
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

Tuskegee Ranks 4th Among U.S. News and World Report's Top HBCUs

U.S. News and World Report has ranked Tuskegee University 4th among the nation's best Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) in its 2021 rankings. The move from 2020's 8th spot places the university solidly in the annual publication's list of top-10 HBCUs.

To identify the nation's best HBCUs, U.S. News measures the quality of undergraduate education programs and other relevant metrics. In addition to its #4 HBCU national ranking, Tuskegee appeared on the magazine's 2021 list of "Best Regional Universities, South," as the university advanced five places to the 20th spot. The university also tied 20th in ranking among "Undergraduate Teaching - Regional Universities (South)."

Improved Student Retention and Alumni Giving was cited as the reason for Tuskegee's ranking improvement from the 2020 report.

For more information on Tuskegee's standings and U.S. News ranking methodologies, visit <https://www.usnews.com/info/blogs/press-room/articles/2020-09-14/us-news-announces-the-2021-best-colleges-rankings>

Philanthropist MacKenzie Scott Made a Record \$20 Million Donation to Tuskegee University

Tuskegee University received a \$20 million gift from philanthropist, activist and author MacKenzie Scott. Tuskegee University President, Dr. Lily D. McNair, said the unrestricted donation will help Tuskegee build on its reputation as one of the nation's leading institutions of higher education. The donation is the largest single gift in the university's history. "This gift comes at an opportune time for us," said McNair, who has led the institution since July 2018. "We are about to launch a five-year strategic planning effort and, with this investment from Ms. Scott, we will be able to unfold the next phase of our mission in ways we simply could not have considered before." Dr. McNair said she envisions the gift being used to support four broad areas at Tuskegee. Those areas include increasing student access, strengthening signature programs, advancing research and innovation, and preserving the university's legacy.

Source used for this story:

<https://www.tuskegee.edu/news/philanthropist-mackenzie-scott-invests-in-tuskegee-universitys-future-with-record-20-million-donation>

Tuskegee University receives \$100k gift to support aspiring African American architects

The Department of Architecture at Tuskegee University recently received a gift of \$100,000.00 from the Cooper Carry Charitable Foundation, Inc. The foundation is the charitable arm of the Cooper Carry architectural firm. The purpose of the financial gift is to increase access to the architecture profession for African American students.

\$80,000 of the gift will be used to establish new need-based scholarships for undergraduate students. \$20,000 of the gift is designated for a student technology scholarship that will allow students to receive technology assistance by providing laptops and architecture design software for students.

Source used for this story:

<https://archinect.com/news/article/150211470/tuskegee-university-receives-100k-gift-to-support-aspiring-african-american-architects>

Samford's Cumberland School of Law Partners with Tuskegee University to Offer Students Accelerated Law Degree Plan

The Cumberland School of Law at Samford University and Tuskegee University has formed a new partnership to offer Tuskegee students an accelerated path towards achieving a law degree. This will allow Tuskegee students to participate in what is referred to as a 3+3 partnership program. Students will now be able to take three years of courses at Tuskegee and then three years at Cumberland. Upon completion, they would graduate with both a bachelors and law degree. Tuskegee joins Samford University, Birmingham-Southern College, the University of Montevallo and Troy University on the list of schools that have a 3+3 partnership with the Cumberland School of Law.

The two universities stated that the new partnership program will begin right away. Tuskegee juniors who have completed their core and major requirements can now use their first year of law school to fulfill any outstanding requirements for their bachelor's degree.

Source used for this story is the article written by Henry Thornton at the following source link:
<https://yellowhammernews.com/samfords-cumberland-school-of-law-partners-with-tuskegee-university-to-offer-students-accelerated-law-degree-plan/>

NIH awards four-year, \$1.48 Million grant to Tuskegee University College of Veterinary Medicine for Breast Cancer Research

The National Institutes of Health (NIH) has awarded a four year grant in the amount of \$1.48 Million to the Tuskegee University College of Veterinary Medicine for breast cancer research. Deepa Bedi, MD, Ph.D., is an associate professor in the college's Department of Biomedical Sciences and is serving as the principal investigator for the grant entitled, "Evaluation of HSPD1 (Heat Shock Protein, 60) as a theranostic target for breast cancer." Dr. Bedi during her research will evaluate the role of heat shock protein 60 in the progression of breast cancer.

"I aim to use this protein as a marker of TNBC progression as well as a target to deliver anti-cancer drugs to this highly aggressive and metastatic cancer. This grant will provide the necessary resources to fulfil this hypothesis and be able to contribute to the knowledge and cure of TNBC, particularly in African-American women," Dr. Bedi said.

"We are proud of the contributions that Dr. Bedi will make to biomedical research as she translates the discoveries and observations into therapies in her cancer laboratory in the college. The data and information gained from this newly funded research study will heighten awareness and enhance the Cancer Research program here at Tuskegee University," said Dr. Ruby L. Perry, dean of the College of Veterinary Medicine.

Dr. Bedi's work in cancer research is not new and was previously funded by NIH in a grant in 2016 in the amount of \$441,000 for three year duration. She also coordinates many efforts across campus with Dr. Clayton Yates, who is the director of the Center for Cancer Research at Tuskegee University.

According to the U.S. National Library of Medicine, breast cancer is one of the most frequently diagnosed cancers and the leading global cause of cancer death in women, accounting for 23% of cancer diagnoses (1.38 million women) and 14% of cancer deaths (458,000 women) each year. Triple-negative breast cancers (TNBC) occur in 10-15% of patients, yet this disease subtype accounts for almost half of all breast cancer deaths and represent as highly aggressive and metastatic phenotype, specifically among African-American women.

For more information:

<https://www.tuskegee.edu/news/nih-awards-four-year-148-million-grant-to-tuskegee-university-college>

[-of-veterinary-for-breast-cancer-research?fbclid=IwAR3iGqUGAZPPJW1gLw1hfRb3yWmJ7NZmvf3LR9Xe2CNSHBXLOTgiQNfPWl](https://www.al.com/news/2020/09/nurse-to-tuskegee-airmen-dead-at-age-100.html)

Nurse to Tuskegee Airmen dead at age 100

Irma “Pete” Cameron Dryden, a Black woman who served as a nurse to the Tuskegee Airmen during World War II, has passed at the age of 100. Ms. Dryden died on Sept. 17 at her home in Canton, Georgia, according to her daughter-in-law, Maggie Williams Dryden.

Ms. Dryden graduated from the Harlem Hospital School of Nursing in 1942. After graduation she travelled to Tuskegee, Alabama, where as a member of the U.S. Army Nurse Corps she cared for cadets training to be pilots. These pilots would later be known as the Tuskegee Airmen. The Tuskegee Airmen were the country’s first Black military pilots and flew missions during World War II. They were trained by Tuskegee University.

Of the 50,000 nurses in the corps who served during World War II, fewer than 600 were Black, according to Pia Jordan, director of the Tuskegee Army Nurses Project. Ms. Dryden rose to the rank of second lieutenant. She married Tuskegee Airman Charles Dryden in a ceremony at Tuskegee Airfield in 1943.

After her service in the military, she helped start a New Jersey-based medical lab. She later moved in order to be closer to family.

Source use for this story:

<https://www.al.com/news/2020/09/nurse-to-tuskegee-airmen-dead-at-age-100.html>

TNAA News

2020 TNAA Election Results

The 2020 Tuskegee National Alumni Association (TNAA) elections were conducted from the period August 21, 2020 to September 14, 2020 in a hybrid election process of electronic submitted ballots and mail in ballots. The results were announced on October 5, 2020.

The following candidates are winners of the TNAA 2020 Officer Election.

President: Lillie Lanier '71

First Vice President: Brenda Lorthridge '72

Second Vice President: Emmalyne Head '04

Third Vice President: Barbara Cleveland '94

Recording Secretary: Jocelyn Faniel-Heard '74

Assistant Recording Secretary: Kimone Paley '01

Treasurer: Vacant, Presidential Appointment

Financial Secretary: Robert Mosby '81

Public Relations and Marketing Officer: Monica Smith Terrell '92

Chaplain: Rev. Dr. Samuel Murray '71

Parliamentarian: Carl Montgomery '75

Assistant Parliamentarian: Jamon Pulliam, '15

Historian: Walter Wortham '71 & '73

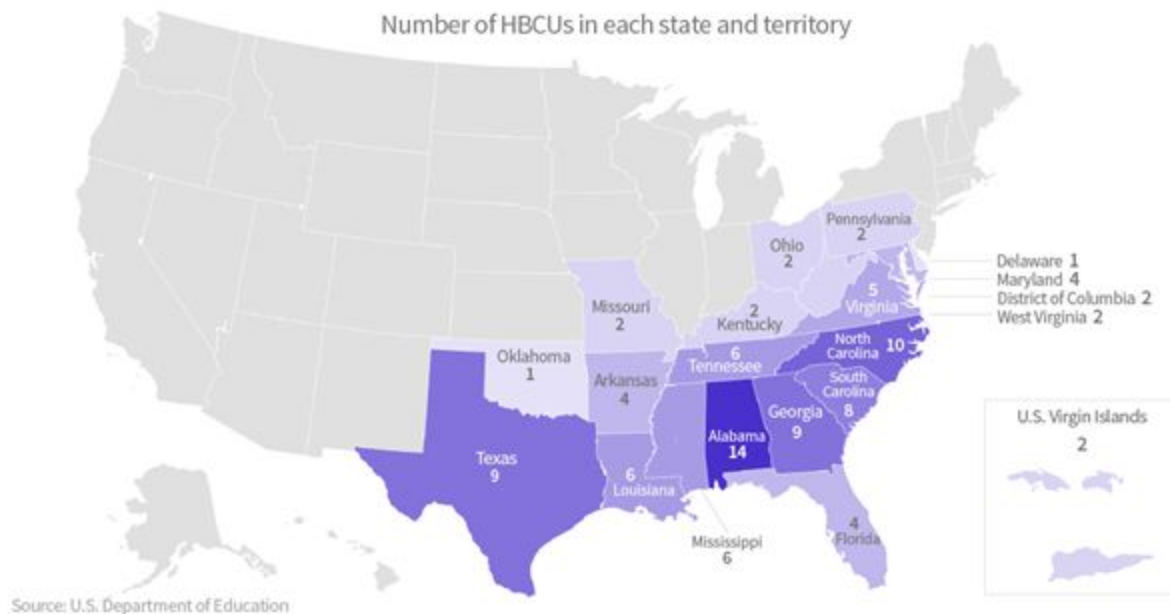
The newly elected TNAA Officers will serve the term from 2020 through 2022. The new officers were sworn into office on October 6, 2020 by alumnae and retired Judge Pauline Drake.

Around the Northeastern Region

There is currently not any news from around the Northeastern Region at the time of this publication.

HBCU NEWS

Historically Black Colleges and Universities Offer Success



Crystal deGregory, founder of HBCUstory.org, a website with stories about historically black colleges and universities (HBCUs), first learned of HBCUs from her math teacher and others while growing up in the Bahamas. She would later go on to attend and graduate from Fisk University after being convinced by the university’s director of admissions who convinced her that she would succeed at Fisk.

Fisk University is one of 101 colleges and universities that the U.S. Department of Education recognizes as HBCUs. These colleges and universities were established before 1964 with the goal of educating African Americans. The Higher Education Act of 1965 first mentioned the term “HBCU” and expanded federal funding for these institutions.

Some are four-year universities while others are two-year community colleges. They include everything from law and medical schools to schools offering degrees in liberal arts or theology. Students of all races can attend HBCUs, and not all HBCUs are predominantly Black. Nearly 300,000 students attend HBCUs.

While they enroll 10 percent of all African American college students, HBCUs produces almost 20 percent of African American graduates and 32 percent of African American STEM graduates (science, technology, engineering and math), according to the United Negro College Fund.

The first HBCUs established were Wilberforce University in Ohio, Cheyney University of Pennsylvania and Lincoln University in Pennsylvania. They were established in the North before the U.S. Civil War, when discrimination blocked Black students from predominately white colleges. These HBCUs trained Black teachers, ministers and tradespeople.

After the Civil War and Reconstruction, HBCUs were established in Southern states with the goal of educating the newly emancipated and freed slaves. Today, HBCUs retain a reputation for excellence. “Each institution is unique and is an important part of this country’s educational fabric,” U.S. Education Secretary Betsy DeVos said in a statement.

Source used for this story:

<https://share.america.gov/historically-black-colleges-and-universities-offer-success/>

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.

Annual HBCU 5K Run/Walk

The 8th Annual HBCU 5K Run/ Walk and Community Day presented by Xfinity that was scheduled to be on Saturday, July 11, 2020 at Freedom Plaza in Downtown Washington, DC has been postponed until Saturday, July 10, 2021. As of this publication, the Run/Walk is still scheduled to be an in person event. But that is subject to change pending future developments relating to the COVID-19 pandemic. 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. This will be the first year that this event will be held on the National Mall after being held on the campus of Howard University for the past seven years. 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 originally scheduled for September 2020 has been postponed until 2021. The tentative new date is September 25, 2021 at the tentative location of the National Portrait Gallery in Downtown Washington, DC. Both the tentative date and tentative location is subject to change pending future developments relating to the COVID-19 pandemic.

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, November 8, 2020

Sunday, December 13, 2020

Sunday, January 10, 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 \$30,000 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 October 8th

Makeba Atkins	Craig Dexter	Walter Plush	Evan Strother
Monica Bates	Tovah Dorsey-Pollard	Jordan Pollard	William Watson
Saul Beacher	Kenitra Fewell	Ann Price	Joyce Watson
William Bell	Harriett Hamlin	Gayle Rankine	Angela Watson
Camille Chapman	Alfred Harrison	David Reid	Robert Western
Raeleena Collington	Latoya Haynes	Fernando Relph	Monique White
Marcus Cooper	Cheryl Jones	Sandra Richardson	Ralph Williams
Adrienne Cooper	Janelle Miller	Betty Ross	Aretha Williams
Shalonda Covington	Thelma Monk	Melvin Ross	Quentin Wilson
Melvin Covington	Mishari Murry-Hanible	Michele Shelton	
Christine Davis	Willie Oxendine	Anthony Smith	

Membership Goal (100 Members)



Membership By Month

