



NAA-SAU Newsletter

First Quarter 2022

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- **SAU at a Glance**
 - **General Update**
 - **Student Enrollment and Recruitment**
 - **Student Life**

- **NAA-SAU Updates**
 - **General**
 - **Mentoring Program**
 - **Fundraising**
 - **2022 Elections**
 - **Membership Corner**
 - Cardigan Sales
 - New Members Report

- **Alumni Spotlight**
 - **Chapters**
 - **Coastal Carolina (NC)**
 - **Columbia (SC)**
 - **Hampton Roads (VA)**
 - **Raleigh Retired (NC)**



National Alumni Association of
Saint Augustine's University

NAA-SAU PRIVACYPOLICY

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[Chapter Presidents](#)

[Regional Coordinators](#)

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[SAU at a Glance](#)

Greetings for the *New Year 2022* fellow Falcons. We hope this new year finds all of our Falcon Family doing well and looking forward with considerable expectations to an exciting and more normal 2022 academic year for our beloved Alma Mater.

---*President John T. Larkins*

*****Succession Planning*****

The NAA-SAU biennial elections for national officers will be held the first quarter of 2022.

All officers will be elected/re-elected in 2022 to serve for the 2022-2024 term, except the Alumni Trustee.



SAU at a Glance

General Update

Under the leadership of Dr. Christine Johnson McPhail and her Executive Leadership Team, over the last 10-11 months, we have seen much that is positive for the University. Current efforts to enhance/improve the campus infrastructure will help to support a better student life experience. The SAU Executive Leadership Team continues to evolve, with a new Provost, Chief Financial Officer, Vice President for Enrollment, and other positions either changed or in the process of changing. ([See SAU website for more information.](#))

Alumni support of our Alma Mater continues to be a major factor in its sustainability. Donations, recruitment, mentoring and by being a verbal

and visual advocate are key. The NAA-SAU is moving forward with plans for on campus events in academic year 2022, including Commencement, the NAA National Conference and the October 2022 Homecoming.

Student Enrollment and Recruitment

Dr. McPhail and her Leadership Team have done an exceptional job in improving the enrollment numbers at Saint Augustine's University for the Fall 2021 academic semester. The University reported a 15% increase in enrollment over last year with a total headcount of 1,239 and equally exciting, was the report that first-year enrollment was at 459, the highest in ten years. These enrollment numbers helped the Administration exceed the budget numbers for enrollment and plays a vital role in the sustainability and growth of Saint Augustine's University. The actual enrollment numbers for the Spring 2022, have not been made available to the NAA-SAU at this time.

All though the enrollment numbers for SAU were up this Fall 2021, this does not mean that we, as alumni, can reduce our recruitment efforts for the University. The NAA-SAU has been coordinating recruitment activities with the SAU recruitment staff to try to be as efficient and effective as possible during this school year. Information on where and how we might best support the SAU staff has been made available to NAA-SAU Chapters and we are looking for as many alumni as possible to support this important activity. Because it is more challenging to recruit during a pandemic than normal times, we must not waver in our efforts. We need to maintain our contact with our traditional feeder schools and participate in College Fairs, either virtually or open, to keep growing our numbers

Student Life

Student Life is a significant contributor in the retention of students and the University is working continuously to make improvements at Saint Augustine's University. Work on the Martin Luther King (MLK) Building has not been completed on schedule, because of Covid-19-related material issues and the students only recently had access to the cafeteria, but not the student union. The MLK building should be completed during the Spring 2022 semester, as well as the Tuttle Building. The completion of these two facilities will be an enhancement to

student life on the campus. Additionally, during most of January 2022, the university's classes were virtual, and they should return to in-class studies by the end of the February.

The athletic program is alive and intact; however, because of Covid-19 restrictions, the SAU students have not been able to attend games in the gymnasium during the basketball games.

NAA-SAU Updates

SUPPORT OUR Annual Fundraiser

Homecoming 2022, King and Queen Contest.

Homecoming is October 9-15, 2022. The crowning of Alumni King and/or Queen will be held as part of the Scholarship Gala, on Friday, October 14, 2022, at TBD.

Please visit this [page](#) to learn more.

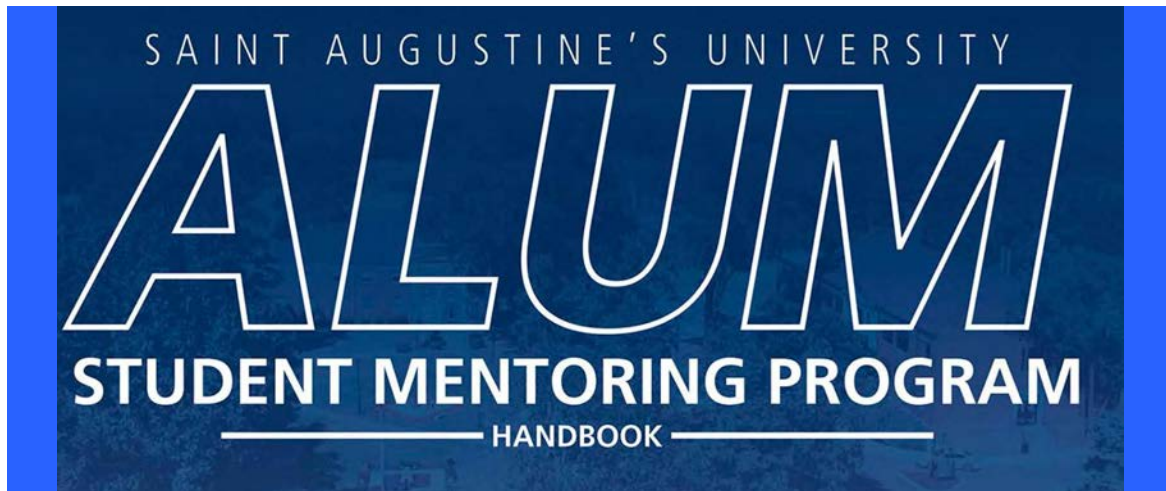
General

The Alumni Association is planning to participate in the April 2022 Commencement events, including Class Reunion activities; the NAA-SAU Commencement meeting; the *Stone of Hope Gala*, and other events. **Note: Commencement has been changed to the last weekend in April 2022, and Spring Break has been canceled.**

In June 2022, the NAA-SAU will host its National Conference in Raleigh, principally on the SAU campus, with a number of alumni centered events. If you have items of interest that you would like to include in the Conference, please contact the NAA-SAU Secretary or your local Chapter President.

Planning is underway for the October 2022, Homecoming with several NAA-SAU sponsored traditional events, most specifically, the 2022King/Queen Contest, and possibly some new activities to increase

the fun on NAA-SAU specific dates, October 14-15. Please Save The Date!



SAU Mentoring Program

The National Alumni Association continues to collaborate with Saint Augustine's University to develop a *Student-Alumni* Mentoring Program for Alumni. The SAU Administration and NAA-SAU Leadership strongly believe that a well-planned and orchestrated mentoring program could be a significant component in the University's efforts to improve SAU student retention and graduation rates. Mentors are vetted and matched appropriately with students, who sign up to participate in the program. The first meeting to get the Program started was held with Mentors and SAU staff in January 2022 and a second meeting is being planned for late February 2022. There is still time to sign up to be a Mentor and we do need more alumni to participate as we have far more students who wish to have mentors than we currently have in the Program.

One of the key objectives of the Mentoring Program is to help students navigate their way through the challenges and nuances of university life. Mentors will be an additional support line to our students. The application to become a mentor is available through this [link](#) and the Mentor Program Handbook and Overview are available through this [link](#). We ask all SAU Alumni to consider becoming a mentor to a SAU student, which is a valuable way to contribute to the success of SAU and its students. The initial Program will be a Pilot and, the number of participants will be limited.

Saint Augustine's University and the National Alumni Association Mentoring Program (SAU-NAA SMP)

Fundraising

The good news is that Alumni giving is up this fiscal year as compared to the previous year and we encourage alumni to continue giving on a regular basis, as Saint Augustine's University continues to need alumni financial support, not only for students, but facility repairs, and various programs that need to be implemented for sustainability and growth.

The NAA-SAU has been successful in supporting SAU in its philanthropy initiatives and will continue to help in identifying potential individual, church, and corporate donors.

NAA-SAU Elections

The National Alumni Association of Saint Augustine's University is a necessary organization for the viability, sustainability, and image of the University. This is not only true because of the Fundraising contributions, Recruitment efforts, Mentoring and advocacy initiatives, but also because Alumni are the product and legacy of the University. The image of a university comes from the product it produces and that is what sells the school. Whether it is in attracting talented students or seeking donations, it is important that Alumni are recognized for what they do, whether in the Community, State, or Nation-wide. A strong National Alumni Association significantly contributes to that image.

The election of NAA-SAU officers will occur this year and the process has begun with a full slate of candidates for the NAA-SAU Officers. Information will soon be available on candidates and subsequently election ballots to vote. Remember only NAA-SAU members, who are financial will be able to vote in this election

You can find the duties and responsibilities for each officer on our website [here](#) . Additional information will be available soon.



Membership Corner

---Kimberly Hayes-Johnson, Membership Chair

Alumni Association Raises Money with Cardigan Sale

During the past two unprecedented years due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the NAA-SAU opened *the NAA-Store* on its website to help with fundraising activities.

Products in *NAA-Store* include alumni membership replacement cards, visors/hats, t-shirts, garden flag, life membership pin and our most popular items, alumni cardigan.

The alumni cardigan and any other items sold in the *NAA-Store* displays an expression of Falcon pride and a real act of support of the NAA-SAU fundraising efforts.

Initially, we had hoped to sell 100 cardigans; however, we tripled our expectations in cardigan sales. Because of this, we are able to make a sizeable donation to SAU.

If you missed your opportunity to purchase a cardigan during the *campaign*, you may have an opportunity to still purchase one after all orders have been filled. Please visit the *NAA-Store* to check availability.

A *hearty* thank-you to all alumni who purchased a cardigan or other items sold in the *NAA-Store*.











New Members: July 1, 2021-February 18, 2022

The National Alumni Association welcomes our first-time new members to the Association for this fiscal year! We are so happy that you have joined us! You are a member of an elite group of Falcon Alumni who want to stay connected to our beloved Alma Mater and to fellow Alumni. Thank you for being a member of our growing family!

General Members

Betty Addison '71	JuJuan Mitchell '92
Gerald Baker '14	Latonia Morris '97
LaVerne Peebles Barron '73	Jacquelin Purdie '03
Ann McCabe Beamon '78	Tina Royal '94
Courtney Byrd '01	Michelle Simon '12
Keisha Chapman '92	Carmen Smith '84
Gwendolyn Daniels '00	Rokeia Stephens '18
Keyona Deas '04	Rosa Price Sydney '74
Sandra Donahoo '78	Willetta Taylor '92
Yvonne McCallum Drew '99	Marilyn Tyler '76
Orlando Jones '00	Martha Umstead '60
Andreia Patterson Lynch '79	Vernell Woodland '02
Monique McClendon '04	Lasaine Morris Yates '76
	Nancy Young '01

Subscribing Life Members

Lisa Bryant '97	Michael Irvin Brown '79
Mary Annette Goldring '81	Linda Harrison '80

Subscribing Life Continued

Anita Hewett-Williams '87	Deborah Peebles Hodges '73
Nicole Lewis '95	Ruth Logan '90
Carrolle Carter Miller '90	Lia-Beth Thomas Moore '89
Dwight Peebles '68	Latarsha Roberts '84
Kenneth Royster '87	Madie Smith- Moore '56
Jay Sutton '00	Lynwood Thombs '70
Phyllis Long Valentine '70	Reginald Wilkerson '98

Life Members

Dwayne Baker '93	Louis Burell '92
Alexander Dabney '88	Bonita DeWitt '76
Golden Floyd '76	Herbert Ladson '71
Linda Mallory '82	Brenda Moody '75
Steven Payne '77	Belinda Taylor '94
Toni Terry '87	Steven Williams '98

Young Alumni Council

Toyin Howell '19	Tyanna Ingram '17
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ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

Chapters

Coastal Carolina

Members: L/R: Barbara Scott Akinwole, Vice-President, Mike Brown, President, and Gwen Brown, Secretary/Treasurer. We meet the third Saturday in each month at 2PM. All Alumni in the New Hanover, Brunswick, and Pender counties are welcome to join us. Please contact our president ([micbrown128@gmail.com](mailto:microbrown128@gmail.com)) for additional information.



Columbia SC

Congratulations to Columbia Alumni Chapter member Tina Herbert, Esq. '96 on her election to the City Council for District I in Columbia, SC. Tina Herbert was sworn-in on January 4, 2022, during the Mayoral Inauguration. The Chapter is immensely proud of our SAU Alumna!



On February 9th our SAU Women's Softball team played Benedict College in Columbia, SC and the Chapter helped to feed the team during their two-game event. Herbert Leo Mackie '70, our Past President, greeted Coach Neal at the game. (See Picture below.) Falcon Pride!

The Chapter continues to grow. New members are Susan Bonapart Abraham '76, Delsenia Murchison '77, and Doris Cannon Smith '75.

All Alumni in the Columbia, Camden, Rock Hill, Lexington, Florence, Darlington, Sumter, Greenville/Spartanburg, Orangeburg, and Aiken areas are welcome to join us.

Contact: Dr. Johnelle Sherald, President - Sheraldj54@yahoo.com

Sarah Ford - sarahford53@hotmail.com



Congratulations Columbia Chapter President!

Dr. Johnelle L. Sherald was honored along with all of the other Past Presidents, Executive Directors and Founders of the South Carolina Alliance of Black School Educators (SCABSE) on January 14, 2022, in Charleston, SC. She was presented with a customized kente stole embroidered with her years as president of the organization.

The event took place during the Annual SCABSE Winter Conference held each year during MLK weekend. Dr. Sherald served as president from 2010-2012 and as President-Elect and Conference Chair from 2006-2010. SCABSE is an affiliate of the National Alliance of Black School Educators.



Hampton Roads

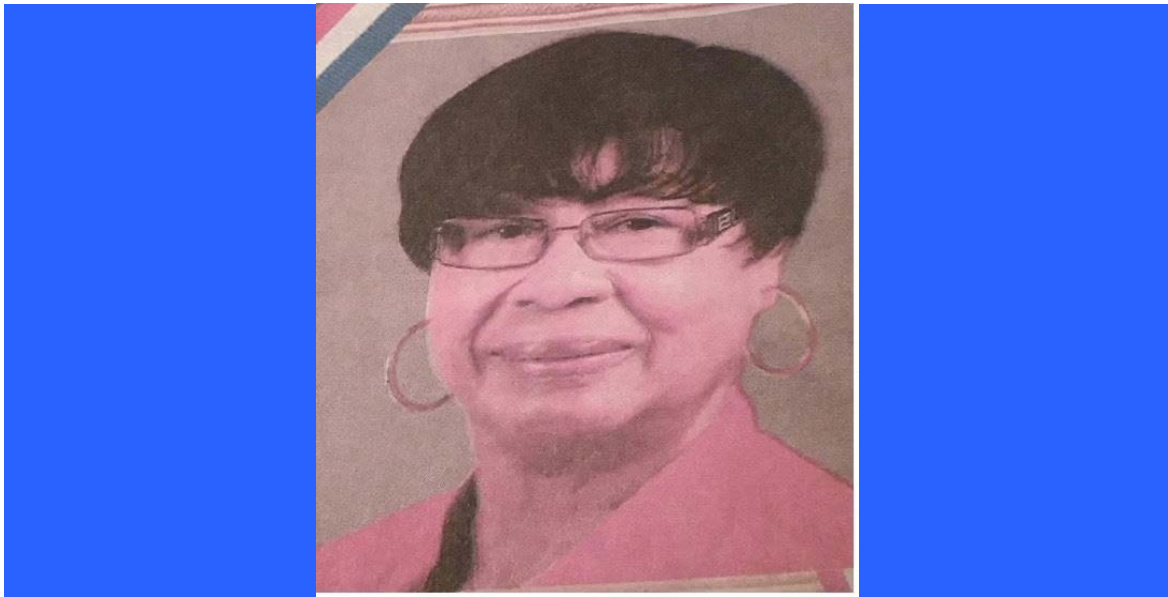
Mrs. Margie Wilson Coefield was a 2021 Honoree of the *New Journal and Guide* at its *Annual Impacting Lives Award*. She has been honored by numerous and diverse groups throughout the Hampton Roads area and beyond. Mrs. Coefield is a NAA-SAU Life Member and chair of the membership committee for the Hampton Roads Chapter.

Mrs. Coefield is a retired educator, having taught in the Virginia Beach City Public Schools System and at the Tidewater Community College.

She has extended her education, expertise and energy into leadership in the community guiding African American history projects.

Mrs. Coefield continues to serve in many organizations that include the Chesapeake-Virginia Beach Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., the Virginia African American Cultural Center, the Hampton Roads Alumni Chapter of Saint Augustine's University, and more.

Mrs. Coefield's two philosophies: "BE SERVANT LEADERS" and "USE YOUR TALENTS TO HELP OTHERS".



Raleigh Retired

A snapshot of members at the Chapter's February 2022 meeting.



The Chapter honored its 100-year-old member, Mrs. Rosia D. Butler with a framed certificate thanking her for her devoted service to the chapter as Chaplain and long-time active member. The chapter honored her and showed her some measure of its love by granting her the privilege of not paying any more fees to the chapter. She may attend all chapter activities compliments of the chapter.



The Chapter also viewed and listened to the story of Raleigh, NC Trailblazer and SAU graduate Joseph Holt, Jr



**Joseph H. Holt, Jr., Civil Rights Leader
Integration Lawsuit, Holt v. Raleigh Board of Education, NC**

Excerpt from Mr. Holt's presentation: "My name is Joe Holt and I'm here this evening to share with you my story, and some very important local

history about school integration – a story in which my Mom and Dad and I were central figures. You see, many years ago we were trailblazers and change agents in Raleigh’s School Integration Initiative, *and* our efforts had much to do with the fact that you are sitting here today as a *diverse* audience in this beautiful, modern education facility, with access to the very latest, state-of-the-art technology to facilitate and support your learning, and with no one in here having been forced, or legally mandated to attend a lesser school because of how you do or do not look, or because of your last name. The story that I’m going to share with you is a story of COURAGE, CHARACTER, AND PERSEVERANCE --- COURAGE, CHARACTER, AND PERSEVERANCE." Please contact Joe Holt at raleighpioneer@yahoo.com if you would like to view the power point.

FUND RAISING, FUND RAISING, AND FUND RAISING!

As Alumni, we must do all we can to raise money for our university's scholarships, infrastructure, and athletics; and to support a dedicated and competent faculty and staff. As part of your *Resolution to Give* to your alma mater, please pledge your support, time, talent, and treasure (money) to your alma mater.

Stay connected to your National Alumni Association

The NAA-SAU Newsletter represents an opportunity for Chapters/Members to submit items of interest to share with all Alumni.

Please submit content to the NAA-SAU Website/Communications

Coordinator (naasauwsm@gmail.com) for review.

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FACEBOOK

NAA-SAU WEBSITE

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