. Our first success story is the recently chartered Texas Club, which is already making its mark with annual giving and membership. It is a welcome addition to the BCNAA Family and we know it is the first of a number of successes.

To that end, there are several areas where clubs are in the process of either being organized or reactivated: **Southern Region:** Clarendon County, Darlington, Bamberg/Denmark, Cherokee County, Georgetown/Andrews, Marion County, Horry/Williamsburg, Bennettsville/Chesterfield, Estill, Jasper, and Orlando. **Northern Region:** New York, Inc. **Eastern Region:** Richmond VA. **Western Region:** California. We applaud those alumni who are working so hard to bring more clubs and alumni into our great Association.

In addition to the expansion of clubs, there are also many exciting plans on the horizon which will position the Association to further develop and achieve its goals with greater alumni involvement and participation. Membership is once again on the rise and is a key component to our survival. It will take all of us working to bring alumni from across the United States into the BCNAA fold. Their time and financial support will help mold our future and give us sustaining power.

Each of you play a key role in this organization and it is imperative to note that your efforts are critical to the overall successful operation of the Association.

A Message from the...

BCNAA National President



Greetings!

As President of the Benedict College National Alumni Association, it is my pleasure to greet and welcome you to our 32nd Spring Planning Meeting in Philadelphia. The Philadelphia Club has been busy preparing for your attendance. We want you to not only enjoy the weekend with all of the fun activities, but we also want you to take pertinent information back to your respective cities and embrace the challenge of supporting your alma mater to the fullest extent possible. We look forward to your candid participation as we conduct BCNAA business.

As we prepare to convene in Philadelphia for our conference in these challenging economic times, there are many among us who are making enormous sacrifices to support our alma mater. There are also those among us who, for various reasons, will not be in attendance, but whose commitment, just the same, is unwavering. It is important that we acknowledge our alumni who have continuously demonstrated a sincere commitment to service to Benedict College and a personal determination to make a difference in educating our youth. These characteristics reflect who we truly are: proud graduates of this fine institution.

I thank each of you for the role you play in support of Benedict College

Elsie

National Officers 2010—2012

Elsie King Hamler '71

President

Phyllis Thompson '92

Vice President

Walletta Moore '00

Young Alumni Vice President

Marshall McKeever '81

Recording Secretary

Gloria S. Ferguson '71

Corresponding Secretary

Walter Good '71

Treasurer

Sheryl Good '89

Parliamentarian

Rev. Willie Wilson III '77

Chaplain

Mary Primus Jones '68

Southern Region Vice President

Sylvia B. Woods '79

Northern Region Vice President

Dr. Mary Gaffney '64

Eastern Region Vice President

Barbara Linda Murray '67

Western & Mid-Western Regions

Vice President

Ada Brown Belton '77

Assistant VP

Alumni Relations and

Advancement Services

& BCNAA Executive Secretary

Publication Committee

Shirley Kelly '82

Co-Chair

Marie Adams '70

Co-Chair

Juliet King '68

Mary Primus Jones '68

Office of Alumni Affairs...



**Mrs. Ada Brown
Belton**

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

Greetings,

With each passing day, we are reminded that in order to move forward, we must keep our eyes on the horizon where the earth meets the sky. This helps me to reflect on all that we have accomplished within the National Alumni Association and at Benedict College this past year.

Thank you for having shared, reached, accomplished, achieved, both literally and figuratively in the growth of our association and our alma mater. With the strong roots of the Benedict College National Alumni Association to ground us, we are embracing this welcomed economic recovery with tenacity and renewed hope.

I hope you will enjoy reading the enclosed updates about our association and come join us for another wonderful year of providing for those we educate, both young and life learners as well.

God Bless!

Our Young Alumni VP in the news...



Ms. Walletta Moore
*BCNAA
Young Alumni
Vice President*

Our very own Young Alumni Vice President, Walletta Moore will not be in attendance at this Spring Planning Meeting. She is very busy planning for another special event.

Please join us in wishing Walletta well as she completes her plans for a new life as a soon-to-be bride in April, 2012.

Send Us Your News...

What have you been up to lately? Do you have a project you want to share? An upcoming event you want to promote?

Please send details to: skelly320@aol.com, attn: newsletter committee, and we'll include it in the next edition.

**Photos are always
welcome!**

BCNAA Homecoming 2011...



BCNAA 2011 Award Recipients

(L-R) Mr. Solomon Hill, Mrs. Betty Brightman, Mrs. Barbara Moore, Mrs. Lula Williams, Mrs. Rosemary English, Dr. Rudolph Gordon



Our 2011 Alumni Banquet Speaker, Mr. Roland Martin with Mrs. Ada Belton



Volunteers of the Year
Mrs. Marlene McClerkin & Mrs. Fostena Squirewell



Mrs. Barbara Moore
The Lula Gambrell Award



Mr. & Miss BCNAA 2011
Ms. Walletha Moore & Mr. Tommy Mack



Dr. Rudolph Gordon
The Lula Gambrell Award



Hall of Fame 2011 Inductees with Dr. David Swinton
Mr. Roscoe Wilson, Jr., Mr. Bobby Gist, (Dr. Swinton), Ms. Devin Jeter, Mr. James Brown, III, Mr. Ronald Davis, Mr. Tommy Mack

BCNAA Regional Activities...

Vice President Woods Convene Northern Region Clubs



**Mrs. Sylvia
Brown Woods '79**
*Northern Regional
Vice President*
New Jersey
New York
Pennsylvania

The Northern Region took a positive leap forward recently when Regional Vice President Sylvia Brown Woods coordinated a gathering for the clubs in her area. This leap started last year when the Regional VP convened a breakfast meeting in March, 2011 at Sylvia's Restaurant in Harlem, New York. More than 40 Benedict College alumni were in attendance. Our National President Elsie King Hamler and BCNAA Executive Secretary Ada Brown Belton were also in attendance. The group dined on a New York style breakfast with a Southern tradition. Since that time, the clubs within the region have held various meetings working towards their annual goals.

One effort that has been a major focus at this time has been the revamping of the Benedict College Club of New York Inc. We are currently in the process of organizing new officers for that Club and expect to name its new leadership by April, 2012. The direction is to have younger alumni initiate and promote new growth.

The Progressive New York Club is revamping under new leadership since the passing of President Juanita Simeon. She played such an integral part within that club and will be greatly missed. Mr. Dretcher Bradley, a 1974 graduate has been named as its new president. With much appreciation, the North Jersey Benedict Club under the leadership of Dr. Elouise McDaniel is off to a great start and congratulations to Philadelphia Club as our host for this year's Spring Planning Conference in March.

We are coming together as a region. Look for more exciting information from us soon. We are continuously striving to move the Northern Region into a stronger position and to make a positive difference for the College.

Eastern Regional VP Gaffney plans Fundraiser for Region



**Dr. Mary
Gaffney '64**
*Eastern Regional
Vice President*
Maryland
Virginia
Washington DC
West Virginia

Extensive planning took place for the Eastern Regional Meeting which was centered around the Bowie State-Benedict football game held in September, 2011. Alumni from the multi-state area came in groves, the enthusiasm was high, and this regional meeting gave alumni across the tri-state area an opportunity to renew acquaintances and enjoy the camaraderie.

Eastern Regional Vice President Dr. Mary Gaffney has instituted a raffle to benefit the clubs in the Eastern Region. We are looking to expand into the Virginia, West Virginia Areas with much excitement. We are soliciting any and all volunteer leadership support from anyone who would like to become active and take advantage of this tremendous opportunity to support our alma mater.

Having Dr. David H. Swinton, our president, to address us was an added treat. Also, on hand for the weekend was Mrs. Patricia Swinton, our first lady, Mrs. Ada Brown Belton, Assistant Vice President of Alumni Relations and staff, and Coach Willie Washington were among our guests.

BCNAA Regional Activities...

Western Region VP Murray Makes History with Texas Alumni Club



**Mrs. Barbara
Linda Murray**
*Western & Mid-
Western Regional
Vice President*
Texas & 25 other
states west of the
Mississippi

Barbara Linda Murray '67 has attempted to do what others only dare to think about doing in the vast western part of the United States. That is, convene Benedict College graduates residing in areas of Texas all the way to various parts of California, to a few sparsely areas of Washington, Oregon and a few other western states.

However, with technology, communications have made it easier to accomplish this task. With teleconferencing and other social networking, we believe, we are on to something.

We are pleased to have organized the Texas Benedict Alumni Club under the leadership of Mr. Floyd Riley, a 1990 graduate, Mr. Glenn Murray '75 as Secretary, and Mr. Joseph Gadson, a 1975 graduate who is serving as its treasurer. In attendance at the initial meeting were our National President Elsie King Hamler and BCNAA Executive Ada Brown Belton. In its first year, it made the Top Ten Alumni Club during the 2011 Annual Giving, and received the Premier Club Award for having the highest per capital contribution. Texas is off to a great start and we anticipate even more success stories from the Western Region.

Southern Region's Vice President Jones Takes On Challenge



**Mrs. Mary
Primus Jones**
*Southern Regional
Vice President*
Florida
Georgia
North Carolina
South Carolina

Mary Primus Jones '68 has taken on the mammoth task of organizing the 12 Districts uniquely designed just for the state of South Carolina. With such a high concentration of alumni in the state of South Carolina, the focus is to reactivate existing clubs and add new ones.

Jones, in her usual methodical and organized fashion, has garnered the assistance of District Coordinators to accomplish this task. The coordinators are:

- District 1 - Truman Brightman
- District 2 - Brenda Holland
- District 4 - Beverly Washington
- District 5 - Moses Mims
- District 6 - Pete Hipps, Barbara Williams King
- District 7 - Jeanette Pendergrass
- District 9 - Melvin Kelly
- District 10 - Arthur Middleton

Mrs. Jones and the District Coordinators have made great strides in making contact with alumni to reenergize and reorganize numerous clubs in South Carolina. To date, two clubs have been consolidated, two clubs have held elections of officers, and seven alumni have been identified as lead contact persons in various areas. These individuals will make contact with other alumni to set up meetings to reenergize or organize a club.

In addition to the work being done, plans are underway to host a Southern Regional meeting in 2013. Regional VP Jones expressed great appreciation to National President Hamler and Executive Secretary Ada Belton for their leadership during this process.

BCNAA Committees At Work...

Vice President Thompson Pushes Membership



Mrs. Phyllis Thompson
National VP &
Membership Chairman

National Vice President Phyllis Thompson, Chairman of Membership, in collaboration with Mrs. Thelma Salmond, Chair of the Long Range Planning Committee, conducted an Alumni Round-Up this past November, 2011. The event was held at the Charlie Johnson Stadium and included a fish fry underwritten by two proud Benedictines: Attorney Donald Gist and Dr. Burnett Gallman.

This Committee has many strategies being implemented to increase alumni participation across the nation. Ms. Thompson's enthusiasm is key to the success of our membership initiatives.

Long Range Planning to Announce Raffle



Mrs. Thelma Salmond
Long Range
Planning Chairman

The Long Range Planning Committee has outdone themselves again. Mrs. Thelma Salmond, Chairman, has led the charge to craft another fun-filled exotic trip for a family of four to Hilton Head, South Carolina Resorts.

Other prizes include a flat screen TV and \$300 gas card. The details of this exciting raffle will be revealed at Spring Planning Meeting in Philadelphia.

We are confident that under Mrs. Salmond's leadership, we will again have a very successful raffle.

Kudos to the following Committees ...

Awards—Mrs. Sonja McIntosh
Audit—Mr. Edsel Webb
Budget—Mr. Moses Mims
Constitution & Bylaws—Mr. Mingo Dicks
Credentials—Mrs. Velma Bowser
Half Century—Mrs. Gladys Goforth
Hall of Fame—Mrs. Rosetta Johnson
Homecoming—Mrs. Mary Jones
Hospitality—Ms. Marshall McKeever
Life Membership—Mr. Kenneth Woods
Memorial—Mrs. Teshine Good
Miss BCNAA—Mrs. Essie Perkins
Nominating—Mrs. Barbara Bowens
Publication—Mrs. Shirley Kelley
Recruiting—Mrs. Edith Thompson
Scholarship—Ms. Frances Wimberly
Strategic Planning—Dr. Janie Greenleaf
Technology—Mr. Cornelius Cakely
Time & Place—Mrs. Betty Jenkins

2012 Annual Giving in Full Swing

The 2012 Annual Giving Campaign is in full swing with Ms. Marlene McClerkin in charge. Ms. McClerkin and her committee have been contacting clubs' presidents around the nation to ensure that the 2012 goals are obtained.

Mrs. McClerkin has developed a committee strategy which is well organized and efficient. Her tenacity and commitment play an important role in our Annual Giving Campaign.



Mrs. Marlene McClerkin
Annual Giving
Chairman

2011 Spring Planning Meeting in Raleigh-Durham



Special Thanks to...

***Mr. Leo Farmer, Club President
Dr. James Carter, Conference Chair
& the Raleigh-Durham Alumni
Club members***

Raleigh-Durham, North Carolina was the perfect venue for the 31st Spring Planning Meeting for the Benedict College National Alumni Association. The attendees came prepared to conduct BCNAA business and enjoy the camaraderie.

Dr. Leroy Walker was honored and revered at the Luncheon by alumni, friends and co-workers.

The Raleigh-Durham group rolled out the welcome carpet in grand style and will be remembered for an outstanding conference and their warm southern hospitality.

UP COMMING EVENTS in 2012

Mark Your Calendars

March

29—31 32nd Spring Planning Meeting, Philadelphia

April:

14 BC Spring Football Game
15th Greenville Alumni Club College Day
18th 23rd Annual Charter Day Scholarship Dinner
21st Fairfield County Alumni Club Dinner
22nd Columbia Alumni Club #2 Little Mr./Miss Benedict
27th Spartanburg Alumni Club Roast and Toast Dinner

May:

4th Progressive Alumni Club of Greater NY Spring Dance
5th Spring Commencement

June:

16th Edisto Alumni Club Awards Breakfast
29th Annual Giving Campaign Ends

October:

20th Homecoming 2012

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 send
them to Phyllis Thompson at thompsop@hotmail.com
or call 803-705-4720,

or 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



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