
WASHINGTON TUSKEGEE ALUMNI CLUB NEWSLETTER

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The Washington Tuskegee Alumni Club's Newsletter

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Come one come all and read the WTAC newsletter

The goal is to have a quarterly newsletter. The purpose of the newsletter is to help engage, highlight news, and provide information to Tuskegee University Alumni, Family, and Friends that they may find important. We hope to highlight, but not be limited to the following: current events in the area and at Tuskegee University, highlight members, business partners, and Tuskegee University Students from our area. With your help, we can make this newsletter great. If you have any news or think of any information beneficial to the Washington Tuskegee Alumni Club's membership and supporters, please email the information to newsletter@tuskegeedmv.org.

Tuskegee University News

Change in Tuskegee University Leadership

The Tuskegee University Board of Trustees has announced that Dr. Lily McNair will not be returning to the university from medical leave. Dr. McNair served as the eighth president of Tuskegee University. According to Norma Clayton, Chair of the Board of Trustees, “The University will begin a national search for a new president who will build on Tuskegee’s legacy in the years to come.” Until a new president is selected Dr. Charlotte Morris will continue to serve as interim president.

2021 Spring Commencement Announced

Tuskegee University announced that it will hold an in person commencement ceremony on Sunday, May 30, 2021. The ceremony will take place at Cramton Bowl Stadium in Montgomery, Alabama. The commencement exercises will celebrate students who earned degrees in the Fall of 2019, Spring, Summer and Fall of 2020, and the Spring of 2021.

Private Equity Executive Elected as a Tuskegee University Board of Trustee

Tuskegee University recently announced that Ray Whiteman was elected to the Board of Trustees to serve out the unexpired term of E. Chris Johnson who retired from the Board in May, 2020. Mr. Whiteman is a Co-Founder and Managing Partner of Stellex Capital Management, a private equity firm with more than \$2.6 billion in committed capital under management that invests in middle-market companies in North America and Europe.

According to Chairwoman Norma Clayton, “As Tuskegee continues to strengthen its financial position, we believe that Ray’s background in private equity and his interest in increasing opportunities for minority students makes him a great addition to the board.”

Mr. Whiteman holds a B.A. in political science from Williams College and an M.B.A. from the New York University Stern School of Business.

The contents of this story is courtesy of:

<https://www.tuskegee.edu/news/private-equity-executive-elected-as-a-tuskegee-university-trustee>

U.S. Department of Defense Launches Aerospace Center at Tuskegee University

The U.S. Department of Defense (DoD) has launched an aerospace education center of excellence at Tuskegee University. “The establishment of centers of excellence plays a vital role in our defense enterprise by stimulating research and innovation for the next generation of STEM leaders,” said Dr. Jagadeesh Pamulapati, director of the Pentagon’s Office of Research, Technology, and Laboratories.

Tuskegee University was the home of the Tuskegee Airmen. And the university is currently the nation’s top producer of Black aerospace engineers.

The new The Aerospace Education Research and Innovation Center will support two-year research projects in fatigue damage tolerance, experimental aerodynamics, and the performance of materials and components under extreme environmental conditions. It also will bring in defense department speakers and place summer interns at defense laboratories.

The contents of this story is courtesy of:

<https://www.militarytimes.com/education-transition/2021/02/24/dod-launches-aerospace-center-at-tuskegee-university/>

iHeartMedia and Ulta Beauty donate \$30,000 to Tuskegee University

Tuskegee University will receive a \$30,000 donation from iHeartMedia and Ulta Beauty to support students in its aerospace engineering program. Tuskegee alumna Shayla Redmond ‘11 selected Tuskegee to receive the funds after winning a social media sweepstakes hosted as part of of iHeartMedia’s “HBCU Homecoming Celebration on iHeartRadio.”

As an extension of iHeartMedia’s “HBCU Homecoming Celebration on iHeartRadio” series held in Fall 2020, Ulta Beauty and iHeartMedia hosted a virtual sweepstakes to recognize HBCUs and its homecoming celebrations. To honor the season, iHeartMedia and Ulta Beauty joined together for a month-long celebration of HBCU pride and student achievement with a social sharing challenge – encouraging HBCU students to share their at-home Homecoming style.

Redmond took to social media to share her best “at-home” Tuskegee Homecoming style and was awarded a \$500 Ulta Beauty gift card, a virtual meet and greet with celebrity artist H.E.R and the opportunity to select her institution of choice as the recipient of the donation.

Redmond received her undergraduate degree from Tuskegee University in aerospace engineering and physics in 2011; she later went on to receive her master's degree in systems engineering and space systems at the Air Force Institute of Technology.

The contents of this story is courtesy of:

https://www.tuskegee.edu/news/iheartmedia-and-ulta-beauty-donate-30000-to-tuskegee-university?fbclid=IwAR01egIWxznsTpHCEO_N6CXBWjyzAP1QeqGaqXH3fG_VkbbCnrI9UkVmWWc

ESPN Events Adds Red Tails Classic to College Football Opening Weekend Lineup, Honoring Tuskegee Airmen

ESPN Events has launched a new event featuring Tuskegee University with the creation of the Red Tails Classic. This will be a college football event showcasing Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) in honor of the Tuskegee Airmen who fought in World War II. Tuskegee University and Fort Valley State University will play in the inaugural game at the Cramton Bowl in Montgomery, Ala., to open the 2021 college football season on Sunday, Sept. 5, at 7 p.m. ET, on ESPNU.

“We are extremely pleased to highlight Tuskegee University in an annual kickoff event in Montgomery for the next three years,” said Pete Derzis, ESPN senior vice president, college sports programming and ESPN Events. “The history of this outstanding HBCU institution is accented with the important role the Tuskegee Airmen played in World War II, and serves as a great source of pride that we hope to highlight within this nationally televised event.”

Fort Valley State and Tuskegee are both members of the NCAA Division II Southern Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (SIAC). The SIAC did not play a football season during the 2020-21 academic year due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

“I am excited about it, I think it's a great opportunity for our players and our school,” said Willie Slater, Tuskegee athletic director and head football coach. “When the opportunity presented itself for us to play in the Red Tails Classic, I was all for it. I think it's a real good opportunity to play on ESPN.”

The contents of this story is courtesy of:

<https://espnpressroom.com/us/press-releases/2021/02/espn-events-adds-red-tails-classic-to-college-football-opening-weekend-lineup-honoring-tuskegee-airmen/>

Tuskegee and ASU to Meet Again for the Turkey Day Classic

The Alabama State University Hornets and the Tuskegee University Golden Tigers will meet on Thanksgiving Day, Nov. 25, 2021 at ASU Stadium. It will be the 89th meeting between the two schools and the first meeting in nearly a decade. The last time the two teams faced each other in the Turkey

Day Classic was in 2012. The Hornets and Golden Tigers last played each other outside of the classic in Sept. 2019.

“This is exciting news for our fans and alumni,” Alabama State Director of Intercollegiate Athletics Jennifer Lynne Williams said. “Alabama State and Tuskegee have a long-standing tradition of playing on Thanksgiving, with the game being one of the most historic classics in the country. We look forward to hosting them again at ASU Stadium.”

The contents of this story is courtesy of:

<https://www.wsfa.com/2021/03/04/asu-tuskegee-again-meet-turkey-day-classic-after-nearly-decade/>

TNAA News

There is currently not any news from TNAA at the time of this publication.

Around the Northeastern Region

There is currently no news from around the Northeastern Region.

HBCU NEWS

Historically Black Colleges to Get a Combined Total of \$650,000 to Preserve Campuses

The HBCU Cultural Heritage Stewardship Initiative was recently announced that it will provide several historically Black colleges and universities (HBCUs) with more than \$650,000 in grants to preserve their campuses.

The HBCU Cultural Heritage Stewardship Initiative seeks to preserve HBCUs as educational institutions as well as physical spaces of historic and cultural significance. There are eight HBCUs that are recipients of the grants. The eight HBCU are: Benedict College; Jackson State; Lane College; Morgan State University; Philander Smith College; Spelman College; Stillman College; and Tuskegee University.

“HBCUs have long been underfunded as a result of decades of structural racism and lack of equitable public funding,” said Brent Leggs, executive director of the National Trust’s African American Cultural Heritage Action Fund, the organization that is providing the grants.

The selected HBCUs will develop preservation plans for either a campus-wide project or individual buildings, many of which were designed and built by Black architects. One student from each of the schools will help carry out the preservation plans to “cultivate the next generation of Black professionals in historic preservation,” Leggs said.

The contents of this story is courtesy of:

<https://www.clickorlando.com/news/national/2021/02/16/historic-black-colleges-to-get-650000-to-prepare-campuses/>

Diageo North America establishes innovative program with HBCUs to develop future leaders and help shape a more equitable society

The North America business unit of global beverage company Diageo, Diageo North America, is committing \$10 million to support 25 Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) by creating permanent endowed funds to provide financial aid grants to students. Funds will be available for HBCU students across different disciplines and majors, and distributed according to each institution’s financial aid process.

“We are proud to partner with these esteemed institutions and to do our part to help shape a more equitable society by providing opportunities for future leaders,” said Debra Crew, President, Diageo North America. “This initiative further deepens Diageo’s commitment to making a long term and sustainable impact on underrepresented communities.”

The program will provide funding to support students at the following institutions: Alabama A&M University, Alabama State University, Bowie State University, Clark Atlanta University, Delaware State University, Dillard University, Fisk University, Fort Valley State University, Florida A&M University, Grambling State University, Hampton University, Harris-Stowe State University, Howard University, Jackson State University, Kentucky State University, Morehouse College, Morgan State University, Norfolk State University, North Carolina A&T University, North Carolina Central University, Tennessee State University, Tuskegee University, University of Virgin Islands, Winston-Salem State University, and Xavier University.

Diageo North America has also committed to creating an internship platform over the coming years in order to create new leaders in the beverage alcohol industry. And the company is also in the process of creating Innovation Hubs at select institutions that will benefit but students and faculty. Through the

Hubs, Diageo North America will provide mentorships along with lecturers for students and curriculum development assistance for faculty.

The contents of this story is courtesy of:

<https://www.diageo.com/en/news-and-media/press-releases/diageo-north-america-establishes-innovative-program-with-hbcus-to-develop-future-leaders-and-help-shape-a-more-equitable-society/>

Three Alabama HBCUs join Google’s Career Readiness Program

Google recently announced that three historically black colleges and universities in Alabama will be joining its Grow with Google Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU) Career Readiness Program. Grow with Google provides HBCUs with funding and a semester-long, in-person and online digital skills program. The program combines existing Grow with Google workshops with custom content for black students. This content includes design thinking, project management and professional brand building. Alabama A&M University, Stillman College, and Tuskegee University will be joining the program.

Through a \$1 million investment in the Thurgood Marshall College Fund (TMCF), the Grow with Google program provides digital skills workshops in HBCU career centers to help black students prepare for the workforce. The \$1 million investment is part of an overall \$15 million commitment by Google to train black students entering the workforce.

The contents of this story is courtesy of:

<https://yellowhammernews.com/three-alabama-hbcus-join-googles-career-readiness-program/>

Lawsuit by HBCU athletes fights what it calls NCAA’s systemic racism

A group of black athletes have filed a lawsuit against the NCAA alleging chronic bias by the organization. The lawsuit was filed is alleging that the NCAA singles out historically Black colleges and universities (HBCUs) for bans from postseason play in Division I, the highest level of competition.

The class-action suit was filed on behalf of three former and recent HBCU athletes at Savannah State University and Howard University, and it focuses on NCAA rules that say a sports program must maintain about a 50% graduation rate to qualify for postseason tournaments, championships and bowl games. The NCAA imposes that standard on programs regardless of a school’s mission or its resources.

The standard, along with other NCAA standards going back four decades to Proposition 48's minimum SAT scores to recruit players, has long proven to penalize Black athletes and HBCUs.

HBCUs represent 6% of the 350 schools that compete at the Division I level. But during the past six years, the NCAA have accounted for 82% of schools banned by the NCAA for poor academics.

The contents of this story is courtesy of Derrick Z. Jackson

<https://theundefeated.com/features/lawsuit-by-hbcu-athletes-fights-what-it-calls-ncaas-systemic-racism/>

WTAC News

WTAC is Now on YouTube and Instagram!

The Washington Tuskegee Alumni Club (WTAC) now has an official YouTube channel and Instagram page. This new channel and page will allow WTAC to share new and exciting content in order to highlight the great impact that the club is having in the DC area in order to support Mother Tuskegee. Just search "Washington Tuskegee Alumni Club" on YouTube and click on the subscribe button. Our first goal is to achieve 100 subscribers, and with your help we can achieve that goal in no time! And to follow us on Instagram, search "tuskegeedmv" and once you are on the page click the follow button. Subscribe to the WTAC YouTube channel and follow the WTAC Instagram page now!

POSTPONED: WTAC 80th Anniversary Celebration

In October 2019 the Washington Tuskegee Alumni Club (WTAC) turned eighty years old. To celebrate this milestone occasion, WTAC was scheduled to host an 80th Anniversary Celebration event. The celebration event will be a speakeasy theme. The event was scheduled for Saturday, May 9, 2020. As a result of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, it was recommended by the 80th Anniversary Celebration Committee and approved by the WTAC General Body to postpone the event for a later date. The new date is to be determined. For the most up to date information about this event or club's response to

the pandemic visit the club's website at www.tuskegeedmv.org and continue to monitor your email for the latest correspondences.

HBCU 5K Run/Walk

The 8th HBCU 5K Run/ Walk and Community Day presented by Xfinity will take place on Saturday, July 10, 2021. This year the Run/Walk will be a virtual event. Registration is now open. This event is organized by the Washington, DC Metro HBCU Alumni Alliance (DCHBCUAA). The DCHBCUAA is a non-profit community-based organization that collaborates mainly to strengthen the community through our impactful programs and to provide support to underserved students interested in attending HBCUs. WTAC is a proud member of the Alliance. For more information about the Run/Walk, visit the Alliance's website at www.dchbcu.org. Or for assistance in registering or if you have additional questions about WTAC's involvement with the DCHBCUAA please email wtac@tuskegeedmv.org.

Annual HBCU Black Tie Gala

The annual HBCU Black Tie Gala that was tentative scheduled for September 2021 has been cancelled because of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. As a result, planning activities will now be focused on planning and organizing the 2022 gala. More information will be shared about the 2022 gala as it becomes available.

Additional Upcoming Club Events

Check your email or our website <https://www.tuskegeedmv.org> for the most up-to-date information.

More information about the above events to follow via the club's website at www.tuskegeedmv.org and through email correspondences.

Upcoming Club Meetings

General Body club meetings are currently scheduled on the second Sunday of each month. No meetings are scheduled for the months of July and August. Meeting dates and times are subject to change due to holidays and meeting space availability. Meeting information can be found on our website at <https://www.tuskegeedmv.org>. All meetings are currently planned to be at Petworth Neighborhood Library, 4200 Kansas Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20011, 3pm-5pm unless otherwise noted. The dates for the next few months are listed below:

Sunday, April 11, 2021

Sunday, May 16, 2021

Sunday, June 13, 2021

For meetings dates and times of WTAC Committee meetings please contact the appropriate committee chairperson. If you are interested in joining one of the many committees please contact the appropriate committee chairperson or email the general WTAC email address at wtac@tuskegeedmv.org.

College Recruitment Activities, Information, and Schedules

The recruitment calendar is currently being developed for the 2020-2021 academic year. If you are interested in volunteering to assist with recruitment events, email the Recruitment Committee Chairperson at the email address below. To find out more recruitment information or volunteer: contact Melvin Ross at melvin.ross@tuskegeedmv.org

Member Spotlight

There are members doing great things for our university and in our community, please take the time to tell us about it so we can share, contact us at newsletter@tuskegeedmv.org.

Student Spotlight

The Scholarship Committee of the Washington Tuskegee Alumni Club has awarded \$35,000 dollars worth of scholarships for the Fall 2020 school term. Thirteen students, ranging from Freshman to Seniors applied for the WTAC Fall Scholarship. We are in the process of notifying the students and the university of the awards. If you are interested in being a part of the Scholarship Committee, email scholarship@tuskegeedmv.org. Congratulations to all of our scholarship recipients!

If you have a Tuskegee Student you think we should know about, please contact us at newsletter@tuskegeedmv.org.

Financial Members for the 2019-2020 Fiscal Year July 1st - June 30th

B. Akinlosotu	Kenitra Fewell	Joyce Lipscomb	Sinclair Skinner
Darlene Baker	Agnes Fields	Darryl Love	Anthony Smith
Saul Beacher	Samuel Fields	Eugene Martin	Susie Smith
William Bell	Lawrence Gary	Sherman McKenney	Gloria Stewart
Marie Blake	Lenox Gay	Janelle Miller	Evan Strother
Ronald Blakely	Justin Germany	Thelma Monk	Tomeka Terry
Shirley Blakely	Christopher Greene	Mishari Murry-Hanible	Margaret Tolbert
Katie Blanding	Nicholas Griffin	Gregory Nixon	Julius Washington
Curtestine Boardley	Harriet Hamlin	Willie Oxendine	Tamara Washington
Rebekah Collins	Jennifer Hampton	Jordan Pollard	Angela Watson
Adrienne Cooper	William Hampton	Ann Price	Joyce Watson
Marcus Cooper	Alfred Harrison	Gayle Rankine	William Watson
Christine Davis	Latoya Haynes	David Reid	Robert Western
Edward Dawson	Theodore Hinton	Chris Richardson	Monique White
Anthony Delaney	Victor Hinton	Sandra Richardson	Aretha Williams
Craig Dexter	Karina Jones	Betty Ross	Gwendolyn Williams
Tovah Dorsey-Pollard	Debra Kemelek	Melvin Ross	Walden Woods

Financial Members for the 2020-2021 Fiscal Year as of April 8th

Makeba Atkins	Ellen Duffin-Gardner	Princess McEvilley	Michele Shelton
Monica Bates	Kenitra Fewell	Sherman McKenney	Anthony Smith
Saul Beacher	Michael Gardner	Janelle Miller	Susie Smith
William Bell	Lawrence Gary	Thelma Monk	Evan Strother
Marie Blake	Lenox Gay	Mishari Murry-Hanible	Julius Washington
Andre Brown	Justin Germany	Willie Oxendine	William Watson
Dashawnda Brown	Evelyn Goodwin	Walter Plush	Joyce Watson
Camille Chapman	Harriett Hamlin	Jordan Pollard	Angela Watson
Raeleena Collington	Reginald Hampton	Ann Price	Robert Western
Marcus Cooper	Alfred Harrison	Gayle Rankine	Monique White
Adrienne Cooper	Latoya Haynes	David Reid	Aretha Williams
Shalonda Covington	Cheryl Jones	Fernando Relph	Ralph Williams
Melvin Covington	Karina Jones	Sandra Richardson	Quentin Wilson
Christine Davis	Justin Lee	Chris Richardson	
Craig Dexter	Joyce Lipscomb	Betty Ross	
Tovah Dorsey-Pollard	Darryl Love	Melvin Ross	

Please note that membership for the 2021-2022 fiscal year, which starts July 1, 2021, are not reflected in any of the names appearing above.

Any questions about your membership status, please email us at membership@tuskegeedmv.org.

Membership Goal (100 Members)



Membership By Month

