THE BULLDOG CONNECTION

Newsletter of the Atlanta Chapter of South Carolina State University National Alumni Association

SUMMER 2021

MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Greetings Bulldogs,

I greet each on you on behalf of the executive board of the Atlanta Alumni Chapter. The first quarter of this fiscal year was busy, and we look forward to excelling to greater heights in the coming months. We have seen a change in administration within the national alumni association and new leadership at the university. I have assured SCSU Interim President Alex Conyers and SCSUNAA President Hank Allen that the Atlanta Alumni Chapter stands ready to support them and the initiatives of both the university and the national association.

The Atlanta Alumni Chapter celebrates our last year successes with a record number of chapter members (224) and was able to donate over $81,000.00 to the university in financial giving. We are off to a great start with a clear goal to surpass all of what we accomplished last year. Our goal for this fiscal year is to increase membership by 10% (250) and to increase our overall giving to the university by 25% ($108,000).

To reach these goals, we need your help and full support. Please renew your chapter membership for this fiscal year and reach out to other alumni to encourage them to do the same. Also, please continue to support our monthly Giving Tuesday Campaign which has been the chapter's primary way of giving.

President Conyers has launched the 125 Years of Excellence "Ready All to Do and Dare" campaign. We are asking each member to help us generate $40,000.00 for this campaign through our chapter's website. We can reach this goal with 200 alumni giving $50 or more each month now through December 31st. With this level of commitment, we will be able to help support the university in projects for students.

As you chart your course of engagement, start with these simple activities that inspire your pride and build our chapter.

- **Wear It Out!** – Proudly show off our SC State apparel wherever you are!
- **Bark It Up!** – Share your SC State experience with prospective students, parents, and fellow alums! Become a SCSU Alumni Ambassador!
- **Explore It All!** – Attend alumni events and monthly chapter meetings to stay informed!
- **Get Involved!** – Volunteer your time and expertise. Join one of our many committees.

Bulldogs, again thanks for your loyalty to the chapter, the National Alumni Association, and our beloved University. Let's continue to remember our bulldog families who have lost loved ones and need our prayers and support.

With Bulldog Tenacity,

Michael A. Patterson, '82

Chapter President Atlanta Alumni Chapter
mapque84@bellsouth.net

BULLDOG *TENACITY*

Delores Fulton grew up in Kingstree, SC and graduated summa cum laude from SCSU in May 1977 with a bachelor's degree, having majored in accounting with a minor in mathematics. A few months following graduation, Delores moved to Atlanta to become a federal employee with the Internal Revenue Service (IRS). By the early 1980s, she had obtained an MBA at Georgia State University.

Delores joined the Atlanta Alumni Chapter soon after moving to Atlanta in the late 1970s, just missing being a charter member of the chapter by a few years. But soon after, major life events (marriage, family, professional development) demanded her focus and pulled her away for a while. Then by the early 1990's, she was back full time and has actively served the chapter since.

Delores is a loyal Bulldog daughter who has consistently supported the university since becoming an alumna with her personal financial donations, by serving as an ambassador for the university in her community, and in volunteering her time in support of numerous university and alumni sponsored events.

Delores' most recent contributions include execution of payments to the university for chapter-sponsored scholarships and student aid, and reporting for the National Alumni Association's Chapter Challenge, which resulted in the Atlanta Chapter being recognized as the lead chapter with contributions at the $75,000 level for 2021.

Having loyally served as an officer and member of the chapter's financial team for over 3 decades, Delores brings her knowledge and unquestioned integrity to all facets of her position's responsibilities. She has used her IRS experience to handle all chapter IRS reporting requirements, maintained and reported chapter financial transactions and supported all chapter fundraising events. Delores continues to be a dedicated presence for maintaining the chapter's operations from a financial perspective. She has chosen to keep her alumni service at the chapter level which is an invaluable gain for the Atlanta Chapter.

Delores and her husband Alvin have resided in the Riverdale/ Fayetteville, GA area since the 1980s. They are the proud parents of son, Trevor and the doting grandparents of young Cyan (affectionately called "Cy"). Delores retired in January 2019 after a stellar 42-year career with the Internal Revenue Service. This was perfect timing which has allowed her to spend more time helping Cy start his schooling from home during the Covid-19 pandemic. Delores has been a long time member of St. Mark AME Church on Campbellton Road in SW Atlanta where she actively serves as a Steward, helping to manage the finances of the church.

Congratulations Delores! She has definitely displayed the strength of will in being honored and recognized as the Atlanta Chapter 2021 Bulldog *Tenacity*.

S.C. STATES UNIVERSITY NAMES CONYERS INTERIM PRESIDENT

South Carolina State trustees voted 12-1 Wednesday, September 3th to name Retired U.S. Army Colonel Alexander Conyers as Interim President.

Manning, SC native, President Conyers holds a Bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice from SC State, a Master's degree in Corrections from the University of South Carolina and a Master's degree in Public Administration from Troy University. He is a graduate of the FBI National Academy and The University of North Carolina's Leadership, Excellence and Development (LEAD) program. He is a member of several professional associations, including the American Association of Blacks in Higher Education, and a former adjunct professor at Upper Iowa University.

Since President Conyers' appointment, "he has proven himself to be a formidable leader as the university makes this very critical transition," Board Chairman Rodney Jenkins said. "His focus has been keenly fixed on the success of our students."

Among Conyers' first initiatives as acting president was to clear the past due account balances of some 2,500 continuing students using federal COVID-19 relief funds. The move aimed to lessen the financial burden for students who had been unable to return to SC State because of the financial hardship caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. The President also launched the 125 Years of Excellence "Ready All to Do and Dare" campaign. The financial goal of this campaign is to raise $1.25 million by December 31, 2021 to provide resources to support programs and initiatives for the university.

We congratulate President Conyers on being selected as Interim President to our Dear University!

SCSUNAA PRESIDENT HANK ALLEN

Greetings Atlanta Chapter,

Once I heard about your upcoming Bulldog Connection newsletter, I could not pass up the opportunity to say hello and to thank you.

I want to commend you for all that you do to support the University and the students. What I've witnessed in just a short time is that whenever and wherever support is needed, the Atlanta Chapter is there and upfront, and that's something worth celebrating. You are making a difference.

As you are all aware, Interim President Conyers recently rolled out the 125-year Fundraising Campaign but what you may not have known is that within minutes of the announcement, your very own, Ms. Helen Corbett-Brandyburg, stepped up and made a significant contribution. Thank you, Helen, for leading by example. Because of your generosity, others have stepped up as well. I also want to thank President Patterson, who immediately put Fundraising goals in place for the chapter, and there is no doubt you will meet and exceed those goals. This is the type of leadership and support that the University and the Association need to help move to the next level.

I would ask each of you to continue to lead by example and activate other alums, friends, and companies by asking for their support. Together we can build something incredible!

Go Bulldogs,

Hank

BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT

Brenda Casey Strickland is a 1979 SCSU graduate who obtained her Bachelors degree and Masters degree in the area of Mathematics from SC State. Brenda always knew that she wanted to make a difference in the lives of the future generation of kids. Thus, she decided to become a teacher for several years. As an educator, Brenda knows all too well the importance of learning and having the necessary resources to create an environment to learn. Thus, it has always been on her heart to help students receive some type of funding no matter what it may go towards. After several years of seeing the impact of how a lack of resources plays an instrumental factor in learning, Brenda decided to form the Brenda Lee Strickland Scholarship. This year, she was able to award four college students who will be attending schools in various states come Fall 2021. Each applicant was required to write an essay on why they chose the college they did as well as their aspirations. Brenda has always believed that whenever we are blessed with something it is never for us to keep to ourselves. Brenda's motto has always been, "*it's a blessing to be able to help other students in need.*"

BRENDA LEE STRICKLAND REALTY, INC.
2021 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

Along with being an educator, Brenda Strickland has been operating her company, Brenda Lee Strickland Realty, Inc. for twenty plus years and specializes in commercial and residential real estate. Throughout the years, Brenda has prided herself on maintaining Christian principles that has helped shaped the trajectory of the company. No matter the clients need, each individual receives dedication, experience, and a proven commitment to "*Make Dreams a Realty!*"

Brenda is married to Joe Strickland; they have 3 children who are actually involved in the business.

Brenda Lee Strickland Realty, Inc | www.blsrealty.org | 770-482-9542

After much time and donations from Alum, the new uniforms are here and We must say they look GOOD! Go SCSU Bulldogs!

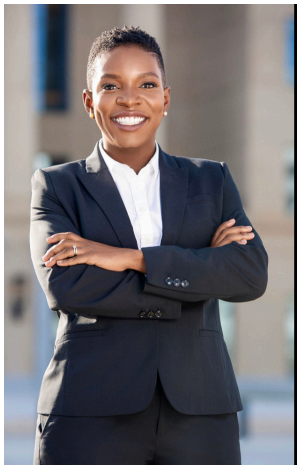
BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT

Zuri V. Peterson, C/O 2010

Founder & CEO

MaryBelle Solutions LLC.

www.marybellesolutions.com



MaryBelle Solutions is a premier logistics and technology firm located in the Atlanta Metropolitan area. They provide innovative logistics and technology solutions to public and private sector companies. MaryBelle Solutions customized logistics solutions enhance organizational effectiveness by implementing proven project management methods, strategic process improvement, and cutting-edge technology integration. They believe that strategic logistics and technology development are the cornerstone of a successful high performing company allowing them to enhance your customer experience and cement your business as a mainstay within your industry.

Brookhaven businessman, John Funny has announced a run for Brookhaven's City Council.

Atlanta Chapter would like to extend our congratulations and best wishes to our Loyal Son, John J. Funny, as he announced his bid for Brookhaven's District 4 seat.

John Funny has announced his run for the District 4 Brookhaven City Council seat this November. Funny, who serves as the chairman for Brookhaven's Social Justice, Race and Equity Commission, announced his bid in a press release on June 15.

John has resided in Brookhaven since 2010. He is the President and Chief Executive Officer of Grice Consulting Group with its corporate headquarter office in Atlanta, GA.

John is a graduate of the SCSU class of '87 and served as past President of SCSUNAA. We are proud of you, John!

CHAPLIN'S CORNER

Season's Change – Rev. Raushanah N. Butler

This last year has brought about unprecedented changes for many of us, if not all of us. Not only are we in the middle of a global crisis that has forced transition due to the pandemic of COVID-19, but there are additional crises around us. Domestic violence and child abuse cases are steadily increasing, the housing market has made it challenging for some to secure adequate shelter, and there are those that are still having a hard time finding jobs (and regardless of what is being reported). On the contrary, the current state of this world has provoked a sense of purpose for many people as well. Social media has been full of stories of people becoming engaged or married, expanding their families, getting promotions, starting thriving businesses and truly experiencing life to the fullest.

This reminds me of Ecclesiastes 3:1 which tells us that, "*There is a time for everything and a season for every activity under the heavens*". I'm sure I don't just speak for myself when I say that it feels good when you have so much to celebrate, and you seem to be on the mountaintop. But when things aren't going as well as you'd like or planned, it's easy to get discouraged and to be disappointed. However, the verse that was mentioned tells us that trouble won't last always, nor will we always be on top, because seasons change…WHEW!!! Knowing this, we can face life with confidence in God's word with the blessing being that we have an opportunity to experience the good after the bad, as well as being able to get through the bad when it comes. Yet through it all, we praise and thank God that in life seasons do change.

FY22 ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP BULLDOG ROUND-UP

The Bulldog Round Up was held on July 10th at Blackburn Park. The roundup was the kick-off to pay annual alumni dues. Food and music were provided along with the opportunity to meet and greet university staff.

BULLDOG ROUNDUP

Hosted by the
Atlanta Alumni Membership Services
& Alumni Programming Committees

MENTAL HEALTH AND COVID

During the COVID-19 pandemic, concerns over mental health to include depression, anxiety, and suicidal ideation spiked. Over the last year, many have been stuck in their homes, working in stressful situations, and continue to experience social injustices. Health officials stress the importance of social distance increasing the feeling of loneliness and complete isolation. While there are many focus on the negative impact COVID has had, there are ways to reduce mental health by taking a vacation or staycation.

HAVE YOU TAKE YOUR SUMMER VACATION?

Have you taken your summer vacation? Summer vacations are vital to our mental health. It reduces stress, anxiety, depression, and more. If you are not ready to travel out of state or out of the country, you can indulge in a staycation by going to the beach, the mountains, or some other place to relax. The change of scenery can reduce mental health symptoms.

What are some of your favorite staycation spots? Staycations in or near Atlanta:

- Tybee Island
- Savannah, Georgia
- Château Elan
- Jekyll Island
- Helen, Georgia

-Dr. Pia Scott

ATLANTA STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

Makenzie Austin is from Atlanta, Georgia and a freshman at South Carolina State University. She is a member of the Honors College & a biology major. She graduated from Tri-Cities High School in the upper 20th percentile, captain of the volleyball team, and was 1st Team All-Region in 6A. Makenzie is on a volleyball scholarship at SC State and plans to continue her volleyball career. She also plans to go to Physical Therapy school after she attain her bachelors degree to become a Physical Therapist and/or Athletic Trainer.

Congratulations Mackenize, we are proud of the great things that you are doing at the university!

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https://www.linkedin.com/company/scsu-atlanta-alumni-chapter/

COMMITTEE UPDATES:

ALUMNI PROGRAMMING (Robbi Brown - robbinikkole@yahoo.com)

Do you like to host and plan events? Do you have some creative ideas to help promote the name of the SCSU Atlanta Chapter? Are you a Young Alumni ready to help build our programming for the new school Bulldogs. There are several ways to serve including Community Service, Golden Bulldog Luncheon, and Homecoming! The Alumni Programming committee is for YOU!

ATLANTA METROPOLITAN SCHOLARSHIP (Erika Jennings ejenn929@yahoo.com)

Fall 2021 has been a busy time for the Scholarship Committee. We welcomed our new and returning 11 students back to campus by providing a stipend to each of them on behalf of the Gregory Freeman Memorial Scholarship Fund. This generous donation by the family and other Atlanta Bulldogs has been most gracious.

Please continue to notify the chapter of any college fairs or recruitment opportunities: Alumni@scsuatlbulldogs.org.

MARKETING & COMMUNICATIONS (Pia Scott - drpscott2016@gmail.com)

The Marketing & Communications committee ensures that our Alum of South Carolina State University gains useful sufficient information about the status of our great institution and what is taking place in our communities. We value to – and get sufficient value from – each committee. Please submit your marketing information to Pia Scott at drpscott2016@gmail.com or Brenda Holmes at holmesrbrh@bellsouth.net.

MEMBERSHIP SERVICES (Hiram Lagroon - hsl58@yahoo.com)

Come Reconnect, Reunite, Recommit, and Rejoin 2022

FY22 is upon us and it is time to pay annual alumni dues.

- Our fiscal year runs from July 1st-June 30th.
- Annual regular dues are $65 and annual life membership local dues are $40. Dues can be paid by check, money order, credit card, Cash App, Zelle or PayPal on our chapter's website: https://scsuatlbulldogs.org/all-about-dues. National Life Membership can also be paid. Fees may apply to electronic payments. Let's repeat our efforts for FY22!

Job Networking Subcommittee: Please provide job opportunities at your place of work, for posting on the chapter's website https://scsuatlbulldogs.org/jobs-network. For more information, contact Elgin Mazone and Angela Jones.

Courtesy and Welfare Subcommittee: Please provide your birthday and anniversary to Rosa Hall rhall910@icloud.com.

TECHNOLOGY (Angela Jones - ajonesscsualum@gmail.com)

Technology maintains multiple portals to showcase our SC State Alumni Pride to the world. Our committee maintains the following:

- Email (via Constant Contact)
- Years attended or graduated
- Website (via the GoDaddy platform)
- Social media platforms (Facebook, LinkedIn, and Twitter)

Yes, your time and talents are needed. Do you need to be a website developer? No. Do you need to have a technical background? No. Can you copy and paste? Do you possess good attention to detail? Good time management? If yes, well your time and efforts will thrive on this committee.

WAYS AND MEANS (Carla Hawkins - jbhawk1005@gmail.com)

The goal of the Ways and Means Committee is to raise financial resources by planning and executing an annual giving campaign and other activities/events for the Atlanta Chapter of the SCSUNAA.

Use of funds: Support chapter operations, Warren Reese Scholarship fund, University 125th Campaign and provide financial assistance to Atlanta students.

Newly appointment SCSU Interim President, Alex Conyers, has ignited new energy with new expectations of SCSU Alum to help with moving our beloved alma mater forward. On August 25th he launched the 125 Years of Excellence "Ready All to Do and Dare" campaign. The financial goal of this campaign is to raise $1.25 million by December 31, 2021. It is Interim President Conyers' goal to provide critical resources to support programs and initiatives that benefits the entire university. The chapter's goal is to raise $ 40,000 over the next four months (now through December 2021). A commitment is needed from 200 alumni to give a minimum of $50.00 a month for the next four months.

The metro Atlanta Alumni Chapter takes pride in our giving efforts to our beloved alma mater. The dedicated Sons and Daughters of this chapter work tirelessly on a myriad of initiatives and events to raise funds to support our dear SCSU.

Our beloved SCSU has existed and thrived for 125 years. It is time for SCSU to elevate to the next level and beyond. This cannot be done without the monetary support of our Loyal Sons and Daughters. Metro Atlanta Alumni Bulldogs, let's show them what SCSU Bulldog Tenacity is all about!!

ALUMNI GIVING TEMPLATE

Yearly, SCSUNAA request the total amount of direct donations made by the chapters and their members to the university, SCSU Foundation, and SCSUNAA. Please note; each month we will send out a template by Constant Contact to request your contributions made and ask you to send the information to Delores Fulton by the 15th of each month.

You can include on template campaign such as: Giving Tuesday, Bulldog Relief Fund, 125 Years of Excellence, Reunions (do not include dues or donations). If you have any questions, please contact Delores Fulton at 404-314-5957 or email dlegend92@aol.com.

UPCOMING HOLIDAYS

Columbus Day which a national holiday and is on the second Monday of October. Christopher Columbus often gets credit for discovering America, but this despite the fact that people were already living on the continent. When Christopher Columbus arrived in North America, he actually saw people already there. Those were the Native Americans. Christopher Columbus set foot on American soil in 1492.

Veterans Day (originally known as Armistice Day) is a federal holiday in the United States observed annually on November 11, for honoring military veterans, who have served in the United States Armed Forces. Happy Veterans Day to our Alumni members who proudly served in the United States Military!

Thanksgiving is a national holiday that is celebrated on the fourth Thursday of November. Thanksgiving Day is a day for people to give thanks for what they have. Families and friends get together for a meal, which traditionally includes a roast turkey, stuffing, potatoes, vegetables, cranberry sauce, gravy, and pumpkin pie. During, Thanksgiving let's pause to count our blessings in knowing how thankful GOD has been to us.

MONTHLY VIRTUAL MEETINGS

Monthly chapter meetings are held the 2nd Saturday of each month, unless otherwise a notice will be sent. Meeting notifications are sent via email or Calling Post.

Address: SCSUNAA, INC. – Atlanta Chapter

Post Office Box 310774, Atlanta, Georgia 30331-0774

Voice Mail: (404) 622-SCSU (7278) Text @scstate to 81010

Cash App: $AtlantaAlumniSCSUNAA

PayPal: https://scsuatlbulldogs.org/membership

Zelle: finance@scsuatlbulldogs.org

LinkedIn: www.linkedin.com/company/scsu-atlanta-alumni-chapter/

E-mail address: alumni@scsuatlbulldogs.org

Website: www.scsuatlbulldogs.org

Twitter: SCSU Atlanta Alumni@SCSUATLALUMNI

SCSUNAA new website: https://scsunaa.site-ym.com/

THE BULLDOG CONNECTION

Sponsored by: Marketing & Communications Committee (Raushanah Butler, Brenda Holmes, Pia Scott, Doug Stewart, Faye Brown-Stone, and Greg Williams).

The newsletter is targeted to be release each season. If you would like to submit a poem, quote, etc., email Pia Scott (drpscott2016@gmail.com) and Brenda Holmes (holmesrbrh@bellsouth.net).

BACK TO SCHOOL AND HOMECOMING

S.C. State University has the largest incoming class since 2016. As students returned to S.C. State, this fall, the Bulldog community welcomed legacies and new students to campus. Interim President Alexander Conyers hosted a luncheon to honor those parents and grandparents that attended the institution. Parents appreciated President Conyers and his wife, First Lady Agatha Conyers, for being present to meet with incoming students.

Annual ATL Chapter Homecoming Activities

October 16, 2021

Parade 9:00 AM

Tailgate 11:00 PM-5:00 PM

1:30 PM (Game Time)

Metro Atlanta SCSU Alumni Bulldogs & Friends are asked to join the SCSU Atlanta Alumni Chapter for good food, fun, camaraderie and support for our Metro Atlanta members and students. Volunteers are needed to set up, monitor, and break down the chapter's tailgate. Please email Jennifer Ryder at jenniferbryder@gmail.com to volunteer.

Location: Spot #64 (Beside SHM Steps on Staley Hall Building Side)

This year our Atlanta Alumni Queen is Carla Hawkins (Class of '85). Carla and the Executive Board will represent the chapter in the annual homecoming parade.

2021 SC State Football Schedule

Date	Opponent		Time/TV	Tickets
Saturday Sep. 4	at Alabama A&M Bulldogs Louis Crews Stadium, Huntsville, AL	SCSU 41 A&M 42	Time TBA ET TV TBA	
Saturday Sep. 11	at Clemson Tigers Memorial Stadium, Clemson, SC	SCSU 3 Clemson 49	Time TBA ET TV TBA	Buy Tickets
Saturday Sep. 18	at New Mexico State Aggies Aggie Memorial Stadium, Las Cruces, NM		Time TBA ET TV TBA	
Saturday Sep. 25	OFF			
Saturday Oct. 2	Bethune-Cookman Wildcats Oliver C. Dawson Stadium, Orangeburg, SC		1:30pm ET TV TBA	
Saturday Oct. 9	at Florida A&M Rattlers Bragg Memorial Stadium, Tallahassee, FL		Time TBA ET TV TBA	
Saturday Oct. 16	Morgan State Bears (HC) Oliver C. Dawson Stadium, Orangeburg, SC		1:30pm ET TV TBA	
Saturday Oct. 23	at Delaware State Hornets Alumni Stadium, Dover, DE		Time TBA ET TV TBA	
Saturday Oct. 30	at NC Central Eagles O'Kelly-Riddick Stadium, Durham, NC		Time TBA ET TV TBA	
Saturday Nov. 6	Howard Bison Oliver C. Dawson Stadium, Orangeburg, SC		2:00pm ET TV TBA	
Saturday Nov. 13	North Carolina A&T Aggies Oliver C. Dawson Stadium, Orangeburg, SC		1:30pm ET TV TBA	
Saturday Nov. 20	at Norfolk State Spartans William "Dick" Price Stadium, Norfolk, VA		2:00pm ET TV TBA	

SC State University Website:
http://www.scsu.edu/
803-536-7186