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

Office of Alumni Relations...

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.
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).

Membership on the Rise...

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

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

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

Mrs. Leandra Hayes-Burgess
Benedict College Vice President for Institutional Advancement
2018 Spring Planning in Myrtle Beach…

A Time for Working and A Time for Having Fun…

An Invitation

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!