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# WVSU National ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

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## Eastern Region Newsletter



*Judy Mason, WVSUNAA Eastern Director*

### **Message from the Eastern Region Director**

Greetings Eastern Region Alumni:

I am so very happy to have served as Eastern Region Director since October of 2013. We have done some amazing things and I'd like to thank the Eastern Region Presidents for their support, feedback, and unwavering commitment to their chapters and to the Alumni Association as a whole.

Some of our accomplishments during my tenure have been:

#### **2014**

- Attendance at the April 2014 National Conference in Las Vegas, NV where I held my first Eastern Region meeting
- The start of quarterly meetings with the Eastern Region Presidents in June

#### **2015**

- Baltimore, Charm City Chapter, and the Metropolitan Washington Alumni Chapter, hosted the Capital Campaign Reception in March at the Greenbelt, MD Marriott. This event was supported by the Shenandoah Valley W Club Chapter.
- The very first Eastern Region Picnic took place in July at Watkins Park.
- During our Eastern Region meeting held at Homecoming the East voted to place the Eastern Region meetings outside of Homecoming.
- I attended the Earl Lloyd Classic in November and used this event as an opportunity to meet with Eastern Region students, Alumni Relations, and the Athletic Director.

## 2016

- The Eastern Region web site was launched in January.
- The Regional Directors began meeting on issues and concerns that impact all regions.
- The Regional Directors had a successful “Dollars for Scholars” campaign which raised over \$4,000 for Regional Scholarships.

## 2017

- The Eastern Region reception, picnic, and meeting will take place in Upper Marlboro Maryland July 14<sup>th</sup> and July 15<sup>th</sup>.
- Eastern Region elections for Regional Director, Secretary, and Treasurer will take place during Homecoming.
- National initiatives for the Bridge Program are being communicated to chapter Presidents.

This is just a summary of our accomplishments. We have much to look forward to. The Eastern Region Reception, Picnic, and Meeting is available for registration. Here is a link for registration purposes: <https://connect.wvstateu.edu/events/easternregion>

The time for Eastern Region nominations and elections are approaching. I am hopeful that some of you will “Find the Leader in You” and answer the call for Eastern Region Director, Eastern Region Secretary and Eastern Region Treasurer.

It has been my pleasure to serve as your Eastern Region Director.

### **Eastern Region Alumni Stars**

**Betty M. Bates**, 2017 Baltimore Alumnae Chapter, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., Vashti Turley Murphy Award

**Charles Byers**, the New York/New Jersey Alumni Chapter’s Glover Smiley 110% Award recipient

**Sarodel Childs**, the Metropolitan Washington Alumni Chapter’s Glover Smiley 110% Award recipient

**John Davidson**, 2016 ROTC Hall of Fame Inductee

**Lashawn Fulmer**, 2016 Young Professional Award Recipient

**Thomas Goodwin**, 2016 ROTC Hall of Fame Inductee

**Maurice Gregg**, 2016, ROTC Hall of Fame Inductee

**Saundra B. McCray**, 2017 Black & Gold Gala Honoree

**Lieutenant Colonel (Retired) Vince D. Ross**, Educator of the Year by Junior Achievement of NJ

**Camille Shipman-McQueen**, Elected First Vice President, WVSU National Alumni Association

**Hank White**, 2016 ROTC Hall of Fame Inductee and 2016 Waddy Award

### **Eastern Region Student Stars**

**Krystal Ford** a freshman and a former student of Vince Ross achieved a 4.0 GPA with 19 credit hours in her first semester at WVSU.

**Deja Smoot** from Baltimore, MD was the 2016 Eastern Region Scholarship Recipient

## Metropolitan Washington Alumni Chapter



*Members of the chapter (including one of Earl Lloyd's former teammates) were in attendance at State for the Earl Lloyd premiere showing of "The First to Do It".*

"Doing Something"

Yes We Can!

After Homecoming, the Metropolitan Washington Alumni Chapter decided to use the motto "Doing Something" for the 2016/2017 fiscal year. The goal is to keep active by finding ways to assist the students, support the university, and grow the chapter.

The chapter ended 2016 with a joyful pot luck Christmas celebration at the Urban League in Washington, DC.

With the start of 2017, members of the Chapter went to see the movie "Hidden Figures". Everyone enjoyed the movie, followed by lunch at a downtown Silver Spring, Maryland restaurant.

During January and February we worked closely with State's admissions department by attending local college fairs. The WVSU staff, in attendance, was able to offer onsite admissions while educating prospective students about State's programs and history.

The chapter was able to award current local students two scholarships and six book fund vouchers.

Members of the chapter (including one of Earl Lloyd's former teammates) were in attendance at State for the Earl Lloyd premiere showing of "The First to Do It".

Two local alumni members were featured in WV newspaper articles relating to the prominence and affect the WVSU ROTC program has played in many lives.

While several members of the chapter were recognized during the Black and Gold Gala for their donations to the University, a special recognition goes to Sandra B. McCray a 2017 Black & Gold Gala Honoree for her philanthropic support establishing an endowed scholarship.

As a member said, we need to "Say it Loud" we went to WVSU.

## New York/New Jersey Alumni Chapter



### ***Recruitment***

Our West Virginia State University Alumni Chapter of New York/New Jersey was pleased to join the ladies of Delta Sigma Theta for their 34<sup>th</sup> Annual Historically-Black College & University (HBCU) Fair. The event occurred on Saturday, February 11, 2017 from 11a.m. to 4p.m. at the Dr. Susan S. McKinney Secondary School in Brooklyn, NY. Over 20 HBCU's and more than 400 high school students participated.

There were several workshops for the high school students and their families that were hosted by current HBCU students and professionals who are HBCU alumni.

Workshop topics included College Admissions Prep and Financial Aid, and there was a panel on college life experiences. Bringing an aspect of the college experience to life, the Divine Nine Greek Step/Stroll showcase and marching band performance were spectacular features that energized the audience.

Representing WVSU and our NY/NJ Alumni Chapter were Cecelia Brown, Elinor Agee and Charles Byers who organized and oversaw our table. Ms. Brown was one of the event co-sponsors and coordinators. Mrs. Agee spoke to students about WVSU's great history and prominent national and local alumni. Mr. Byers spoke to students about college life and the current degrees and athletic scholarships WVSU offers.

More than 80 students and parents visited our table to learn about the history, academic programs and student life at WVSU. Of those students, 43 were compelled to sign-up for follow-up information about our esteemed institution, and several took applications for admission or verbalized their plan to apply online.

If this group of intelligent, engaged and enthusiastic youth is an indication of the professionals and leaders to come, then the future is very bright! Their optimism, insights and thirst for knowledge warmed our hearts on a cold winter day in Brooklyn. Delta Sigma Theta's Annual Historically-Black College & University (HBCU) Fair was a successful, productive event; and we are looking forward to participating in 2018 and beyond!

## ***Fundraising***

On a beautiful summer afternoon, the chapter hosted a fundraiser event at Marco Polo Ristorante. The affair, which was attended by over ninety participants, was a monumental success; it was held to honor and salute Dr. R. Charles Byers and Elinor Mann Agee.

Everett Person served as Master *of* Ceremony and Ralph Christian presented awards and acknowledgements. All were treated to the smooth sounds of the Naazir Person Jazz Ensemble while we danced, ate, drank and reminisced about the good old days at “State.”

Those in attendance included our newly elected University President, Dr. Anthony Jenkins; Vice President, Patricia Schumann; Director *of* Alumni Affairs, Belinda Fuller; Eastern Region Director, Judy Mason; Chapter Members and friends.

The members who supported our efforts included: Erskine Agee, Hattie Allen, Charles Byers, Cheryl Prillerman Chambers, Lavington Charles, Ted Childs, Ralph Christian, Pamela Collins, Shirley Colvin, Adrienne Cox, Khalilah Pitts Davis, Gloria DeBerry, Joan Eastmond, James Fisher, Theresa B. Gentry, Frankye Graves, Charles Hairston, Nona Hairston, Riley Henderson, Theodore Jackson, Stephen Jeffrey, Michele Jones, Gail Lawrence, Gloria J. Lebbly, Phyllis G. Mack, Tracy McKibben, Darnley Osborne, Everett Person, Mary Redd, Tony Rookard, William Toby and Josephine Wilson.

We are proud to announce that with funds from our fundraiser we now have over \$10,000 to allocate for student scholarships.

## **Nominations for Eastern Regional Director, Secretary or Treasurer**

| <b><u>Nominations Sent to</u></b>   | <b><u>Date</u></b>           | <b><u>Person(s) Responsible</u></b> |
|---|------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| NY/NJ Chapter <i>c/o</i> Michele Jones<br><a href="mailto:vicissitudesinc@aol.com">vicissitudesinc@aol.com</a> or call<br>Judy Mason 1-202-726-0911 | June 1, 2017 - July 10, 2017 | Eastern Region<br>Judy Mason        |
| Ballots available for absentee voters   | July, 24, 2017               | Michele Jones                       |
| Voting  | September 30-October 1, 2017 | New York/New Jersey                 |