


ALBANY STATE UNIVERSITY ■ ALUMNI

# aspire

summer/fall 2008

A large portrait of Mary Jo Haywood, an African American woman with short, curly grey hair, wearing a peach-colored top and large gold hoop earrings. She is looking slightly to the right with a gentle smile. The background is a wall with several framed portraits of other individuals.

**Mary Jo  
Haywood ('95):**  
Being a 'first' as  
mayor of Camilla, Ga.



**Gladys  
McCullough**  
**Ward Sapp ('46):**  
Author of ASU's  
Alma Mater



**Dr. Joshua  
Murfree Jr.:**  
Motivating  
through  
mentoring

ALBANY STATE UNIVERSITY ■ ALUMNI

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Vol. 3 summer/fall 2008

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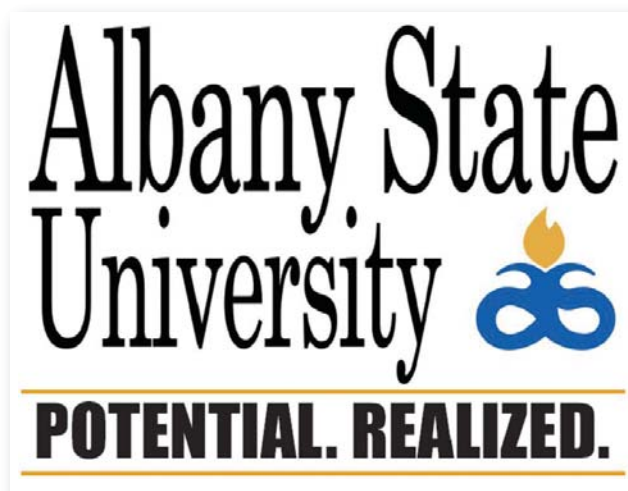
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Albany State University was established in 1903 and is an integral part of the system of higher education maintained by the state of Georgia. The University is one of 35 institutions of higher learning governed by the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia. Albany State University recognizes that it has a special mission to fulfill because of its geographic location, unique history, population served and the special needs of Southwest Georgia. Through its strong academic, continuing education and cultural enrichment programs, the University provides all persons the opportunity to take advantage of its services. Through careful research and planning and through its expert faculty and staff, the University provides liberal arts education and delivers aggressive and comprehensive programs that offer quality and quantifiable learning experiences essential for a specialized profession, lifelong personal fulfillment and responsible leadership.

Albany State University is accredited by the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, 1866 Southern Lane, Decatur, Georgia 30033-4097; telephone number (404) 679-4500, fax number (404) 679-4558, to award the BA, BS, MA, MBA, MPA and Ed.S. degrees.



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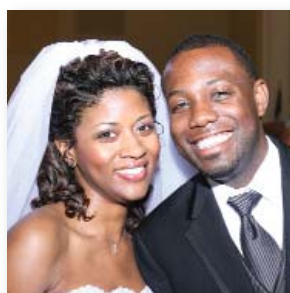
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## ALUMNI NOTES



# Message from the PRESIDENT

Marcus Garvey once wrote, “The dawn of a new day is upon us, and we see things different. We now see not as individuals, but as a collective whole, having one common interest.” Alumni, friends and supporters of Albany State University, our common goal remains to advance this historic institution to an institution of pre-eminence.

Now more than ever we must remain steadfast to our commitment “to educate students to become outstanding contributors to society.” We can easily become deterred by the threat of competition and looming budget cuts, but why should we when we’ve received instruction from you, our ASU alumni and staff, as to how to persevere and succeed despite the odds?

Mary Jo Haywood provides a stellar example. While faced with what many viewed as insurmountable circumstances, she maintained a 28-year resolve to earn a degree from ASU. Equipped with her degree, she would later apply that same resolve and tenacity toward becoming the first female and African American to hold the position of mayor of Camilla, Georgia. *She achieved, despite the odds.*

Another radiant example of undeterred commitment was displayed by alumna and author of our beloved alma mater, Gladys Ward McCullough Sapp. Despite the racially charged atmosphere of the 1960s, her goal remained to transform those who entered her classroom into society’s best and brightest. We have her to thank for many of today’s doctors, teachers and scientists. *She succeeded, despite conditions.*

Then there is the multi-talented Dr. Weyman F. “Pat” Patterson. He grew up in the segregated South and graduated from Albany State College in 1961. Dr. Patterson integrated Westover High School as one of the first African-American teachers. In 2000 he authored a math text book that is used in 70 percent of Georgia’s high schools. He authored his first novel in 2005. Earlier this year Dr. Patterson was nominated for the 44<sup>th</sup> Annual Writers Association Author of the Year Award in the fiction category. *He dreams, then exceedingly achieves.*

We dare not be dismayed by the sobering statistics that reference our youth when we have the ability to mirror Dr. Joshua Murfree’s philosophy on mentoring young people. As Murfree says, “True mentoring is when you endow the good in you into someone else so they can be better.” *He works, despite predictors.*

Earlier this year I had the pleasure of reminding the class of 1958 that we exist because of their undaunted commitment to matriculate and then graduate during a climate ensconced in social ills. Despite the circumstances they stood the course, ultimately contributing to our ability to stand as a thriving and viable institution today.

Alumni and friends, we have the template for success! Why create a new course of action when we simply need to apply the fundamentals that you have established? We only need apply them to the conditions of today. That is all that is required to carry out our mission and further implement our strategic plan designed to create a premiere and more solvent Albany State University.

It my desire that all of the stories inside this issue inspire you to remain committed to the collective effort to expand ASU’s national presence to that of a global presence. As Garvey reminds us, the dawn of the new Albany State University is upon us. Only as a collective whole can we achieve our common interest of becoming *the pre-eminent university.*

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Everette J. Freeman'.

Everette J. Freeman, President

# Message from the INTERIM VICE PRESIDENT

If not you, then who? This poignant cliché became extremely relevant to me the day I received *the* phone call from Dr. Freeman. “Mr. Porter, I need your assistance with transforming the Office of Institutional Advancement.”

Little did I realize how transforming that one request would become.

I was both elated and humbled by the President’s charge. My elation was based on the fact that as an alumnus of ASU, I had been given the opportunity to give back to the institution that so richly contributed to my overall development. My humility was based on the fact that the position of Vice President for Institutional Advancement is critical to the Institution’s progression into the future. Both of these sobering realities caused me to ask why was I chosen to lead this particular charge?

If for no other reason, I was chosen so that I can ask fellow alumni and supporters of ASU, “If not you, then who?” Who will work to ensure that our 14<sup>th</sup> national ranking will one day reach the ranking status of number 1? Who will work to ensure that the Center for African-American Male becomes a national model? And who will ensure that the Presidential Scholars program remains a primary thread in the fabric of our university? It is only with all of our collective efforts that any of the aforementioned occurs.

I’m exceedingly proud of this particular edition of *Aspire*, not because my name is listed in the credits, but because it is filled with stories of courage, pride and tools for effective change. As I will, I hope that you, too, will use these stories to fortify your love and commitment to Albany State University.

Let us become so inspired that we live the words of Harlem Renaissance writer Jean Toomer, and I paraphrase to you, the supporters and believers of Albany State University, “Let’s talk about it only enough to do it. Dream about it only enough to feel it. Think about it enough to understand it. Contemplate it enough to be it ...for if not you, then who?”

Forever blue and gold,



Clifford Porter Jr.,  
Interim Vice President for  
Institutional Advancement



\*In the June 12, 2008, issue of *Diverse: Issues in Higher Education*, the Albany State University College of Education was ranked 14th out of colleges and universities across the nation for graduating African-American students with bachelor’s degrees in education.



# Being a 'first'

*Mary Jo Haywood is the first African American to be elected mayor of Camilla, Ga. She's also the first woman to hold the mayoral position.*

In November 2007 Haywood received 53 percent of the votes cast for mayor. She defeated Jay Powell, who held the post for 12 years and also served as president of the Georgia Municipal Association.

Even as the city's mayor, Haywood is still right at home. She lives in a small house on Butler Street in Camilla. Its beige painted exterior includes a patio with several chairs for guests and plants providing greenery. It's not much different from the other houses in her neighborhood.

Haywood is much like her neighbors with cares and concerns that everyone faces: family, faith, career, utility bills. What makes Haywood stand out in her north Camilla neighborhood is that she's a pioneer in this small South Georgia town. Not only is Haywood the first African American to be elected mayor, she's also the first woman.

And like her house, what's important about Haywood is what's on the inside – a commitment to making life better for those around her.

## The College Years

Life wasn't easy when Haywood enrolled at Albany State College in 1967. She graduated from Camilla Consolidated High School in 1966 and spent the previous year helping her family as her mother recovered from a stroke. She had planned to attend college outside of South Georgia, but circumstances dictated that she stay closer to her home in the Oak Grove community of Mitchell County.

During her freshman year, Haywood's mother died, leaving her to care for her six younger siblings. Not only did she raise her siblings, she went on to raise a second generation of her family. In addition to her daughter, she took in three nephews and a niece raising them as if they were her own children.

Over the years she held several jobs, working at a sewing factory, in a restaurant, as a teacher's aid and eventually as a paralegal.

"I was the first in my family to go off to college," she said. "I wanted to fulfill that goal."

Earning a college degree was also a promise she made to her mother.

Her dream of earning a college degree never faded. Several times over the years she returned to Albany State to work toward that degree, finally graduating in 1995 with a bachelor's degree in English and a minor in sociology.

"The opportunities I received at Albany State I would not have received anywhere else," she said. "I figured it was fate that put me there. I look back now because I enjoyed the personal atmosphere of a

*(Continued on page 8.)*



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*“A lot of the resistance and maybe hostility resulting from my being elected mayor are more gender- than race-based. It’s hard for them to accept a woman, hard for them to accept a Black.”*

*– Mary Jo Haywood*

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small school. When I just wasn't able to attend class, my professors would check up on me. I know I wouldn't have received that at a big university."

## Time to serve

"I've always been in public service," Haywood said.

Over the years she's served her community in several capacities, including time on the Board of Tax Assessors and on the Mitchell County Board of Education.

Living on the north side of Camilla, Haywood knew the disparities her neighbors faced. The chief complaint she heard was about the city's utility rates.

"What really pushed me to run was the problem with higher utility bills and the fact that people were having to choose between their utilities and their medications or food," she said. "It's not uncommon on this side of town to find utility bills of \$400 and \$500 a month for a house this size."

Camilla residents had been going before the city council asking for relief from the utility bills, but they got no results. That's when Haywood decided to throw her hat in the ring.

She soon realized that the problems facing Camilla residents weren't limited to race.

"I find that the economic issue is across the races," she said. "It's more of a class thing."

With Haywood's election came resistance.

"A lot of the resistance and maybe hostility resulting from my being elected mayor are more gender- than race-based," she said. "It's hard for them to accept a woman, hard for them to accept a black."

She understands the plight of the northside residents of Camilla.

"Because I've been one of them," she said. "These are my friends, my family, my neighbors. To me they're more than addresses and numbers in a phone book. To me they're people I know and I'm in touch with. I feel a kinship with them because I understand."

When Haywood decided to run for mayor, her supporters looked to her campaign as one of change and hope.

"Before I decided to run, a lot of people didn't know we even had a mayor and those that did didn't even know his name," she said. "To them going up against city hall was an abstract idea. They really embraced me."

On the night of Nov. 6, 2007, Haywood was declared the winner, receiving 53 percent of the votes in Camilla.

When Haywood heard the news, she said she was humbled.

"I was happy really for the people more than myself," she said. "The tears didn't really come until I turned around and saw how happy everybody was. They saw me as hope personified. It's still that feeling that touches me now."

Even though Haywood has only been in office a few months, she's already come head-to-head in disagreements with the city council on what a mayor needs to do the job.

"The last mayor was not as aggressive as I choose to be," she said.

Haywood said the conflicts with city council stand in the way of Camilla's growth.

"I want to tell the city council that we have a unique opportunity to show how it can be done," she said.

"We're blowing it by being stuck in the past. We could be models."

When other mayors hear of her troubles, they offer words of encouragement and support. In addition to her long-time supporters, Haywood gets encouragement from others as well.

In the grocery store, she often has white women come up to her to say they're pulling for her and praying for her. She even gets anonymous calls from women giving her support.

"It's rewarding being in a position to help people's lives change for the better," she said. "The thing I find most heartwarming is to see the enthusiasm of young people."

The young people in her neighborhood point to her house and tell their friends, "That's where the mayor lives." When they see Haywood, they often say, "Hey, Miss Mayor."

"In the backs of their minds, I know they're thinking, 'That's something I can do,'" she said. "You don't have to leave here. You can stay in Camilla. I speak to a lot of groups who want to hear that inspiration. It's heartwarming to see their hopes kindled and their belief nourished."

### Just a few of

#### Mary Jo Haywood's other honors and service roles:

- One of 14 women presented the Women of Distinction Award by the Georgia State Conference of the NAACP in June 2008.
- Served as Georgia District 7 secretary of the NAACP.
- Member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Inc.
- Member of the Order of the Eastern Star.
- Member of the Camilla Chamber of Commerce.
- Host of a Tavis Smiley Covenant Conversation.
- Inducted into the Southern Rural Black Women's Hall of Fame.



## ‘Remove the excuses’

Dr. Chanta Haywood-Roberts, Haywood’s daughter, is dean of the School of Graduate Studies and Research at Florida A&M University in Tallahassee, Fla. Together they founded the Wilwood Foundation Inc., a community outreach project, in 2000.

Based in Camilla, the foundation provides community improvement, community awareness, disaster relief assistance and scholarships to improve the community by focusing on at-risk youth.

“The Wilwood Foundation is there to help young people have opportunities to succeed,” Haywood explained. “We provide scholarships.”

A major goal of the foundation is to help young people financially who otherwise wouldn’t be able to attend college.

“One of our mottos is ‘Remove the excuses,’” Haywood said.

That includes the financial hurdles. So far the foundation has awarded 12 students with scholarships, but Haywood emphasizes that students must do their share in order to succeed.

“You have to be willing to sacrifice in order to achieve your goals,” she said. “Don’t be afraid or ashamed to do what you legitimately have to do. Patience and hard work persevere.”

## The Task at Hand

When Mary Jo Haywood stands in front of the photos of the previous Camilla mayors in the meeting chamber of city hall, her dark face is a stark contrast to the white men whose faces peer from beneath the glass frames.

She has other dreams for the city.

She’d like to see healthcare more readily available in Camilla. She’d like to see new businesses locate to Camilla.

Haywood would like to have a youth museum where people from across the state would come to learn about achievements of young people. It would also be a place where youth could receive training for their future and “nourish their dreams.”

“A lot of things I hope for Camilla are outside the box,” Haywood said. “It’s hard to get people to think outside the box.”

For now, she’s focusing on the pressing issues, but Haywood realizes her role in Southwest Georgia history.

“I hope that people will remember the administration because it was a compassionate and caring administration and that care and compassion translated into services they could afford,” she said. “I want people to remember that this administration cared more about affordable services than making money to put in reserves.”

Being mayor comes with its challenges, but when Haywood gets frustrated, she looks back in history at other trailblazers – Jackie Robinson, Rosa Parks, the Little Rock Nine, even Christ and his apostles.

“It’s hard being the first, but you must battle through it,” she said. “They all came out triumphant in the end. I must hold fast to the faith and inspirations.”



**Current Camilla Mayor Mary Jo Haywood sits in her chair in the meeting chambers of city hall. On the wall behind her are photos of Camilla’s previous mayors.**

# From educator to author

*Earlier this year public school-educator-turned-author Dr. Weyman F. “Pat” Patterson was nominated for the 44th Annual Georgia Writers Association Author of the Year Award in the fiction category for his work “Pretty Maids.”*

Even though he didn’t take home the prize, the nomination marked the confirmation of a career change for Patterson who moved from education into fiction writing with the 2005 publication of “Freaknic.”

“I would love to win it all, but Author of the Year is but a friendly competition among writers,” said Patterson, an Albany State alumnus. “Even being nominated, my scripts have already become more marketable.”

Patterson was born in Albany, Ga., in 1940. Educated in the public schools, he graduated from Monroe High in 1957 and Albany State College in 1961. Patterson received a master’s degree in





mathematics from Georgia State University in 1978 and a doctorate in education from Atlanta University in 1989.

“Growing up in the segregated South, my aspirations were limited by access to certain occupations, but I was always a voracious reader with a love of math and science,” Patterson said. “By becoming coordinator of mathematics, science and computer science for the Atlanta Public School System, I exceeded any expectation I might have set as a child.”

In 1970 Patterson was one of the first African-American teachers to integrate Albany’s Westover High School. He turned his experiences at the school into a short story. After entering the story into a competition, he was told the story would work well as a novel.

After retiring, Patterson discovered that he had another passion besides educating young minds. His 2000 textbook, “Preparing for the Georgia High School Graduation Mathematics Test,” is currently used in 70 percent of Georgia’s high schools.

His first novel, “Freaknic,” was optioned by ICA Filmworks, but that process of getting a film developed did not come to life. His agent later convinced him to focus on turning novels into screenplays.

Patterson’s other works include the novels, “The Morning Glory Gang,” “Rocket Man” and “Psychosis.”

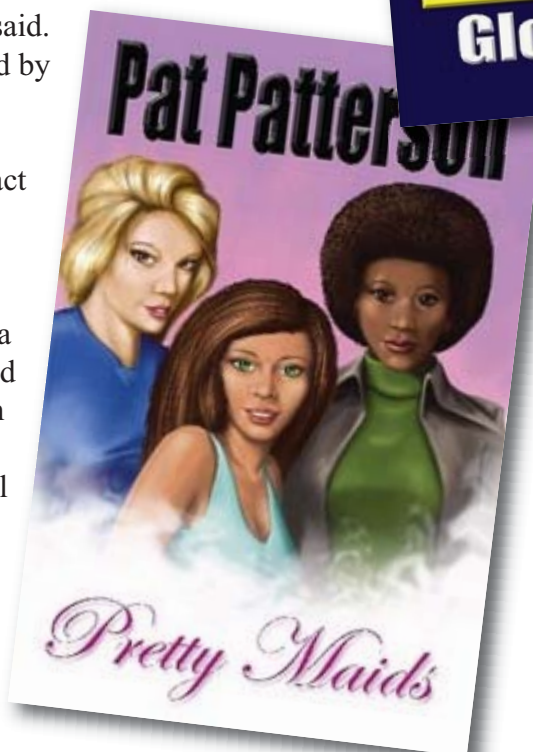
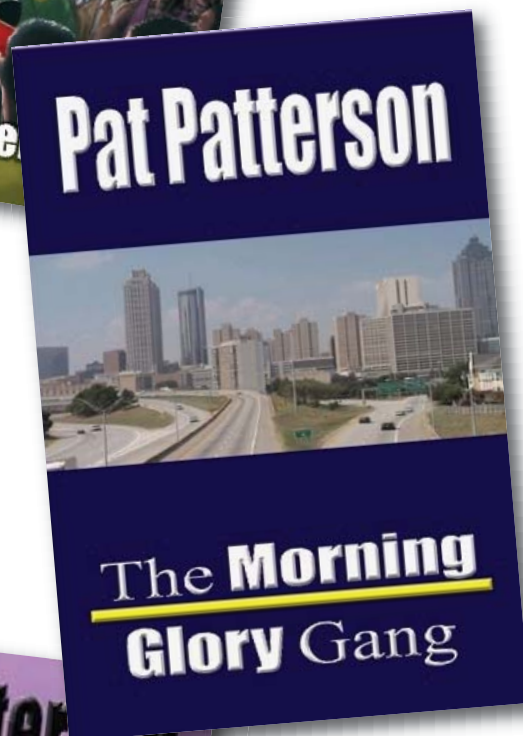
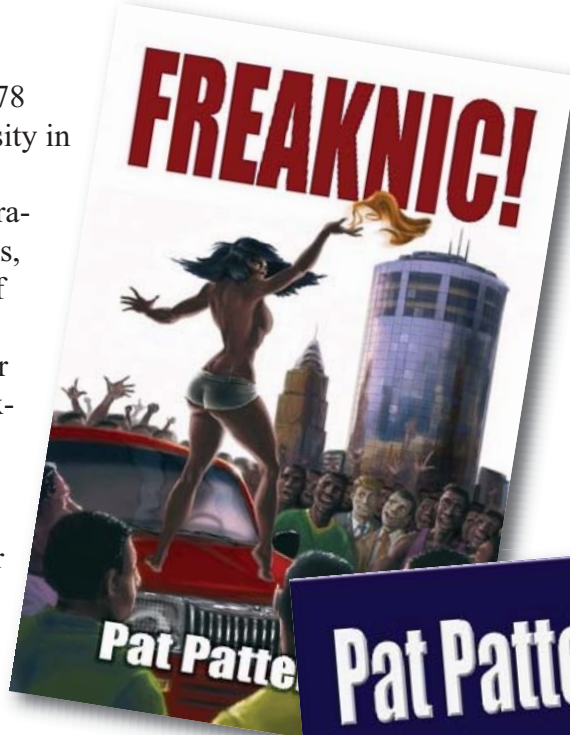
“For any up-and-coming novelist/screenwriter: Do it for the love, not the money,” Patterson said. “If you have an itch that can only be scratched by creation, then dive in and never look back.”

It was during a book fair at Darton College that a student made Patterson realize the impact of his work.

“I have to remember that fiction is for fun, and my greatest literary work is my math test preparation book,” he said. “While attending a book fair at Darton College, a student who had studied from my book in high school, put it in perspective for me.”

The student told Patterson, “I think it’s cool that you wrote ‘Freaknic,’ but it was awesome that you wrote that math book. I didn’t know black people wrote math books.”

Patterson said, “So we can tell the world, ‘Yes, black people also write math books – at least ones from Albany State University.’”



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*Story by Sedrick Grier ■ Photo by Reginald Christian*



## 2008 SPRING COMMENCEMENT

# Make new choices

*On May 3, 2008, well-known charity fund-raiser Dan Pallotta presented the address during Albany State University's Spring Commencement. This is an excerpt from his speech.*

We took risks. We tried new events for new causes in new cities. We did a ride across Alaska and a trek through South Africa to raise money for AIDS. We held a 26-mile walk through the night for suicide prevention. Most things succeeded. Sometimes they failed. Critics said you shouldn't try things with charitable dollars unless you know for certain they will succeed. We said that's an idea whose time is done.

If charities can't experiment or take risks the way the big movie studios do, if they can never try anything new for fear it might fail, then they can never learn anything. We don't tell Paramount Pictures you can't make a movie unless you know ahead of time it will be a huge hit. If they had to play by those rules, there wouldn't be a Paramount Pictures. Why should charity be discriminated against with a rule of perfection? We said charity needs a new choice.

The biggest convention we challenged was this backward idea that you have to work for sacrificial wages if you want to work for a good cause. How depressing is that? We give bright, young people like you a mutually exclusive choice: You can go out there and help the needy or you can have the economic life of your dreams, but you can't have both. If you want to change the future for the needy, you have to sacrifice the future for yourself. You have to watch your friends who have gone into business pass you by on the economic highway. Watch them buy homes in better neighborhoods and send their kids to better schools while you – because you want to help get kids safe drinking water – you have to sacrifice.

We thought that was a bad choice for everyone. It's demanding sainthood. While there are some saints in the world, there aren't nearly enough of them. We do the poor and the disenfranchised no favors by limiting the supply of the talent available to help them to the global supply of saints.

We don't ask General Electric to rely on the kindness of saints when it goes out recruiting for executives. We tell it to rely on the reality of economic incentives.

We let people make a fortune doing any number of things that will harm the world, but we want to crucify anyone who tries to make money doing something that could actually help it. If you want to make \$20 million selling violent movies to kids, we will celebrate your wealth on the cover of Fortune magazine. If you want to make good money trying to lift kids out of poverty, you are called an immoral opportunist.

We drive promising young kids, who might want to work on issues like poverty, into other careers they're less passionate about but where they can make more money. We force the kids who do pursue careers in the nonprofit sector to give up all of their economic dreams, and then ask them to dream of a



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*If charities can't experiment or take risks the way the big movie studios do, if they can never try anything new for fear it might fail, then they can never learn anything.*

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world of economic abundance.

If we ever wonder why the for-profit world is so successful at selling Play Stations and sodas and jewelry, and the nonprofit sector has been unable to find a cure for cancer or end homelessness, we don't need to look any further than this dysfunctional arrangement.

Anyone who tells you that the deprivation of yourself and your family is the road to abundance for the poor is trading in bad ideas. It is the dreary, gloomy, God-forsaken idea that you have no economic obligation to yourself – that you have no right to think about your own economic future — that has turned so many people off to the idea of dedicating their lives to helping others in need on a full-time basis.

If we don't start letting people pursue the dreams they have for the world and their dreams for their own economic future, we're never going to have enough people to create the kind of change in this world that we seek.

We rejected these depressing choices. We said that the time has come to abandon these decaying ideas. We have new dreams and new visions, and we need new ideas and new choices to make them real.

When you come upon some edict that dampens your spirit when it is yearning to be set on fire, you have to ask yourself, "Are these really my only choices?" When you are confronted with a convention that turns your smile to darkness, you have to ask yourself, "Is this really all there is? Can I invent a new choice? In what dogma am I being asked to consent that doesn't have the validity to deserve my consent? What thing that the world would call good, when I look deeply into it, really isn't very good at all?"

Don't be hypnotized by the homogeny of the herd. Don't spend your life speaking someone else's mind without even knowing you're doing it and without ever knowing your own.

It's scary to challenge the status quo, but don't become an expression of your fear. It's hard, but not nearly as hard as feeling like you're suffocating day in and day out because your spirit can't breathe. There's a price to pay, but not nearly as high as the price of conformity, which will cost you all of the joy and enthusiasm you have in your account. Believe me, the status quo will take your joy and enthusiasm without a second thought if you let it.

It takes courage to challenge established ideas. You might find yourself misunderstood by people who condemn your challenges to their orthodoxy as immoral. This will be more than made up for in the new friends you will attract to yourself who believe as you do and who share the same enthusiasm for life, friends who would never have recognized you if you hadn't stood up and said, "This is who I really am." Instead of having people who call you their friend because of who you pretend to be, you will have friends who love you because of who you really are.



Dan Pallotta is presented with the International Citizen of the Year Award by Dr. Everette J. Freeman (left), ASU president, and Clifford Porter Jr., interim vice president for Institutional Advancement, during the 2008 Spring Commencement.

# Fraternity chapter founder honored with scholarship in his name

*In order to receive the many rewards in life, one has to be committed to the hard work and dedication required to achieve success. Jerome P. Guy sets that example perfectly. Over the years he was inspired to achieve success on the highest levels, especially when it comes to helping those who will follow in his path.*

For more than three decades Jerome P. Guy dedicated himself to educating students in public school systems in Henry, Emanuel, Houston, Jones and Bibb counties. The men and women whose lives he touched bear witness to his efforts to make the next generation better. His advice for students is simple.

"Be successful and adapt to the job policies of life," he said. "Make yourself better than what you are."

To honor this retired educator's legacy, in March 2008 the Gamma Pi Sigma Chapter of the Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity established a scholarship in his name. The scholarship will be awarded to students from the Middle Georgia area who will attend Albany State University, Guy's alma mater.

The scholarship is also a way that Guy is giving back to the institution that started his career.

"It has always been my desire to do something for the benefit of the less fortunate who are living in poverty with little or no education," Guy said. "To have a scholarship fund named in my honor is evidence of my success and my commitment to render service to humanity. It means a lot to me to be in a position to give to the needy and the less fortunate."

A native of Bainbridge, Ga., Guy is the son of Eugene and Pearl Guy. He graduated from Hutto High School in 1948 and began his studies at Albany State College on a football scholarship, playing under Coach Christopher Roulhac.

"I can recall one of my fondest memories at ASC was when I was elected captain of the Golden Rams





Jerome P. Guy takes a moment outside his home in Lizella. In honor of his contributions to society, the Gamma Pi Sigma Alumni Chapter Executive Board created the Jerome P. Guy Scholarship Fund. The scholarship will be awarded to students from Middle Georgia who attend Albany State University.

Football Team," he said.

War cut short Guy's studies and athletic career in 1950 when he was drafted into the Army. He served for two years during the Korean War, reaching the rank of master sergeant before returning to Albany State.

As an elementary education major at Albany State, Guy said he was inspired by Dr. E.J. Granberry, who served as his mentor and adviser.

In 1954 Guy graduated with his bachelor's degree. He went on to earn a master's degree in school administration from Atlanta University in 1962. Union Baptist Seminary in Birmingham, Ala., bestowed upon him an honorary doctorate in law in 1968.

For 34 years Guy committed himself to an education career. He began as an elementary school teacher in the Henry County School System before becoming principal of Twin City Elementary School in Emanuel County. Later he served as principal of Southside Elementary School in Houston County and of Maggie Califf High School in Jones County. He retired in 1988 as the administrative assistant at Central High School in the Bibb County Public School System.

In 1963 Guy was instrumental in establishing the Gamma Pi Sigma Chapter of the Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity in Macon, Ga. At the time Guy served as the Georgia state director of the fraternity. After a decade of service, the chapter faded away. In 2001 a group of 10 fraternity brothers sought Guy's help to re-establish the Gamma Pi Sigma Chapter.

"This was a high honor to me and a great opportunity to render service to my community and humanity in general," he said.

This spring the Gamma Pi Sigma Alumni Chapter Executive Board created the Jerome P. Guy Scholarship Fund. The scholarship will be awarded to students from Middle Georgia who attend Albany State University.

Guy and his wife, Carolyn, live in Lizella. They have one son and three grandchildren.

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*Story by Sedrick Grier ■ Photo by Robert Ross*



# Author of the Alma



For 62 years her words have immortalized the spirit of Albany State University. They speak of a foundation built on knowledge, work and inspiration. They speak of dedication to the university that provides the starting point of success to so many students.

What has happened to Gladys McCullough Ward Sapp in the six decades since she penned those words is even more impressive.

Years before she entered the halls of academia as a college student, this Mitchell County native was on the Albany State campus as a student in seventh through ninth grades at the Hazard Training School. Sapp furthered her education at Madison High School in Albany graduating in 1942.

When she first began as an Albany State student, Sapp said that she wanted to be a nurse and attend school in Atlanta. At her mother's insistence, Sapp instead chose Albany State. Along the way she also changed her major to elementary education and graduated in 1946.

The career choice fit Sapp well. For 35 years she worked as a teacher shaping young minds. Even in retirement Sapp still volunteers at Pelham Elementary

*(Continued on page 18.)*

**Above: Gladys Ward McCullough Sapp takes a minute to tickle the ivories while talking about her college days at Albany State.**

**Right: Mrs. Sapp checks out the Soil to Sun statue while touring the Albany State University campus. In honor of her lasting contribution to Albany State, Mrs. Sapp will serve as the grand marshal of the 2008 Homecoming Parade.**

# Mater

## The Alma Mater

*By Gladys Ward  
McCullough Sapp, '46*

Albany State, we dearly love you  
Whose walls are inscribed with knowledge so true.  
So solidly built on this foundation,  
A union of work and inspiration.  
Teacher for those who strive for success;  
To thee we give praises above all the rest.

Thy jubilant colors of blue and gold  
We'll ever honor, ever behold;  
Thy name is an anchor upon life's sea,  
And sailing, we put our trust in thee.  
In thee, dear school, we see all the best;  
To thee we give praises above all the rest.







**Jonathan Howard, an Albany State University student, joins his grandmother, Gladys Ward McCullough Sapp. When Howard hears the Alma Mater, words his grandmother wrote, he thinks about the history of the university. “It’s amazing in the sense of all that took place on this campus,” he said. “I just know Albany State went through a lot to get where it is.”**

School and at a local foodbank. She teaches a class and plays the piano during Sunday School at Summerhill Baptist Church in Pelham. For the past decade she’s also served on the Board of Education for the Pelham City Schools.

It was an assignment in A.P. Turner’s English class at Albany State that immortalized Sapp’s name in the university’s history. The assignment was to write the words to Albany State’s alma mater.

“I just thought, ‘what would an alma mater be like?’” Sapp said. “We looked at some from other schools and got inspiration.”

During a class assembly, Sapp was named the winner of the contest.

“I just remember thinking that I did something right for once,” she said with a laugh.

Since that time Sapp’s verses have been tied to the music created by former Albany State instructor Martha Wright.

It was one of many “something rights” that Sapp would go on to accomplish.

During the decades that followed, she raised a family and developed her career as an elementary school teacher. Sapp’s teaching career included the turbulent time of the Civil Rights Movement and integration of public schools in the late ’60s. Being an African-American teacher in the public schools was especially difficult.

She recalls at the beginning of integration how men with guns in their pockets would walk the school halls. Her classroom had its share of racial tension.

“Some people didn’t want their children in my room,” Sapp said. “I was determined to give them the best education when they were there because you never know where that child will end up.”

Her former students went on to become doctors, lawyers and teachers.

“I think about one of my students who became a doctor,” Sapp said. “Suppose I hadn’t given him the best education. What would’ve happened to him? Regardless of what’s going on, you’ve got to teach each one.”

Meanwhile, her own children made their marks by trying to integrate the public library in Pelham and a local soda fountain. While staying with their grandmother in Albany, Sapp’s children became involved in the Albany Movement.

Sapp also recalls other difficult times in Albany, especially the great flood of 1994.

She remembers returning from a trip to Ohio to see the after-effects of the flood. Sapp recalls driving through campus and seeing musical instruments outside.

“That was the saddest thing,” she said. “I saw those instruments all outside drying out, but the flood was about the best thing that could’ve happened to Albany State. The newer buildings and other things have just put Albany State on a higher level.”

All four of Sapp’s children graduated from Albany State as well as several grandchildren. Her daughter Janice is a former Miss Albany State College. One grandson, Jonathan Howard of Baconton, is a junior mathematics and engineering major at ASU.

On occasion he gets to sing Albany State’s Alma Mater – his grandmother’s words.

“It’s a sense of pride within the family,” Howard said. “I think most of us know she wrote it; we just don’t always bring it up.”

But the words have a deeper meaning for Howard as a student.

“It’s amazing in the sense of all that took place on this campus,” he said. “I just know Albany State went through a lot to get where it is.”

*Story by Cindy Blalock Gambill ■ Photos by Reginald Christian*





Dr. Billy C. Black



Dr. Charles L. Hayes

# FAREWELL

## to two beloved presidents

*In March 2008 Albany State University mourned the passing of two former presidents. Dr. Billy C. Black, president from 1981 to 1996, died March 13. Dr. Charles L. Hayes, president from 1969 to 1980, died March 15.*

Dr. Billy C. Black, Albany State's sixth president, is remembered for leading the way to recovery after the devastating flood of 1994, which affected 90 percent of campus.

"Dr. Black's numerous contributions to the University are still visible today," said current ASU President Everette J. Freeman. "Dr. Black's commitment to Albany State continued well after he retired...He made a lasting impression on this institution and helped prepare Albany State for the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Dr. Black will go down in history as one of the cornerstones of this great University."

In 1964 Dr. Black joined then-Albany State College as a chemistry professor. Before being named president, he

served as chair of the Chemistry Department, chair of the Division of Science and Mathematics, chair of the Division of Arts and Sciences, and as assistant to the dean of Academic Affairs.

When the campus was ravaged by the Flint's floodwaters in 1994, Dr. Black used every resource possible to keep Albany State running.

"He was able to pull everything together when it appeared as though all hope was lost and that Albany State was gone," said Dr. Wilburn Campbell, current dean of the College of Education. "Through some of his professional contacts, Albany State continued its mission for that summer...His tenacity for making things happen was just unbelievable."

Just a few days after Dr. Black's death, Albany State lost its fifth president, Dr. Charles L. Hayes.

"Dr. Hayes was a crucial piece of Albany State's history," Dr. Freeman said. "His vision for the future continues to influence Albany State today."

During his time as president, Dr. Hayes saw the University through its Jubilee Anniversary celebrating 75 years on April 7, 1978. Under Dr. Hayes' leadership, Simmons Hall was constructed in 1976. Today it houses the Department of History, Political Science and Public Administration as well as the Department of Mathematics and Computer Science.

In reflecting on the Jubilee Anniversary, Dr. Hayes wrote, "For 75 years Albany State College has been dedicated to recalling and listing its accomplishments, praising its founder, reassuring its growth and continuing its thrust toward academic excellence. The major mission of Albany State College has indeed been concerned with providing quality education. We are committed to service to our community, state and nation in this day of change."



Dr. Charles L. Hayes and Mrs. Hayes ride through the streets of Albany during a Homecoming Parade in this undated photo.



Dr. Billy C. Black receives an honorary life membership in the ASU National Alumni Association from Erika Estrada, Miss Albany State University 2004-05.



# GOLDEN ANNIVERSARY for the Class of 1958

Albany State University's Spring 2008 Commencement was more than a time for students to graduate, it was also a time to remember another graduation half a century ago.

Members of Albany State's Class of 1958 returned to campus this spring to celebrate their golden anniversary. These alumni were honored during a reception held May 2 in their honor in the President's Dining Hall.

"For it is because of you that ASU still exists. We proudly stand on your shoulders," said ASU President Everette J. Freeman.

Members of the Class of 1958 also participated in the Commencement Exercise on Saturday in the Albany James H. Gray Sr. Civic Center.

Class of 1958 alumni who participated included Eleanor Proctor of Marietta, Ga., Mattie Summers Burns of Atlanta, Ga., Emma Carrithers of Albany, Ga.; Ruby Dean Hall Crews of Atlanta, Ga.; Fannie Claire Kendall Delaney of Griffin, Ga.; Ida Early Green of Columbus, Ga.; Vera M. Hubbard of Albany, Ga.; Carolyn Moultrie Knighton of Albany, Ga.; Jacqueline Perry Paulk of Sarasota, Fla.; Emma L. Thompson of Camilla, Ga.; Josie A. (Lee) Thompson of Decatur, Ga.; Lillian B. Webb of Tifton, Ga.; and Joanne Corker Wilson of Albany, Ga.



Vera Hubbard, a member of the Albany State class of 1958, receives a medallion from ASU President Everette J. Freeman during a reception held in honor of the class' Golden Anniversary.



Eleanor Proctor of Marietta leads her fellow Class of 1958 alumnae during the 2008 Spring Commencement Procession. Proctor passed away in June. During the reception held the evening of May 2, she commented that this was one of the happiest times of her life.



Members of the Class of 1958 recently participated in the 2008 ASU Commencement Ceremony on May 3, 2008. More than half a century ago these treasured alumni matriculated and graduated from Albany State. In addition to being honored at the Commencement ceremony, ASU President Everette J. Freeman noted their commitment and dedication to their beloved institution during a reception held in their honor on May 2. Pictured with these alumnae is Interim Vice President for Institutional Advancement Clifford Porter Jr. (far right).

*Photos by Reginald Christian*



# Motivating through mentoring

It only takes one glance of Dr. Joshua W. Murfree Jr. to know that there is something different about him.

He is a well-polished individual. His businesslike demeanor is just as much a part of him as his stylish bow ties. He walks with his head up and has discipline written all over him. For him the commission to mentor is an all-day task.

"A common man walks on the sidewalk, but it takes a different kind of man to walk in the street," Murfree said. "I am taking mentoring beyond the street to the middle of the freeway."

It has never been enough for Murfree to teach and advise through his speeches. He prefers to be a living example to everyone around him. He said numerous times he would read various trends about what was going on in society and wonder how he could make a difference. The thought was more than a cliché for him as he sought to be proactive in his mentorship.

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*"Much of the mentoring I do is helping individuals who are having trouble in life. There is a hero in everyone waiting to come out thus creating the need for self-identity."*

— Dr. Joshua Murfree Jr.

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In 1994 Murfree was appointed national/international chairman of mentoring for 100 Black Men of America. At the 16<sup>th</sup> annual national conference, he was elected as the vice president of programs. He developed a comprehensive mentoring program for the 100 Black Men of America in 1995, which now serves 110 chapters in 32 states reaching 10,000 members and more than 125,000 youth and their families. He has presented multiple workshops on mentoring in an effort to instill the core essentials of mentoring in others.

"He truly has played a Herculean role in establishing the premiere mentoring organization in the nation," said Dr. James Hill, ASU English professor. "He has had a tremendous impact in the lives of many youth and, as a result, has grown as an individual and a leader."

Murfree's professional background is in both counseling and clinical psychology. He completed his undergraduate work at Fort Valley State College and received his master's degree at Valdosta State College. He earned his doctorate in philosophy at Howard Univer-

sity in Washington, D.C. Murfree spent several years researching teen suicide and teen violence. He also presented several opening sessions at the Congressional Black Caucus.

Murfree currently serves as the executive assistant to the president, administrative chief of staff and director of Athletics at Albany State University. He said despite a person's upbringing and where he/she is in life, everyone needs someone who will steer him/her in the right direction.

"Much of the mentoring I do is helping individuals who are having trouble in life," Murfree said. "There is a hero in everyone waiting to come out, thus creating the need for self-identity."

While growing up Murfree's grandfather was a positive influence in his life who kept him focused.

"He taught me that I could do anything I wanted to, which is something I endeavor to impart in others," he said. "We, as mentors, give young people the opportunity to see that they are

(Continued on page 26.)









Dr. Joshua Murfree Jr. (left) chats with two students at Albany State University, where he has made mentoring to African-American young men a priority.

great, and that this is the way to go. We teach them by relaying our experiences to them without putting our experiences upon them.”

Murfree said he has always stressed the importance of being the best “you.” He warns against getting consumed in striving to be like a big-name celebrity or athlete because it overshadows one’s own worth and potential.

“Mentoring is designed to make people feel good about themselves,” Murfree said. “When people have a genuine like for who they are, the need and want to be like someone else is mitigated.

“It does not mean anything to me if people tell me how much they liked a mentoring program they were in if they are still displeased with who they are,” he continued. “You can tell when someone is really feeling good about themselves the same way you can identify when a person is experiencing some form of struggle. I want them to leave with a newfound level of confidence and self-esteem.”

Murfree frequently compares his role as a mentor to that of Mentor in Homer’s Greek mythology story “Odyssey.” Mentor was a loyal adviser of Odysseus entrusted with the care and education of his son, Telemachus.

Murfree said he does not know how to take his responsibility as a counselor and adviser lightly. He knows so many people look to him as a man of uprightness, but he quickly admonishes them when they say they want to be like him.

“True mentoring is when you endow the good in you into someone else so they can be better,” he said. “When people tell me they want to be like me, I charge them to be better than me by learning from mistakes as well as the qualities I possess. That type of mentoring is not something you can do in five or 10 minutes; it takes time, dedication and persistence.”

Murfree’s passion for mentoring remains visible at Albany State through his timeless involvement in the Center for the African-American Male (CAAM). What began as a study of wanting to know

more about African-American males and the disproportionality they face has transcended into a desire to expose CAAM from a national/international standpoint much like 100 Black Men of America.

As former director for the organization, he remains supportive by constantly keeping in mind the vision of the late Dr. Billy C. Black, a former Albany State president, to build up the African-American male by increasing knowledge.

“Dr. Murfree was the director for CAAM for a number of years and under his watch, our participation, retention and graduation rates increased,” said Antonio Leroy, executive assistant of CAAM.

“Dr. Murfree has continued to support CAAM’s mission. He annually conducts mentorship training for the Center and shares his feedback with CAAM and other supportive programs. He continues to support present and past CAAM mentors.”

Murfree said his involvement with CAAM is crucial in getting to know every student that walks the campus.

“I see it as an opportunity to take fatherhood into the community for young people,” he said. “Many of the students on campus do not have their fathers in their lives.”

While countless lives have been touched through Murfree’s mentorship, his daughter Tabitha, who is pursuing a master’s in business administration at Albany State, is most responsible for his ability to mentor on a father-figure level.

“Being a dedicated and sincere father, I see the importance of helping a child move to the next level in life,” Murfree said. “My function as a father aligns itself with mentoring and helping meet the needs of students. It forces me to stay abreast of what is happening around the country in the lives of young people.”

As executive assistant to the president, Murfree is always cognizant of what is taking place on campus. He oversees any situation that can impact a particular department, college or student. His obligation as administrative chief of staff is to handle any problematic concerns of staff members. Then he deals with student athletes on health and wellness issues and what is affecting them beyond the realm of academics and athletics.

He said he deems it a pleasure to serve in a versatile capacity with the university.

“The roles that I have impact a global perspective when it comes to education, role modeling and mentoring and fatherhood,” Murfree said. “They are designed to uphold the image of the university.”

“Dr. Murfree possesses a remarkable gift in terms of mentoring to people of all walks of life,” ASU President Dr. Everette Freeman said. “It is an honor to have someone of his ability working alongside me. He is the embodiment of the image we strive to produce at Albany State, and the success that we continue to have is a direct reflection of his relentless efforts in mentoring.”

With every accomplishment and assignment given to Murfree it is another stepping stone for him. He aspires to be a university president and have an opportunity to help and mentor everyone. He refuses to buy into the narcissistic concept of doing things for his own benefit.

“Nothing I have accomplished do I want solely for me, and that has been my success,” Murfree said. “Every award and achievement I have is because people have given me the chance to help them and be an influence in their life. The work that I do in mentoring is because I owe it to the people who raised me and to the innumerable amount of people who see me as a mentor. If I lose sight of that, I have lost sight of everything.”

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*“Being a dedicated and sincere father, I see the importance of helping a child move to the next level in life. My function as a father aligns itself with mentoring and helping meet the needs of students. It forces me to stay abreast of what it is happening around the country in the lives of young people.”*

— Dr. Joshua  
Murfree Jr.

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*Story by Adam Alexander ■ Photos by Reginald Christian*



# CHAPTER NOTES

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(From left) Participating in the Columbus Alumni Chapter's annual scholarship luncheon held April 19 are Kenneth Cutts ('94), district director for Congressman Sanford Bishop; Jean Lynn ('67), president of the Columbus Chapter of Albany State University Alumni; Anne R. Davis ('63), luncheon co-chair; Sue Fountain ('67), luncheon co-chair; and State Rep. Calvin Smyre.

## **Columbus Alumni Chapter holds annual scholarship luncheon**

On April 19 the Columbus Alumni Chapter of Albany State University held its annual scholarship luncheon on April 19 at the Columbus Convention and Trade Center.

Kenneth Cutts, district director for U.S. Rep. Sanford Bishop, served as the speaker. In 2003 Georgia Trend Magazine named Cutts to its list of the state's 40 most outstanding people under the age of 40. Also an ASU alumnus, Cutts pledged "unswerving support" to Albany State in front of the more than 200 attendees.

During the luncheon, Columbus Mayor Pro Tem Evelyn Turner Pugh presented a proclamation declaring April 19, 2008, as "Columbus Alumni Chapter of Albany State University Day."

Also speaking during the luncheon was State Rep. Calvin Smyre.

The Columbus Alumni Chapter presented scholarships to high school students who will attend ASU in the fall. Recipients were LaShauna A. Bailey, April Brown and Shanika M. Mulrain of Columbus High School; Adrian J. Ford of Central Elementary/High School in Talbotton; La'Shonda A. Long and Rolesta H. Milian of Carver High School.

The Charlie Mae Wardlaw Alexander Scholarship was presented by Mrs. Alexander's children in her memory to Chaundra Burkes of Carver High School.

# CHAPTER NOTES

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ASU President Everett J. Freeman (left) accepts a check for \$6,000 from Sylvester-Worth Alumni officers Shondra Greene ('03), chapter vice president, and Melvin Jefferson, chapter president.

## Sylvester-Worth Alumni Chapter donates \$6,000 to ASU

As part of Albany State University's 105th anniversary, the Sylvester-Worth Alumni Chapter contributed \$6,000 to the ASU Foundation.

The gift was presented to Dr. Everett J. Freeman, during the chapter's Fourth Annual Scholarship Fundraiser Gala—A Nautical Night—on Saturday, May 17. The Chapter designated \$1,000 to the ASU National Alumni Association and \$5,000 to the Sylvester-Worth Alumni Chapter Scholarship Fund. The Scholarship Fund is designated for Worth County High School seniors who will attend Albany State University after graduation.

The scholarship provides deserving students with financial assistance for college expenses in the amount of \$1,000 per year. Assistance is limited to a student attending Albany State University full-time who had a high school GPA of 2.50 or higher. Winners are selected based on an application and an essay.

Jamel B. Allen is the recipient of the 2008-09 scholarship to Albany State University. Shawndria P. Mitchell and Demar F. Milton, Jr. each received a \$500 book scholarship.

Officers of the Sylvester-Worth Alumni Chapter are Melvin Jefferson, president; Linda Gail Gibson Solomon, immediate past president; Shondra Greene, vice president; Paula S. McDonald, recording secretary; Sue Polite Solomon, treasurer; Tameka Jackson, financial secretary; Kimberly Powell, reporter; Ronnie Hill, parliamentarian; Judy Hall, chaplain; and Yolanda Hill Byrd, events coordinator.



# CHAPTER NOTES

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ASU alumni show their school spirit in a skit during the ASU Showcase. Joining in the fun are (from left) Ron Wood ('70), Carolyn Jernigan Glenn ('67), Ruby Crews ('58) and Pat Patterson ('61).

## Atlanta area alumni hold first ASU Showcase

This spring a group of Albany State University alumni from the Atlanta Metropolitan, Dekalb County and Griffin-Crescent alumni chapters came together to present the first ASU Showcase. Held March 15, 2008, at the Smoke Rise Golf and Country Club in Stone Mountain, the event raised \$328,960.30 in total gifts and pledges to the ASU Foundation.

The ASU Showcase featured entertainment by the ASU Jazz Ensemble as well as accounts from Jazzmin Randall, then Student Government Association president, and from ASU Honors Program students.

"It has been an exciting planning process, which brought the three north Georgia chapters of the National Alumni Association together with many unaffiliated alums who have since joined local chapters," said Dr. Weyman "Pat" Patterson, class of 1961 alumnus and president of the ASU Atlanta Metropolitan Alumni Chapter. "The showcase is but the beginning of an outreach program, which we hope will become a model for connecting, communicating and committing the entire nation of ASU graduates to the advancement of our beloved institution."

Planning committee members included Carolyn Jernigan Glenn ('67), Samuel Hobbs ('67), Ruby Crews ('58), and Betty Bush Walker ('69).



ASU Alumni Carolyn Jernigan Glenn ('67) and Rep. Earnest "Coach" Williams ('71) share a laugh during the first ASU Showcase.

# ALUMNI NOTES

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**Josephus Albritten Jr.** ('05) of Albany, Ga., earned a master's degree in biology in May 2008 from Saint Joseph College in West Hartford, Conn.

**Tangela (Hopkins) Barrie** ('94) is running for Superior Court Judge of DeKalb County, Ga. Barrie was first runner-up to Miss Albany State in 1993 and is a member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. She is currently a special prosecutor in the Crimes Against Women Unit of the DeKalb County District Attorney's Office. She received the 2007 Attorney of the Year Award. If elected, Barrie will be the youngest African-American woman elected to the DeKalb County Bench.

**Jaquetta Travick Brown** ('99) of Chula, Ga., has been named a professional school counselor at Ben Hill Primary School in Fitzgerald.

**Darby Davis** ('08) of Montego Bay, Jamaica, received a scholarship to pursue a master's degree in accounting at North Carolina State University. The NCSU scholarship - valued at more than \$65,000 - includes stipend, tuition, books, room and board. Mr. Darby has also signed a contract for employment with Ernst and Young LLP after he receives the master's degree from NCSU.

**Tara Dunham Davis** ('96) married Wilbert Davis on Feb. 23, 2008, in Las Vegas, Nev., at the MGM Grand Hotel and Casino. They live in Oxnard, Calif.

**Isreal Eady, Jr. Ed.D.** ('71) was recently promoted to associate professor of educational leadership at Jacksonville State University, Jacksonville, Ala. Dr. Eady, who is the chairperson of several university committees, was also awarded tenure. His wife, **Charlotte King Eady, Ed.D.** ('72), is an assistant professor of educational leadership at Jacksonville State. They both have several academic publications and many presentations in the fields of music and educational leadership.

**Kathy Foster** ('72) was named Teacher of the Week by the Orlando Sentinel on June 8. Foster is in her 29<sup>th</sup> year at St. John Vianney Catholic School in Orlando, Fla., where she teaches seventh- and eighth-grade English. In addition to earning a bachelor's degree in English at Albany State, Foster also earned a master's degree in specific learning disabilities from Nova Southeastern University.



Rudelle and Julius E. Francis Jr.

**Julius E. Francis Jr.** ('73) was recently installed as the president-elect of the Seminole County Retired Educators Association for the 2008-2010 calendar years. He is also an associate minister at New Hope Baptist Church in Deltona, Fla. Francis was the vice president of the Albany State class of 1973. Francis' older sister, **Barbara Francis Cain** ('69) and her husband, **Carl A. Cain** ('71) are also Albany State graduates. Francis and his wife, **Rudene Elder Francis** ('73), live in Orange City, Fla. Their oldest daughter, **Julie Francis** ('96) is married to ASU football standout Jamie Pettway ('96).

**Kinnis Gosha** ('05) of Phenix City, Ala., began a graduate level co-op in the Business Informatics Group at IBM Research in May 2008. Mr. Gosha is in his fourth year as a doctoral student in the Human Centered Computing Lab at Auburn University. He earned a master's degree in computer science from Auburn in May 2007.



Kinnis Gosha

**Thelma Adams Johnson** ('94) of Albany, Ga., received the Small Business Administration Financial Services Champion for Georgia Award on May 22, 2008. Mrs. Johnson is president and CEO of Albany Community Together Inc., a 501(c)(3) organization formed by the city of Albany and four area banks to help south Albany businesses that fell into default on loans following the flood of 1994. Since 2000 Albany Community Together has helped 74 businesses secure almost \$2 million in funding.

*(Continued on page 32.)*



# ALUMNI NOTES

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**Cedric R. Nelson** ('91) and **Angela L. (Turner) Nelson** ('92) welcomed a baby boy on Nov. 27, 2007.

**Daisy M. Howard Prather** ('94) of Roberta, Ga., earned a master's degree in business administration from the University of Phoenix in April 2008 with a GPA of 3.46. Mrs. Prather earned a bachelor's degree in accounting from ASU.

**Dr. Stanley J. Pritchett Sr.** ('71) was appointed acting president of Morris Brown College (Atlanta, Ga. in the fall of 2007. He had been the chief executive and college administrator at Morris Brown since 2006. Pritchett retired as deputy superintendent of administration and business affairs for the Dekalb County School System after 35 years of service.

**Kimberly Roan** ('05) in January 2008 received a Master's of Education Degree in Youth Development Leadership and a Certificate in Program Evaluation, both from the University of Minnesota in Minneapolis, Minn. In February 2008, Roan received an intrinsic promotion for launching Roan Educational Consulting in New Brighton, Minn. Roan Educational Consulting is a consulting agency specializing in program development and implementation, program management, institutional research, data collection and program evaluation services for school districts, higher education institutions and non-profit organizations. Roan currently lives in New Brighton, Minn.



Dr. Jimmy B. Sheats

**Dr. Jimmy B Sheats** ('65) received the Living Legend Award from the Pan-Tennessee Dental Association at its annual meeting on May 31, 2008. The award is given for outstanding service and dedication to the Tennessee dental community. The Pan-Tennessee Dental Association is the state component to the National Dental Association. Dr. Sheats received the National Dental Association's President Award in 2007.

**Dr. Melanie D. Shorter** ('96) married **Jarius V. Jones** ('07) on April 5, 2008, in Albany, Ga. Dr. Shorter received a bachelor's degree in biology from ASU. Mr. Jones received a master's degree in business from ASU in 2007. They live in Warner Robins, Ga.



Dr. Melanie D. Shorter Jones  
and Jarius V. Jones

**Valerie Smith-Green** ('94) of Macon, Ga., joined Macon Behavioral Health as utilization review coordinator in April 2008.

**Gabrielle Starr** ('06) is a full-time social worker with the Clayton County Department of Family and Children Services as well as a graduate student in the social work program at Clark Atlanta University. In January 2007 Starr began Ladies of Favor, a mentoring program for teen-age girls in Clayton County.



Cassandra Thomas

**Cassandra Thomas** ('92) was recently named one of "20 Under 40 Stark County Professionals" by the Canton Repository in Canton, Ohio. A native of Savannah, Thomas earned a bachelor's degree from Albany State. She is the associate vice president of customer and community relations for AultCare. Thomas has been employed with AultCare for 14 years.

**Jimel Virges** ('00) graduated on June 11 with a Master's in Business Administration with a concentration in Human Resources from American Intercontinental University in Atlanta. This fall Virges will begin pursuing a doctorate in education with a specialization in postsecondary and adult education at Capella University in Minneapolis, Minn.

*(Continued on page 33.)*

# ALUMNI NOTES

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**Jimel Virges** ('00) graduated on June 11 with a Master's in Business Administration with a concentration in Human Resources from American Intercontinental University in Atlanta. This fall Virges will begin pursuing a doctorate in education with a specialization in postsecondary and adult education at Capella University in Minneapolis, Minn.



Jimel Virges

**Latonya Weaver** ('99) was recently named assistant director of Student Services for the Albany, Ga., site of Troy University. An Albany native, Weaver earned a bachelor's degree in Allied Health Science from ASU. In March 2005 she graduated from Nova Southeastern University with a master's degree in criminal justice with a specialization in behavioral criminology. Weaver is currently pursuing a doctorate in education with a specialization in organizational leadership. She is also an adjunct instructor of criminal justice at Darton College and the Troy University Albany site.

In April 2008 **Brian Williams** ('05) of Atlanta, Ga., became CEO/owner of AccuClean Inc. Janitorial Services. Located in Atlanta, AccuClean is a small minority business with 81 employees.

**Dr. Eugene Williams** ('78 and '85) recently retired after 30 years as an educator. Williams spent his last two years as principal of Loganville Middle School in Loganville, Ga. He received a bachelor's degree in mathematics from Albany State. He went on to earn a master's degree in education from ASU and the Ed.D. in educational leadership from the University of Georgia. Dr. Williams is also a member of Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity. He and his wife, Kimberly, live in Lawrenceville.

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## DO YOU HAVE A CHAPTER NOTE OR ALUMNI NOTE?

For the past two years you've read the annual issue of *Aspire*, Albany State University's alumni magazine. Now we're making it even better.

Submit your items for the next issue of *Aspire*.

The **Chapter News** section will highlight upcoming events for the alumni chapters as well as cover some recent events. We welcome photos from the recent events, but the photos must have a resolution of at least 300 dpi.

The **Alumni Notes** section will feature recent accomplishments of individual alumni, such as births, marriages, job promotions, new jobs, recently earned degrees, etc. Each Class Notes submission must include your full name (including maiden name, if applicable), the city where you now live, and the year you graduated from Albany State.

Photos (at least 300 dpi) are welcome and will be used as space permits.

For **births**, please include the full name of the child, the full name of each parent and the date of births. Please include the date of graduation for the parent who is an alumnus. If both are alumni, please indicate that.

For **marriages**, please include the full name of the bride and groom, the town of residence for each, the date of the wedding, and the graduation year of the alumnus. If both are alumni, please indicate the graduation year for both.

For **job promotions** or **new positions**, please include your full name, the date you graduated from Albany State, the date you began in the new position, and where you currently live.

For **recently earned degrees**, please include your full name, the date you graduated from Albany State, the date you received the degree, the name of the degree, the institution awarding the degree, and the city where you currently live.

For questions about submissions for the Chapter News and/or Alumni Notes sections of *Aspire*, please contact Cindy Gambill in University Communications at (229) 430-1915 or [cindy.gambill@asurams.edu](mailto:cindy.gambill@asurams.edu).

Submissions may be e-mailed to [cindy.gambill@asurams.edu](mailto:cindy.gambill@asurams.edu) or mailed to University Communications, Albany State University, 504 College Drive, Albany, GA 31705. Please include a self-addressed stamped envelope if you would like photos returned.



# “ASU: One dream,

**HOMECOMING  
2008**



Homecoming Concert:

## THE MANHATTANS

featuring Gerald Alston and Blue Lovett

with an opening performance by the comedian

## LIGHTFOOT

The legend continues at the Albany James H. Gray Civic Center  
on Saturday, October 11, at 9 p.m.

# One family, One love”



## Friday, Oct. 10

Golf Tournament at 8 a.m.

(Doublegate Country Club)

Homecoming Convocation at 10 a.m.

Alumni Homecoming Luncheon at 12 p.m.

Alumni Teach-in

Alumni General Meeting at 2:30 p.m.

Class Reunion Legacy Reception  
at 5:30 p.m.

Alumni Fish Fry (Hampton Inn) at 9 p.m.

## Saturday, Oct. 11

Homecoming Parade at 9 a.m.

ASU vs. Clark Atlanta at 3 p.m.

Homecoming Concert  
(Albany Civic Center) at 9 p.m.

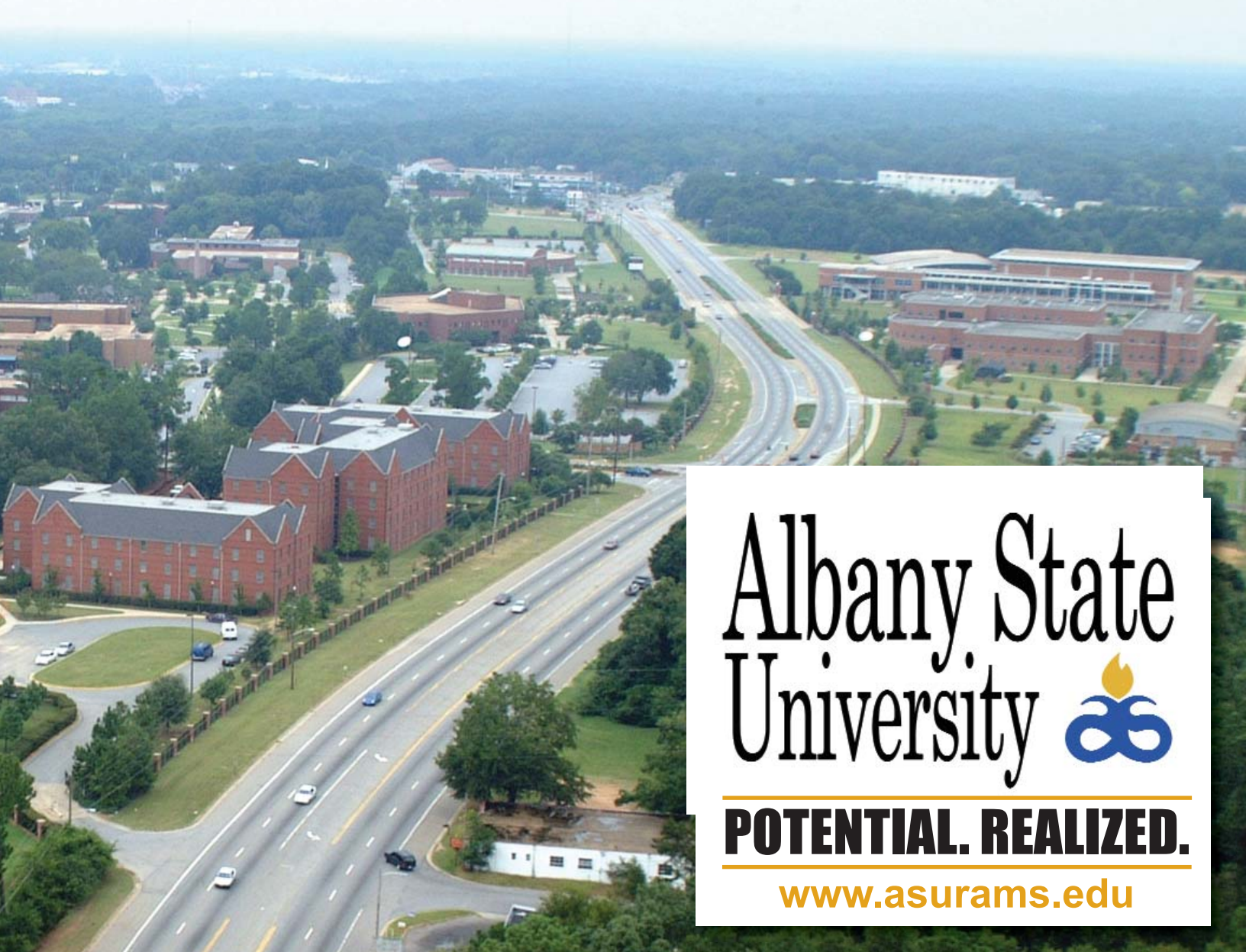
## Sunday, Oct. 12

Alumni Send-off Breakfast at 9 a.m.



Office of Institutional Advancement  
Albany State University  
504 College Drive  
Albany, GA 31705

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