



ALABAMA A&M UNIVERSITY

**BLACK TIE**  
SCHOLARSHIP GALA

*gala*  
2009-2010-2011



*The annual Black Tie Scholarship Gala has continued on a path of success for more than a decade, thanks largely to AAMU supporters and leadership. Pictured above (l-r) are: Lieutenant General James H. Pillsbury and his wife Becky; U.S. Representative Mo Brooks and his wife Martha; AAMU First Lady Abbiegail Hugine and AAMU President Andrew Hugine, Jr.*

## Black Tie Gala Offers Class, Scholarship and Tradition

The annual Black Tie Scholarship Gala began in 2001 as a brainchild of the Alabama A&M University Business-Industry Cluster, a more than 40-year-old organization formed to strengthen collaborations between the University and the entities seeking its students.

The Cluster organization (now the Collaborative University Business and Industry Consortium) served the University in a number of ways via a series of focus groups targeting key

areas. The gala is an outgrowth of the productivity of those focus groups. Specifically, black tie gala co-founder Roosevelt Conley was part of the marketing focus group, which was charged with finding a way to better acquaint business and industry with AAMU and its programs.

The first black tie "ball" was held at the Downtown Hilton, said Conley, and subsequent "gala" events have raised as much as \$160,000 after expenses.

Initially, the gala was adminis-

tered for the Cluster organization by AAMU's Office of Corporate Relations. In addition to serving as a scholarship fundraiser, the event also was designed to honor agencies, businesses, corporations and individuals that had played a significant role in AAMU's success.

Early on, the gala attracted an impressive list of sponsors. One short year after its inception in 2002, for instance, key sponsors of the event had grown to include Raytheon, Teledyne Brown, SES,

AmSouth Bank, Redstone Federal Credit Union, Air Conditioning Parts, Tech-Masters, NASA, SAIC, Northrop Grumman, Boeing, Rolls Royce Engines and Sallie Mae.

In addition to raising funds for scholarships, the gala event acknowledges significant contributions to AAMU by individuals, agencies, businesses, organizations and corporations.



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## Donnanique Washington

Donnanique hails from the small town of Linden, Ala.,

the place that gave internationally noted civil rights martyr Martin Luther King, Jr., his most trusted friend and strategic partner--Ralph David Abernathy.

A graduate of Linden High School, Donnanique enrolled at Alabama A&M University as a biology major with a pre-med concentration. Her goal is to become an obstetrician/gynecologist. She immediately

began to involve herself in every aspect of collegiate life, including the Honors Program, Alpha Kappa Mu Honors Society, the University Echos and the TRiO Program.

Donnanique received the prestigious Freshman President's Award in 2007-08, and she has been announced as a distinguished Boeing scholarship recipient.

For the next two years, the recent 4.0 GPA graduate will work as a corps member for the Teach For America program, based in Atlanta, Ga. The program works to rectify inequities in public education.

Donnanique is the daughter of Jeanette M. Washington and the late Donald G. Washington.

## Isis Holloway

Described by the campus personnel she reported to "as a very dependable student," Isis Holloway soon developed a reputation for being virtually outstanding in every task she undertook.



she worked for two years in the advancement office at AAMU. In the fall of 2011, Isis is scheduled to return to AAMU as a senior.

"I really appreciate the help I received through the Gala scholarship," says Isis. "It made going to college a whole lot easier."

A native of Tuskegee, Ala., Isis is majoring in biology and is looking forward to entering the medical profession when she completes her studies at AAMU.

Because of her demeanor and commitment to academics,

## Ebony Moses

A native of Detroit, Mich., Ebony Moses moved to Huntsville, Ala., at age 15 with her mother. Subsequently, she developed lasting relationships and acquired new friends and an extended church family.

It was through her many new connections that Ebony learned about Alabama A&M University and the impact it has had on the lives of so many of her closest acquaintances.

"I now have friends from all over ... California, the Islands ..." she adds. "I used to be scared to death. I am now more of a people person."

When she completes her degree in social work, Ebony believes her temperament is more attuned to working with the administrative side of the profession.



Ebony says the fact that she is a first-generation college student stays firmly on her mind. "I think I am changing a pattern ... I believe God has called me to do something different."

## Scenes from AAMU's 2011 Black Tie Scholarship Gala



Boeing receives distinguished Torchbearer Award from AAMU President Andrew Hugine, Jr. (r).



Odysseus Lanier, president pro tempore of the AAMU Board of Trustees, addresses the 2011 Gala audience.



# 2011 Gala Sponsors and Supporters



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Sponsor**  
Boeing



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*AAMU students play important roles in Gala's ongoing success.*

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*Campus departments and media ensure Gala communications.*

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Claudette Owens  
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Col. Robert Pastorelli  
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Timothy Rainey  
Rheumatology Associates of Alabama  
Evelyn Rich  
Bernice Richardson  
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*For more than a decade, the Gala has attracted all aspects of business and industry.*





*Former AAMU employees and spouses, Col. (Ret.) and Mrs. James O. Heyward, and Huntsville Mayor Tommy Battle*

Melvin Scruggs  
M. Lynn Sherrod  
Richard Showers  
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Nancy Smith  
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Cheryl Wise  
Carol Woods  
Jacqueline Wyse  
Aileen Yates  
Patricia Young  
Raymond Young



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## Why Scholarships Are So Important

The acquisition of scholarships is not only an ideal way to substantially reduce college debt but, in many instances, it may be the deciding factor for whether or not a student actually attends or even remains in school.

During periods of dire economic distress on a global level, a college education can seem insurmountable, especially for individuals unable to apply for need-based financial assistance.

Most scholarships fall in at least four broad categories: Need-based, Merit-based, Student-based, or Career-specific. A few may have a “bond” attachment that commits the recipient to certain stipulations.

For information on scholarship opportunities presented through the annual Black Tie Scholarship Gala and its sponsors, contact the Office of Marketing, Communications and Advancement at (256) 372-8344.

# Facts and Figures

## 2009



### 2009 Report

**Attendance:**  
700  
**Amount Raised:**  
\$104,200  
**Scholarships Awarded:**  
26

Despite thunderstorms and tornado watches, hundreds still attended the ninth annual Black-Tie Scholarship Gala was held Thursday, April 2, 2009, to benefit deserving students at AAMU and to recognize the University's most consistent supporters.

Trang Do, WAFF-TV general assignment reporter, teamed with former AAMU University Counsel Kenneth Hairston to keep the program on track.

Gala chairpersons were **Joe Newberry** of Redstone Federal Credit Union and **Rev. Dr. Oscar L. Montgomery** of Union Hill Primitive Baptist Church. The Boeing Company received the 2009 Company of the Year and Torchbearer awards, while NASA-Marshall Space Flight Center received the Business-Industry award.

NASA officer David E. Brock and Alabama State Representative Laura Hall each earned Advocate of the Year honors, while the Small Company of the Year honor went to Public FA, the Diversity Award to Huntsville Mayor Tommy Battle, and two additional Torchbearer awards were presented to Lockheed Martin and Northrop Grumman.

## 2010



AAMU's Collaborative University Business-Industry Consortium (CUBIC) and the Office of Institutional Advancement held the 10th Annual Black-Tie Scholarship Gala on Thursday, April 8, at the Von Braun Center North Hall.

Special tribute was paid to the AAMU Alumni Association, Inc., the organization chosen to receive 2010's "Advocate of the Year" award. Recognitions were also presented to **Lockheed Martin**, "Company of the Year"; **Systems Development Corporation (SDC)**, "Small Business of the Year"; **U.S. Space and Missile Defense Command**, "Business-Industry Award"; **John Robinson III** of Alatec, "Diversity Award"; and **First Missionary Baptist Church**, "The Koinonia Award."

### 2010 Report

**Attendance:**  
800  
**Amount Raised:**  
\$122,500  
**Scholarships Awarded:**  
30

One of the scholarship activity's founders, Roosevelt Conley, business development manager for TecMasters, Inc., is also event co-chair. Former AAMU President Richard David Morrison is honorary chairman, while event co-chair George Reynolds of Northrop Grumman heads CUBIC.

## 2011



Launched following an extensive re-branding effort, the 2011 Gala was held at the Davidson Center for Space Exploration on Thursday, March 24.

The Deputy Commanding General of the U.S. Army Materiel Command, Lieutenant General James H. Pillsbury, was keynote speaker. The Gala kicked off a series of events, culminating with the Investiture Ceremony for AAMU President Andrew Hugine, Jr.

Entertainment for the formal event was provided by jazz vocalist Kevin Mahogany. Holders of newly-instituted VIP tickets were able to attend a special pre-Gala VIP reception.

The **Advocate of the Year** recipient was Jacqueline Bennett. Jim Bolte of Toyota Manufacturing received the **Diversity Award**. Other honors awarded include **Koinonia Award** (Indian Creek Primitive Baptist Church); **Small and Large Company of the Year** (LogiCore and AT&T, respectively).

The 2011 Gala co-chairs were Cynthia Ledbetter, SAIC, and Lieutenant General (Ret.) Dennis Cavin, Lockheed Martin. The honorary co-chairs were alumni Ella Byrd McCain of Birmingham, Ala. and W. Troy Massey of Montgomery, Ala. Rev. Dr. Oscar L. Montgomery was pastoral chair.

### 2011 Report

**Attendance:**  
1,000  
**Amount Raised:**  
\$140,200  
**Scholarships Awarded:**  
35

*“Service Is Sovereignty”*

Office of Marketing, Communications and Advancement  
Alabama A&M University  
P. O. Box 294



**BLACK TIE**  
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**Thursday, April 12, 2012**

**Volunteer for the  
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Committee**

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Office of Marketing, Communications and Advancement  
(256) 372-8344  
blacktie@aamu.edu