



Founded in 1973

The Communicator

Volume 5, Issue 1 - January 2007

SAMPSON SCHOOL GRADUATE and CAMDEN, NEW JERSEY MAYOR HONORED

Our own Gwen Faison, Mayor of Camden, New Jersey, Sampson County Training School alumnus, and Life Member of the SHSAA, Inc., was inducted into the Elected Officials Hall of Fame on January 17, 2007. She was nominated for this honor by the New Jersey State League of Municipalities. The induction ceremony occurred during the Fifteenth Annual Mayors Legislative Day at the State House Annex in Trenton, New Jersey.

The Honorable Mayor Faison was bestowed this honor because she is an active governing body member who has served twenty years in an elected municipal office. She was heralded as being a "pillar of her community" and held up as "an example of civic pride for all citizens to emulate."

Mayor Faison stated that she wanted to share the information about her honor with the SHSAA, Inc. "because you have been so important to me in my lifetime of serving over twenty years of elected municipal office. I thank you for helping me to achieve this honor."

Congratulations Mayor Faison on your achievement. You are a bright and shining example to people everywhere. You make us very, very proud!



THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Greetings and Happy New Year!

I hope that everyone has entered the New Year with enthusiasm and passion for the wonderful organization that we have the privilege to serve. We are thirty-four years old this year and will hold our 35th Alumni Reunion, and we are still going strong. Not only are we growing strong, but we are also growing wiser by keeping our goals in sight: to be more efficient, more effective, and more exciting. We are reaching those goals because we have instituted the use of unified forms in order to record our quarterly reports, we are developing guidelines for our various processes, i.e. elections, financial record-keeping and auditing, and we are utilizing contests and rallies to get people excited about our organization. This is all happening because YOU have elected some of the most efficient people around. Your Elected Officers care about this organization and they put the proof in the pudding by working hard every day to make our organization better.
(continued on page 3)



The SHSAA, Inc. would like to welcome two new Life Members into the organization:
Mary Bennett Sutton and **Alice Williams Hughley**.

We thank them for their support.



DEADLINE FOR BOARD REPORTS

All Committee Reports, Chapter Updates, and Officer Reports, for the **2007 Spring Executive Board Meeting** must be submitted *no later than*, **Thursday, April 5th**, for inclusion in the Board Package Report. Reports should be submitted to National President, Rose Williams at williaer@dhec.sc.gov.

Be sure to use the Quarterly Report Form to report your activity for the months of January, February, and March. The Form can be retrieved from the website, www.shsaainc.org.

Second Annual Jacobs Alumni Game Held

Former basketball players of Coach **Willie D. Jacobs** honored him with a second annual Willie D. Jacobs Alumni Basketball Game on Friday, December 22, 2006. The game was held at the Sampson Recreational Center Gym.



WASHINGTON METROPOLITAN CHAPTER TO HOST THE SPRING EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING

The members of the Washington Metropolitan Chapter are excited about hosting the 2007 Spring Executive Board Meeting, which will be held in Waldorf, Maryland **on April 13th and 14th, 2007.**

Chapter President, Al Rich, feels that it is important that members attend this meeting "to observe the business operation/workings of your wonderful Organization." He states that "it's awesome!" Mr. Rich also feels that it is imperative that our members, friends and associates observe how efficiently the SHSAA, Inc. conducts its business. He says that "we must all keep the SHSAA, Inc. passion going among our younger generation, especially among our . . . scholarship recipients. They will be our source for a continued SHSAA, Inc. legacy."

Make reservations by calling the Holiday Inn ***no later than March 13, 2007.*** Here is the information you need to make reservations:

Location: **Holiday Inn
45 Saint Patricks Drive
Waldorf, MD 20603**

Check-in Time: 3 p.m.

Phone: **(301) 645-8200, 1-800-465-4329**

Date: **April 13-14, 2007 -**

Reservation code: **SHA - Credit card only**

**Room Rate - \$99.95/day plus taxes
subject to Maryland State tax (currently 5%);
subject to Charles County Bed tax (currently 5%).**



PHASE TWO COMMITTEE HOLDS FUNDRAISERS AND CONTINUES TO PLAN FOR HEADQUARTERS' RENOVATION

The Phase Two Committee has been quite busy this quarter. It held two fundraisers and continues to plan for the renovation of the old Sampson School.

Maggie and Raymond Williams headed up the organizing of a Fried Plate Sale on November 3rd and 4th, 2006. The Sale was held at the Headquarters Building and some orders were pre-sold and others were sold right at the Building. Several SHSAA, Inc. members helped with serving and taking orders, and all in all the fundraiser was quite successful.

Another fundraiser was held on December 9, 2006. World renowned "The Hallelujah Singers," from Beaufort, South Carolina, gave a holiday concert at the Sampson Middle School auditorium.

The Hallelujah Singers were organized in 1990 to preserve the melodies and storytelling unique to the South Carolina Sea Islands. Within a short time, this ensemble has become a national art provider, offering cultural enrichment by preserving and celebrating the heritage of the Gullah culture, whose language and traditions have been indelibly linked to West African heritage.

The concert was enjoyed by all who attended, however, the audience was small due to lackluster ticket sales. The Committee regrets that this event was not a financial success, however, we remain hopeful that events like this will be supported in the future.

Phase Two continues to work towards the renovation and rehabilitation of the old Sampson School. Currently their next project will be to have the asbestos removed from the campus buildings. They are also planning another "Clean-up Day" for the spring as well.

The Committee is also happy to report that Mr. Bill Laslett, our Master Planner, is back on his feet after having heart surgery. We are so pleased that he is on his way back to good health.

The Committee will continue to move forward to reach its goals. We ask that you keep us lifted up in prayer.



CLINTON CHAPTER SPREADS CHRISTMAS CHEER

The Clinton Chapter of the SHSAA, Inc. delivered Christmas Cheer Fruit Baskets in December to Senior Citizens who were convalescent and "shut-in." A few of the Seniors also received Poinsettias. The baskets were delivered by Clinton Chapter members, Charles "Cup" Brewington, Joyce Williams, Maggie Williams, and Raymond Williams.

PRESIDENT'S CORNER *(continued from page 1)*

Here's just a brief synopsis of what YOUR Board has accomplished or is accomplishing: Secured a favorable report from the North Carolina Housing Finance Agency (NCHFA) regarding the Alumni Apartment Complex. Life Member Johnny Pridgen (Venture Manor Realty) and Business Manager Maggie Williams are working to keep us in good standing with NCHFA; Preparing a handbook to act as a complement to the Constitution & By-laws – Doris Butler is getting us updated so that we can conduct our business more smoothly and efficiently; Members are being informed via e-mail, facsimile, and regular mail – Margaret Rich gets the word out. Mrs. Rich also performs double-duty by acting as our Recording Secretary when needed; *The Communicator* is being published timely and the website is being updated and both strive to be informative – I do my best; Financial records are being kept properly and reports are submitted timely – Dr. George White and Nadyne Wilds-Gilbert are on it; Vice-President Edith McDougald is heading up the Social Committee and developing educational partnerships for us – she's keeping us up front and a vital part of the Clinton/Sampson community. Committee Chairpersons are staying on task, rising to the occasion, and facing every challenge by making recommendations to the Board that are sound and that address specific problems. They are not throwing up their hands and giving up when a difficult situation arises. Thank you Chairpersons.

All in all, I can truly say that the SHSAA, Inc. is moving forward and reaching higher and we believe that we can continue on this course if we work together. As you know, my motto remains: "Working Together is the Key to On-going Success!" Thank you for the support you have given me and the entire Executive Board since our induction into our respective positions. We are delighted to serve YOU and look forward to our organization's brighter future!

Godspeed!

NATIONAL SHSAA, INC. PRESIDENT RECEIVES FAVORABLE DECISION FROM THE SOUTH CAROLINA SUPREME COURT



Rose Williams, President of the SHSAA, Inc. successfully argued a case in front of the South Carolina Supreme Court on December 5, 2006. The Court issued its Opinion on Monday, January 22nd, in favor of the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC), which is the agency that Rose represents as a Staff Attorney III in their Office of General Counsel.

The decision brings a four year court battle to an end. The case involved the appeal by a citizens group called Responsible Economic Development (RED). RED had sued DHEC and Wal-Mart by appealing a stormwater permit that DHEC issued to Wal-mart. The South Carolina Supreme Court upheld all of the lower courts (Administrative Law Court, DHEC Board, and Circuit Court) rulings, which had affirmed DHEC's decision to issue the permit to Wal-mart. The planned location for the new Wal-Mart SuperCenter is on Beltline Drive in West Florence, South Carolina. RED had hoped to halt the 49 acre SuperCenter development across the street from West Florence High School.

Rose is a graduate of a Historically Black College or University (HBCU), Texas Southern University, Thurgood Marshall School of Law. Congratulations to Rose for her efforts!



In Memoriam

Mrs. Rosalie Beckett a member of the SHSAA Inc. and a past diligent worker in the Clinton Chapter departed this life on December 22, 2006.

Evangelist Maggie Boone Cousin died Jan. 3, 2007.

National Member **Jimmy Hardison** passed away on October 15, 2006.

Mrs. Lillian B. Kornegay, mother of SHSAA, Inc. member Richard Kornegay, died January 12, 2007.

Benevolence

The SHSAA, Inc. wishes **Mrs. Helen Faison**, **Mr. Willie Jacobs**, and **Mrs. Linda Rich Lyons** a speedy recovery as they recuperate from various health challenges.

ESCAPING SEGREGATION INTO THE WORLD OF INFORMATION

By Tammy Didomenic

At 77 **Bertha Georgetta Merritt Campbell** (pictured at right) G'56 is a sharp, engaging conversationalist who can easily call upon her rich personal history and lifelong pursuit of knowledge. This is someone for whom Harriet Tubman was more than a historical reference, and who survived a battle with cancer, taught thousands how to expand their knowledge through use of library resources, wrote a book about the black press, and once refused the romantic intentions of a well known football and lacrosse star at Syracuse University. "People always ask me if I would have done things differently if I had known he was going to become so famous," Campbell says with a laugh, recalling the single group date the two shared.



But information has been Campbell's most enduring love. She spent 34 years working in various public school libraries in New Jersey and another 16 in university and college libraries. Campbell, the daughter of two teachers, attended Johnson C. Smith University (B.A.) and North Carolina Central University (B.L.S.) for her undergraduate work and earned a doctorate in educational leadership from Fairleigh Dickinson University in 1978. Although Campbell's family included educated professionals dedicated to uplifting other black people, they sometimes encouraged their children to leave the segregated South. For Campbell and her sister Rena Merritt Bancroft '52, G'53, Syracuse offered a path out. Campbell said her family knew that the Syracuse area was a place where blacks could live comfortably, and build solid futures. "In those days, you always had a relative who had made it out," she recalls, "I had 'Aunt' Rena, a very good friend of my mother's who was friends with Aunt Harriet [Tubman] of Auburn. Rena was one who had 'made it' studying on the Hill in Syracuse."

When Campbell found that her library science degree from North Carolina Central University was unaccredited and a liability in the job market, she took action. Because of the segregation that still gripped the state's educational institutions, Campbell was denied entrance into the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, and the state honored its obligation to path for Campbell to attend a master's degree program elsewhere. The Syracuse master's degree in library science program had the American Library Association certification, and Rena Hawkins offered Campbell a place to stay. Campbell initially worked on her degree during summer breaks from her reference job at Morgan College in Baltimore, but she took a semester-long leave from that job and completed her requirements in 1956.

Campbell went on to work in libraries in six states over 50 years. For the first 10 years, she worked exclusively at traditional South black colleges, including Arkansas A.M.&N., Texas Southern, and Morgan College in Baltimore. But she is as proud of her work in the New Jersey public elementary schools as she is of her stints working with graduate-level library media specialists. In 1981, Campbell completed *Extant Collections of Early Black Newspapers, A Research Guide to the Black Press, 1880-1915* (Whitston Publishing Co.). The book was something of a tribute to her father, who left a career as a newspaper publisher for teaching in 1896.

Campbell's first and last visit to Syracuse since she completed her degree was in 1998. Much had changed and she admits she "barely knew the place." Fifty years have passed since she celebrated at Syracuse, and North Carolina Central has long since been accredited. All things considered, Campbell says library science really was the best choice for her—a person who never wanted to stop learning. "When you're helping someone else, you can hardly not learn something" Campbell says. However, she humbly attests that modern technology has bypassed the scope of her multiple degrees. "All the growth that has occurred in the field is marvelous," she says. "Human knowledge has just expanded so much. I pity people today, who have so much to learn."

This article, which is an Alumni Profile, was re-printed from a Syracuse University/School of Information Studies Newsletter. Mrs. Campbell is a 1944 graduate of Sampson County Training School. (See list of 1944 graduation class on page 5.)



CHAPTER PRESIDENTS . . . please forward any congratulatory, sickness, or death information to Miscellaneous Affairs (Benevolence) Chairperson, Macerine Brooks, maciebrooks@sampsonrmc.org or call her at **910/592-4376**. Thank you for your cooperation.

The Graduating Class of 1944* May 26 at 2:00 P.M.

Class colors: Navy blue and white; Flower: Red rose;
Class Motto: "To strive, to seek, to find and not to yield."

Officers: Eunice Wilson, President; Marie Simmons, Vice-President, Georgetta Merritt, Secretary; Annie Raynor, Treasurer.
Mrs. C.O. Bynum, Advisor.

- | | | | |
|-----|--|-----|---|
| 1. | Lennie Bernice Beamon | 28. | Addie Lou Williamson |
| 2. | Geraldine Boone | 29. | Ruby Atkinson |
| 3. | Malden Vermel Bennett | 30. | Kelley Bennett |
| 4. | Mary Elizabeth Brewington | 31. | Georgia Pearl Atkinson |
| 5. | Joseph James Thomas Bennett | 32. | Marvin C. West |
| 6. | Rena James Cox | 33. | Murray Dean Williamson |
| 7. | Miro Evelyn Carlton | 34. | Pauline Rich |
| 8. | Helen Lee Chestnutt | 35. | Alfred Stanley Kinlaw
(In the service of our
country) |
| 9. | Haywood Aldoph Devaughn | 36. | Abraham Lee Williams |
| 10. | Maggie Margaret Faison | 37. | Minnie Jane Williams |
| 11. | Frances Faison | 38. | Bulah Conley |
| 12. | Dorothy Lee Herring | 39. | Annie Mae Raynor |
| 13. | Eddie Lofton Holmes
(In the service of our country) | 40. | Ethel Vann |
| 14. | Virginia Mae Kirby | 41. | Fonnie Lee Boone |
| 15. | Sarah Elizabeth Lee | 42. | Mary Jane Monk |
| 16. | Marian Francenia Lee | 43. | Edna Peacock |
| 17. | Della Christine Lee | 44. | Lina Hortense Peacock |
| 18. | Bertha Georgetta Merritt | | |
| 19. | Gladys Ruth Morrissey | | |
| 20. | Doris Mae Moore | | |
| 21. | Ernestine Royal | | |
| 22. | Marie Antionette Simmons | | |
| 23. | Lillie Queen Smith | | |
| 24. | Mary Magdeline Strickland | | |
| 25. | Orebelle Delores Strickland | | |
| 26. | Lucille Thompson | | |
| 27. | Eunice Margaret Wilson | | |

**This is being printed as a tribute to Mrs. Bertha Georgetta Merritt Campbell and the Class of 1944.*



Dr. Hall Keynote Speaker for MLK Day

On January 15, 2007 **Dr. Jarvis A. Hall**, a former Clinton native and associate professor at North Carolina Central University in Durham, N.C., was keynote speaker at the 7th Annual Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day held by the Multi-Cultural Business Committee of the Clinton/Sampson Chamber of Commerce.

SHSAA, Inc. Member Named Eagle of the Year

Edward Faison, Jr. (shown second from left in picture) was named Eagle of the Year at the 3rd Anniversary celebration of the Charter Signing of the Sampson County Chapter of the North Carolina Central University Alumni Association. Pictured left to right are Regional 4 Vice President, Mona P. Bowden; the recipient, Edward Faison, Jr.; Chapter President Dr. Rodney K. Sessoms, who also received a plaque for outstanding services; and Past Vice President of the region, Wade Johnson.



Mr. Faison is a SHSAA, Inc. Clinton Chapter member and is also a former President of the Chapter. He is a loyal member of the SHSAA, Inc. and a dynamic individual. Kudos to Mr. Faison!

FREE SUMMER CAMP OPPORTUNITY

(Contributed by SHSAA, Inc. member Gale Sampson)



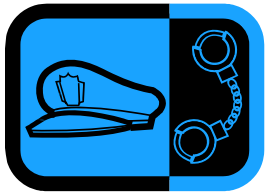
Please pass on this information to any 11th grade African American student interested in engineering.

This is an opportunity for 11th grade students to attend a FREE engineering camp at the University of Houston from June 3 - 15, 2007.

African-American student participation is very much needed. Please have your student to fill out the application and mail it to the address listed on the brochure, which can be requested, as well as additional information, by contacting John Matthews at 713-743-4226.

Students that participate in this camp have been known to gain summer jobs. This camp helps students to develop good study habits and learn about engineering careers. Currently MESET needs at least 15 more students to apply. The deadline is April 15, 2007.

Students are encouraged to apply from anywhere in the United States. Transportation is not provided. However, the camp is free. As a courtesy, staff members will pick up and return out of town students to the bus station, train station, or airport for free.



SHSAA Life Member Graduates from Citizens Police Academy

Washington Metropolitan Chapter and Life Member, and National Corresponding Secretary, **Mrs. Margaret Rich**, was one of 16 people to graduate from the Citizens Police Academy of Prince George's County (PGC). The graduation was held at the Prince George's County Police Headquarters in Landover, Maryland on January 22nd. Mrs. Rich received a certificate for her efforts.

Her training will allow her to ride along with the police, to assist the police department with programs that they produce, and to do role playing. Mrs. Rich will join the PGC's Citizens Police Academy Alumni group next month, which will allow her to receive a badge enabling her volunteer in the police department; however, she will not be entitled to make arrests. Congrats Mrs. Rich and "you be careful out there."

SHSAA Elections

SHSAA, INC. ELECTIONS ARE RIGHT AROUND THE CORNER

The Election Process for the 2007-2009 SHSAA, Inc. National Officers is already underway. Letters have been sent to all the Chapter Presidents requesting that they nominate people for Officer Positions and submit their nominations *no later than* **Friday, March 30th**. Please send all nominations to:

SHSAA, Inc. Nomination/Election Committee
Attn.: Janice Aderinto, Chairperson
P.O. Box 2333
Clinton, NC 28329

Officer positions include President, Vice-President, Business Manager, Treasurer, Financial Secretary, Recording Secretary, Corresponding Secretary, and Parliamentarian/ Sergeant-At-Arms. The remaining guidelines as well as the address where the nominations should be sent can be obtained from the website, www.shsaainc.org.

Ernest Scott Honored

Mason Honor Bestowed Upon South New Jersey Chapter President

Noble **Ernest Scott**, President of the SHSAA, Inc. Southern New Jersey Chapter, was bestowed the honor of Illustrious Potentate by the Imperial Council in Minaret Temple No. 174 at Chester, Pennsylvania on August 22, 2006. Noble Scott was given this honor because he is of the Mystic Shrine and is an Honorary Past Potentate in good standing. This honor entitles him to receive all the rights, privileges and honors of an Illustrious Potentate.



The deadline for article submissions to the next Newsletter is Friday May 11, 2007! Send your articles to shsanewsletter@classygraphics.com or to P.O. Box 7751, Columbia, SC 29202-7751

1989 Scholarship Recipient, Carla Lester, Receives Dance Degree and Returns to Teaching the Next Generation

Carla Lester, a 1989 SHSAA scholarship recipient received her terminal degree in dance from Florida State University, December 16, 2006. The daughter of Carl Lester and M. Lucille Lester (Stewart), Carla was also the Banquet Speaker at the 1999 SHSAA Reunion in Ft. Lauderdale, FL. Lester began dancing at the age of three but choose to focus on Communication Studies at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill where she received her Bachelor and Master of Arts degrees.

Lester began teaching at Bethune-Cookman College in Daytona Beach, FL in 1993 as an Instructor of Speech Communication and Theatre Arts. In addition to her work with the Mary McLeod Bethune Tra-Co-Dram Player, she was the Artistic Director of the Orchesis Dance Ensemble. Over the next seven years her work with Orchesis, the Dance Ensemble at Daytona Beach Community College, and overseeing the liturgical dance ministry at her church, Carla's passion and love for dance was graduated from a minor to a major possibility of including an emphasis in With the support of her colleagues, the Provost, Carla took a three year in Dance program at FSU.



reignited. When the Theatre Arts program was program, the Department began talking about the dance performance as one of the theatre tracks. Dean of the School of Arts Humanities and the academic leave and entered the Master of Fine Arts

While at FSU, Carla studied with such (former member of Dance Theatre of Harlem), acclaimed ballerina Suzanne Ferrell, and Jawole Zollar, founder of Urban Bush Women. In addition she studied traditional African dance with Baba Chuck Davis during a Cultural Safari to The Gambia, West Africa in July 2005.

prestigious faculty as Dan Wagoner, Anjali Austin

Her work at Florida State culminated with a joint concert, *And Then There Were Two*, featuring three works created by Carla as well as her solo performance of a work created for her. The works ranged from a powerful solo to Billie Holiday's *Strange Fruit* to a concert dance of worship entitled *With Him*. Carla stated that, "Dancing was always a chance to be bigger and more of who I was. It was the place where I felt there weren't really any boundaries. It reminds me why I love the arts. They teach us a lot about ourselves; allow us to express ourselves in ways that our daily life often asks us to keep confined. They teach us about the soul, the things that make us who are at our very core."

This January Carla returned to Bethune-Cookman College (B-CC) as an Assistant Professor and began working on the dance performance major track. The approval of the program will make B-CC one the few Historically Black Colleges that offer a degree program in Dance.



BLACK HISTORY FACTS

DID YOU KNOW THAT ON

January 26, 1954 - Dr. Theodore K. Lawless, dermatologist, was awarded the Springarn Medal for his research in skin-related diseases.

January 29, 1926 - Violette Nealy Anderson became the first Black woman lawyer to argue a case before the U.S. Supreme Court.

January 31, 1986 - [August Wilson's Fences](#), starring James Earl Jones, opened at Chicago's Goodman Theatre.

February 1, 1865 - John S. Rock became the first Black lawyer admitted to practice before the Supreme Court.

February 1, 1870 - Jonathan Jasper Wright became the first Black judge when he was elected to the South Carolina Supreme Court.

February 1, 1926 - Carter G. Woodson, the "Father of Black History," initiated the first celebration of "Negro History Week." In 1976 it was expanded to "Black History Month."

WELL, NOW YOU KNOW!!!

Put Your Old Cell Phones To Good Use!

SHSAA, Inc. Phase II Committee and Phones 4 Charity

Cellular Phone Drive Extended..... Again

WE NEED YOUR HELP! Unfortunately, the Phase Two Committee still hasn't received very many phones for its Cell Phone Drive. Currently, only 45 phones have been donated. As stated previously, we would like to collect at least **one hundred (100) phones** before we turn them in and we know that our organization can do better. So, we are extending the Drive one last time in hopes that we will reach our goal. Therefore, we are asking in earnest that you submit any old cell phones that you do not want or are not using to:



Maggie Williams, Business Manager
614 Winfrey Street
Clinton, NC 28328

Please submit your phone/s by **Monday, April 2, 2007**. All money generated from phone donations will go in the rehabilitation and renovation fund for our alma mater, the "old" Sampson High School. Phase Two thanks you in advance for your support.

Sampson High School Alumni Association, Inc.
P. O. Box 591
Clinton, North Carolina 28329

MEMBERSHIP RALLY

Mrs. Helen Faison, National Membership Chairperson, is organizing a Membership Rally that will be held at the Alumni Headquarters at 615 McKoy Street on **Saturday, February 10, 2007 from 1 – 3 PM.**



Mrs. Faison is encouraging everyone, the young and the old, the inactive and active members, to attend the rally. Organizational information will be shared and old friendships can be reignited. Please attend, join the SHSAA, Inc., and welcome the new opportunities that await you.

Working together is the key to on-going success!!!