



# Alabama State University National Alumni Association Inc. Newsletter

Vol. 1

APRIL 2026

## From the Desk of the National President

Dear Hornet Family,

It is with great pride and enthusiasm that I welcome you to this edition of the Alabama State University National Alumni Association Newsletter. As we continue to move forward under our 2026 theme, **Unity • Progress • Legacy**, we remain committed to strengthening the bond that connects us all—our love for Alabama State University.

This year has already proven to be one of momentum and purpose. Across the nation, our alumni chapters are demonstrating what it means to lead with impact—through service, mentorship, membership growth, and financial support for our beloved institution. Your dedication continues to elevate ASU's legacy and ensure that future generations of Hornets have the opportunity to succeed.

As your National President, I am excited about the direction in which we are headed. We are focused on expanding membership, enhancing alumni engagement, strengthening the chapter operations, and increasing our collective philanthropic efforts. Initiatives such as our membership growth campaigns, alumni spotlight features, and national fundraising efforts are designed to keep you connected, informed, and inspired.

This newsletter is more than just an update—it is a reflection of the incredible work happening across our regions and chapters. It highlights your achievements, shares important updates, and provides opportunities for you to stay engaged and make a difference.

I encourage each of you to remain active, stay connected with your local chapter, and continue to support the mission of the National Alumni Association. Together, we are building something powerful—an alumni network rooted in excellence, driven by purpose, and committed to leaving a lasting legacy.

Thank you for your continued support, leadership, and unwavering Hornet pride.

With Hornet Pride,  
**Marcedia Bolden**  
National President  
Alabama State University National Alumni Association, Inc.



# Honoring the Life and Legacy of

# *Rev. Cromwell Handy*

Rev. Cromwell Handy was a respected pastor, university leader, community figure, and cherished alum whose impact will never be forgotten. His life reflected a deep commitment to faith, service, and education—particularly within the Alabama State University community.

## **Life and Ministry**

Rev. Handy was a graduate of Alabama State University and remained closely connected to the institution throughout his life. He served as Director of Alumni Relations, where he worked to strengthen relationships among alumni and foster a sense of unity and pride within the “Hornet family.”

In ministry, he is widely remembered for serving as pastor of Dexter Avenue King Memorial Baptist Church from 2013 to 2022—a historic congregation once led by Martin Luther King Jr.. His leadership there connected him to a legacy of spiritual influence and social impact in Montgomery.

## **Leadership and Legacy**

Rev. Handy was known as a faith leader in Montgomery, impacting both the church and broader community through pastoral care, leadership development, and relationship-building. His work at Alabama State University further extended his influence beyond the pulpit, as he invested in alumni engagement and institutional advancement.

## **Enduring Impact**

Rev. Cromwell Handy’s legacy is marked by:

- Faithful pastoral leadership in a historically significant church
- Commitment to higher education and alumni connection
- Lasting influence within the Montgomery community

His life stands as a testimony to servant leadership—bridging the church, academy, and community with integrity and purpose.



# Membership

The National Membership Committee has been meeting regularly, and we are actively implementing our 2026 Membership Plan to increase paid membership nationwide and reengage lapsed members.

To date, we are seeing approximately 10% growth—short of our 25% target but still a positive step forward as we continue to build momentum.

Our strategy includes targeted outreach to recent graduates, stronger chapter-level programming, and enhanced communication through email and text campaigns. We are also working with Regional Directors to ensure that each region hosts membership-focused events and strengthens the pipeline for student and young-alumni engagement.



## 1st VP Orlando Arnold

The team is also working to establish new chapters or re-engage existing ones in each region. (Las Vegas, Pensacola, Milwaukee, Austin)

Membership is the foundation of our association's success, and we look forward to continued collaboration.



## 2nd VP Wendell Saxton

The Alabama State University National Alumni Association (ASU NAA) continues to advance its 2026 theme—Unity • Progress • Legacy—through focused fundraising efforts that support students, alumni engagement, and university initiatives.

# Fundraising:

Our priority is Student Support & Scholarships, which increase financial assistance for deserving students, help graduating seniors clear outstanding balances, and remove financial barriers that hinder persistence and graduation. Key initiatives include National Days of Alumni Giving, annual raffles, and alumni merchandise campaigns.

For 2026, ASU NAA has set a national fundraising goal of \$50,000. This goal will be achieved through coordinated national campaigns, regional collaboration, chapter-level initiatives, and individual alumni contributions.

Fundraising remains a shared responsibility and a meaningful way for alumni to invest in the future of Alabama State University. Together, we can expand opportunities for students, strengthen alumni connections, and uphold the proud legacy of our institution.

# MidWest Region

Greetings from the Midwest Region,

On behalf of the National Alumni Association, we proudly connect graduates, supporters, students, and future students to our Alma Mater. As we look to increase our membership and chapters, I would like to thank the current members and chapters for their efforts to promote our University. Chicago, Cincinnati, Cleveland, Dayton, Detroit, Flint, Indianapolis, Milwaukee, and St. Louis Chapters serve as the foundation of the Midwest, hosting events, promoting student recruitment, and raising and awarding scholarship funds. Through these efforts, alumni remain connected while contributing to its continued growth.

The Midwest Region welcomes you to join us for the **2026 Midwest Region Conference**. The conference will be held in St. Louis, MO hosted by our St. Louis Chapter -President, Lisa Jones. The event will be held on **May 29 - May 31st**. For any additional information, please feel free to contact the Midwest Region at [alabamastateMWR@gmail.com](mailto:alabamastateMWR@gmail.com)

Sending Hornet Love,  
**Shannon Washington**  
 Midwest Region Director  
 Chicago Chapter Member

## Upcoming Events

- 🐝 Deadline to apply for NAA Scholarship - TBA
- 🐝 Officer Training March 31st
- 🐝 ASU Annual Day of Giving April 7-11, 2026
- 🐝 ASU Connection Day Tailgate April 11th
- 🐝 Secretary's Training April 11<sup>th</sup> @ 10 am CST
- 🐝 North East Regional Conference - Carolina Connection April 25th (Virtual)
- 🐝 Golf Tournament May 15th
- 🐝 Mid-West Regional Conference - Saint Louis, May 29<sup>th</sup> - 31<sup>st</sup>, 2026
- 🐝 Distinguished Alumni Awards May 30th, 2026
- 🐝 NAA Scholarship Deadline May 31<sup>st</sup>



### Hornet History /Trivia

How much money was rased by the Marion Nine to start the Lincoln Normal School?

- A. \$1867
- B. \$900
- C. \$500
- D. \$1955

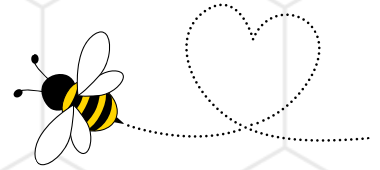
# NAA Founders' Day Oratorical Contest Winner

In a powerful oratorical presentation, Ifenna Arubaleze, a Computer Science major, reflected on the enduring legacy of the Marion Nine and their profound impact on Alabama State University's history and future. Rooted in themes of resilience, sacrifice, and an unwavering commitment to education, Ifenna's speech challenged both students and alumni to carry that same spirit forward.

The presentation emphasized that today's students honor this legacy not only through academic excellence in the classroom but also by striving for growth beyond it—developing leadership, innovation, and real-world readiness. Alumni strengthen the institution by supporting scholarships, mentoring, and meaningful engagement that bridge education and career pathways.



**Ifenna Arubaleze**



Innovation was also highlighted as a critical component in positioning ASU for continued success in the 21st century. With forward-thinking strategies, the university community can help graduates stay competitive, prepared, and impactful.

Ifenna shared that, "Winning the oratorical contest holds special significance, as it reflects a foundation built during the First Year Orientation course under Ms. Maggie Thomas. Through that experience, a deeper understanding of the Marion Nine's purpose and ASU's evolving future was formed." She also stated, "This achievement represents more than a personal milestone—it is a commitment to uphold the tradition, pride, and purpose that define Alabama State University and to inspire others to do the same."

We are so proud of Ifenna and what she represents, a bright future for ASU students and future alumni.

# M

**ALEXANDER H. CURTIS  
JAMES CHILDS • NICKOLAS DALE  
JOHN FREEMAN • DAVID HARRIS  
THOMAS LEE • NATHAN LEVERT  
JOEY P. PINCH • THOMAS SPEED**

# 9

# Life Member: Proud. Connected. Forever.

Life Membership is a meaningful way to demonstrate your lifelong commitment to the University while supporting the Association’s ongoing mission and work.

Life Membership is a one-time investment that allows you to remain an active, financial member of the NAA for life, without the need to pay annual **national** dues. Your commitment directly supports alumni programming, scholarships, student engagement initiatives, and University advancement efforts.

Life Members receive special distinction and recognition throughout the year, including acknowledgments at national, regional, and chapter events, exclusive identification, and permanent inclusion among our most dedicated alumni supporters. Your investment leaves a lasting legacy while helping strengthen the bond between alumni and Alabama State University.

We invite you to consider joining this distinguished group of alumni leaders. Should you have any questions or need additional information, please do not hesitate to reach out to our NAA Secretary via email at [asunaasecretary1867@gmail.com](mailto:asunaasecretary1867@gmail.com)

Application Link:  
(<https://form.jotform.com/260084749469066>)



ALABAMA STATE UNIVERSITY  
NATIONAL ALUMNI ASSOCIATION



## Life Membership Benefits Package

Cost: one payment of \$1,000 or 3 installments of \$333 (3 years)

Becoming a Life Member is a legacy investment in ASU and the National Alumni Association. It provides you with lasting recognition, exclusive privileges, and the satisfaction of supporting future generations of Hornets.

### Exclusive Recognition

- Official Life Membership Certificate & Gold-embossed Card
- Engraved Life Member Lapel Pin/Medallion
- Recognition in the ASU NAA Annual Report, Website, and Souvenir Program
- Listing in the Life Members' Honor Roll

### Special Event Privileges

- VIP Seating at alumni events (as available)
- Invitation-only Life Member Reception at Homecoming or Annual Convention
- Exclusive Gear & Memorabilia
- Custom Life Member Polo or Jacket
- Alumni Magazine/Newsletter subscription for life
- Occasional Life Member-only commemorative gifts (scarves, lap blankets, or anniversary keepsakes)

### Leadership

- Recognition as a pillar of alumni support at regional and national meetings

### Legacy & Impact

- Contributing to scholarships and alumni initiatives supported by Life Membership funds
- Recognition during milestone ASU anniversaries and capital campaigns
- Establishing a permanent alumni legacy tied to the growth and success of Alumni Association



# January Alumni Spotlight

## Alumni Who Lead with Purpose

ASU NAA 2026 EXECUTIVE BOARD

Marcedia Bolden  
President

Shannon Claman  
Immediate Past President

Orlando Arnold  
1st Vice President

Wendell Saxon  
2nd Vice President

Julie Knight  
National Treasurer

Talam D Ellis  
National Financial Secretary

Eboni Walker  
National Secretary

Dr. Melania Eddins-Spencer  
National Parliamentarian

ASU NAA 2026 REGIONAL LEADERSHIP TEAMS

Vanda Lee Jones  
Farwest Regional Director

Shannon Washington  
Midwest Regional Director

Judith Ojo  
Northeast Regional Director

Camille Robinson  
Farwest Region Representative

Donitisha Burse  
Midwest Region Representative

Norbert Sullivan  
Northeast Region Representative

James Days  
Southeast Regional Director

Pamela D. West  
Southeast Region Representative

# February Alumni Spotlight

## Black Excellence | Legacy & Impact

We proudly honor Black excellence rooted in Hornet pride by spotlighting Dr. Quinton T. Ross Jr., the 15th President of Alabama State University. Since assuming office in 2017, Dr. Ross has led a remarkable institutional transformation, strengthening fiscal stability, reducing debt, and restoring confidence in the University's operations. His leadership has resulted in more than \$20 million in campus-wide infrastructure improvements and reaffirmation of accreditation through 2030 by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges.

Through his strategic vision, **FOCUS 2030**, Dr. Ross continues to expand enrollment, enhance academic innovation, and elevate ASU's national prominence among HBCUs. His influence extends nationally through appointments by Joe Biden to the White House Initiative on HBCUs Board of Advisors, as well as leadership roles with the Thurgood Marshall College Fund, Southwestern Athletic Conference, and the NCAA.

A proud member of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. and 100 Black Men of America, Dr. Ross is also a **Life Member of the Alabama State University National Alumni Association**, reflecting his lifelong dedication to advancing the Hornet legacy. With over 29 years of service in education and leadership, Dr. Ross continues to embody excellence, integrity, and a steadfast commitment to empowering future generations.



## Dr Quinton T. Ross

## March Alumni Spotlight

### NAA Chapters

We are proud of our Active Alumni Chapters for their dedication and commitment to their local communities and to Alabama State University.



### National Committee's

1. Membership & Recruitment Committee
2. Fundraising & Development Committee
3. Scholarship Committee
4. Hospitality & Events Committee
5. Communications & Information Committee
6. Constitution and Bylaws
7. Parliamentarian
8. Necrology/Chaplain
9. Education/Mentee Program

If you are interested in joining a committee, email [eboard@bamastatealumni.org](mailto:eboard@bamastatealumni.org)

## Step-by-Step:

### Update Your Profile in ClubExpress

- Log in to <https://www.bamastatealumni.org/>
  - Click “Member Login” (usually top right)
  - Enter your username/email and password
- Access Your Profile
  - Once logged in, look for “Profile,” “My Profile,” or your name in the top right menu
  - Click it to open your member profile
- Edit Profile Information
  - Click “Basic Member Information”
  - Update any areas needed, including:
    - Contact information (email, phone, address)
    - Employment or professional details
    - Chapter affiliation (if applicable)
    - Communication preferences
    - Photo – upload or change your profile picture
- Save Changes
  - Scroll down and click “Save”
  - Always confirm that your updates were successfully saved
- Verify Updates
  - Return to your profile page to ensure everything appears correctly



**ALABAMA STATE UNIVERSITY**  
METRO ATLANTA ALUMNI CHAPTER, INC.





**THE TIME IS NOW**

SHOW YOUR HORNET PRIDE!

GET YOUR ASU GEORGIA SPECIALTY LICENSE PLATE NOW!



For every ASU Georgia license plate purchased, \$10 will go towards scholarships for future Hornets!

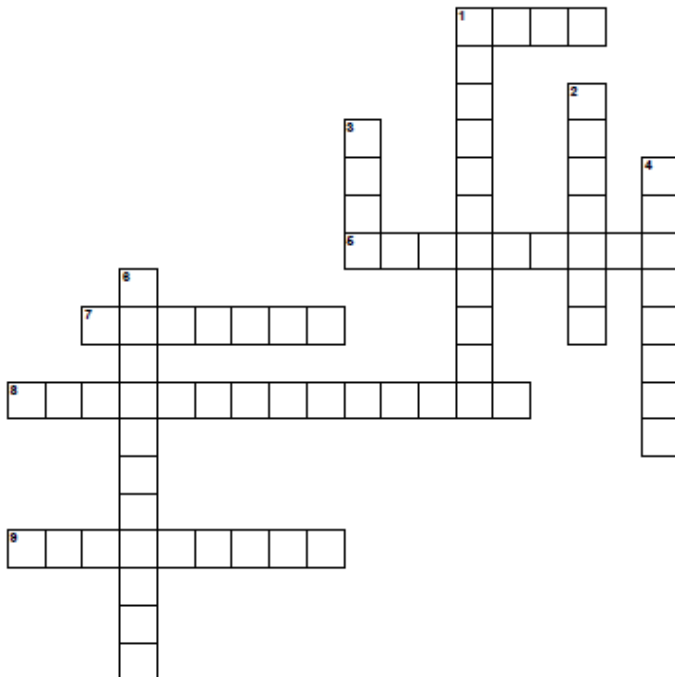
Thank you Hornets for making our dream a reality. ASU Georgia Specialty Plates are now available! Go to our website to purchase your one time manufacturing fee.



LET'S SWARMASIT HORNET FAMILY!

[www.asuatlchapter.com](http://www.asuatlchapter.com)

## ON THE YARD

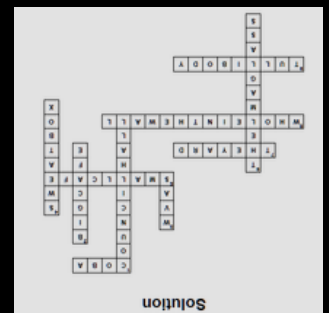
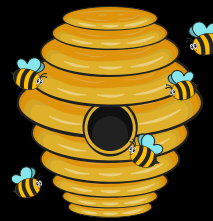


### Across

- [1] the department that handled business
- [5] the second place to eat
- [7] what some call a campus
- [8] good food in the union
- [9] the place for Fine Arts

### Down

- [1] labs, classrooms, and administration all in one building
- [2] the first place to eat
- [3] on-campus radio station
- [4] it was always hot in there
- [6] a building named after a geography professor at ASU



Contact Us:



[BamaStateAlumni.Org](http://BamaStateAlumni.Org)



[eboard@bamastatealumni.org](mailto:eboard@bamastatealumni.org)