

# The Alumni Anchor

MARCH 2019

VOLUME 10 ISSUE 1

## A LETTER FROM THE NATIONAL ALUMNI PRESIDENT

My Fellow Alums,

Thank you for all that you do to support Savannah State University. In the midst of some very significant changes that have tested the character and resolve of both our institution and our association, you have not wavered in your commitment and support for SSU. Our chapters have continued to offer scholarships to deserving students in their local communities and support the "Closing the Gap" initiative to keep students in school at our beloved alma mater. Our reunion classes continue to raise the bar with their fundraising efforts which are producing huge donations to the school. Under the leadership of Mr. Tony Wright (SSUNAA VP) and Ms. Kelli Siebert (EASC President), our organization was able to raise over \$75K for the Tom Joyner School of the Month campaign in November of 2018. No matter how difficult the odds against our success may be, we continue to fight for our institution. Now we may not always agree on what is the best method to address our issues and challenges, but we all agree that we owe Savannah State more than we can ever repay.

In January of this year, the 13th President of Savannah State University, Dr. Cheryl D. Dozier announced that she will be retiring at the end of June. We would like to thank her for her service to SSU and her efforts to propel our students to become high achievers in the classroom and in their chosen fields of endeavor. We wish Dr. Dozier and her family all the best as they embark on this new journey in their lives.

Over the next several months, once again Savannah State will be experiencing significant changes. This is nothing new for us because we have endured changes for over 129 years. We will embrace these changes and find opportunities within them.

"You can't stop the future  
You can't rewind the past  
The only way to learn the secret  
...is to press play."  
— Jay Asher

In True Tiger Spirit,

*Clyde A. Newton*

Clyde A. Newton, SSUNAA President



## ALUMNI GIVE BACK

In honor of their graduation classmates, greek organizations, SSU Faculty and Staff and the National Alumni Association, alumni gathered at the class reunion brunch and at centerfield during halftime at the 2018 Homecoming football game to present Dr. Dozier a continuous stream of financial support to provide need-based scholarships for deserving students.

Classmates coming together to pool their resources to raise funds, is the new mode of effective fundraising on behalf of the university. Don't miss this one-of-a-kind opportunity to connect with your graduation classmates, Greek line sisters/brothers, athletic teammates, military colleagues, same degree colleagues to raise funds for your alma mater. Contact Mr. Phillip D. Adams, Vice President for University Advancement to learn how to get started at (912)358-3059.



## SSU PRESIDENT TO RETIRE



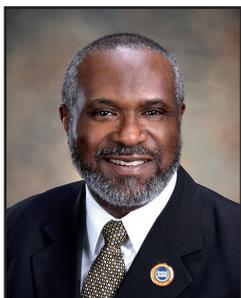
Dr Cheryl Dozier, 13th President of SSU has announced her retirement effective June 30, 2019. Dr. Dozier stated that "It has been an honor and a privilege to lead and serve as the 13th president of SSU – with the outstanding faculty and staff. The reward is the daily satisfaction of witnessing students succeed in the classroom and become the leaders in their chosen professions and communities. I am grateful to all of the stakeholders who daily support the success of SSU students."

## INTERIM PRESIDENT



**Kimberly Ballard-Washington** has been appointed Interim President by the University System of Georgia Board of Regents. Ballard -Washington previously served as interim president at Fort Valley State and Albany State Universities.

## HAPPENINGS @ SSU SSU FOUNDERS DAY



During SSU's Founders' Day Observance on November 8, 2018, Charles G. Young '76 was announced the recipient of the Cyrus G. Wiley Distinguished Award. Shirley Barber James was announced the recipient of the Richard R. Wright Excellence Award.

Amir Jamal Toure', JD, professor in the Africana Studies Program at SSU delivered the Founders Day message.

## COMMENCEMENT & HONORARY DEGREES



Darian Jackson (Dublin, Ga) and David Handler (Los Angeles, Calif.) received the President's Second Mile Award at SSU commencement ceremony on Saturday, December 8, 2018. This award recognizes remarkable leadership on campus, in the Savannah community and beyond and is open to graduating seniors.



Also during the commencement ceremony, SSU conferred honorary doctoral degrees on three distinguished alumni – Will Metts '85, Walter Gaskin '74 and Annie B. Andrews '83

**SAVANNAH STATE UNIVERSITY**  
Annual Scholarship Gala

An Evening of Gratitude and Celebration  
**4.6.19**

Savannah Marriott Riverfront  
100 General McIntosh Boulevard  
Savannah, GA 31401

6:30 p.m. - Reception  
7:30 p.m. - Dinner  
Black Tie

Please RSVP by March 25

Presentation of Awards of Excellence

Special tribute to Dr. Cheryl Davenport Dozier on the occasion of her retirement as president of Savannah State University

## CERTIFICATE IN VIRTUAL FORENSIC SCIENCE

This 18 - credit hour certificate program will begin in Fall 2019. It will be opened to students in any major as well as those employed in law enforcement, military or an associated area of forensic science, criminal justice or homeland security. The program will provide an immersive learning experience with SSU's exclusive 3-D virtual reality crime scene investigation technology.

## NATIONAL FREEDOM DAY AT SSU



SSU observed National Freedom Day on February 1 and 2. Teresa L Fry Brown, PhD, associate professor of homiletics at Emory University was guest speaker. Richard R. Wright, Sr., SSU first president is considered the architect of National Freedom Day, established to commemorate the signing of the 13th Amendment, which abolished slavery in the United States.

# SSUNAA NEWS

## SSUNAA HOMECOMING 2018 CELEBRATION



### National Alumni Royal Court

#### Ms. Lillie Hobbs, 2018 National Alumni Queen

2018 Alumna of the Year – Charles G. Young  
 2018 Family of the Year – LaVerne "Reynolds" Madison Family  
 2018 Chapter of the Year – Dublin - Laurens County Chapter

## SSUNAA Dublin - Laurens County Chapter Hosts Southern Region Conference



The annual SSUNAA Southern Region Conference was held March 1-2 in Dublin, GA. The conference serves as a forum to gain valuable information, fellowship and inspire each other

to continue to positively support SSU. Southern Region Vice President Birnell Hatcher, Chapter President John Battle, the conference planning committee, chaired by Kerry Smith and members of Dublin Laurens Chapter designed the conference to offer compelling sessions and workshops with interactive opportunities to discuss and exchange ideas.

## Georgia Alumni Association of Historically Black State Universities (GAAHBSU)



On January 22-24, 2019, alumni from Albany State, Fort Valley State and Savannah State Universities gathered in Atlanta for the annual GAAHBSU Legislative Conference. The collaboration of these three state universities was created 34 years ago to foster a collective effort to assure the continued existence, growth and advancement of these three unique higher educational institutions.

Because of the rapid changes which place new approaches and innovative solutions in order to move our universities forward in this global economy, this year's sessions were designed for alums to personally interact with representatives from Georgia State University and Thurgood Marshall College Fund. With these 2 sessions, alumni gained a better understanding of "best practices" that could have a great positive impact and enhance the challenges that our HBCU's face.

## JOHN L. BATTLE NAMED SSU'S 2019 MEAC DISTINGUISHED ALUMNUS

John Battle graduated in 1972 with a bachelor's degree in mathematics / physics. Originally from Eastman, GA, he graduated from Peabody High School. He retired in 1995 after serving 22 years in the U.S. Army and the U.S. Air Force at Warner Robins Air Force Base in Warner Robins, GA. In 2006 Battle retired again from the Warner Robins Air Force Base as a civil service employee.



### 2019 Scholarship Banquet

SSUNAA  
 South Dekalb Perimeter Chapter

Celebrating Student Scholars

### Saint Philip AME

240 Candler Rd. S.E. Atlanta, GA 30317

Please join us  
**APRIL 13@ 7PM**

Price Per person **\$60**

REQUEST YOUR TICKET TODAY

[/SSUNASDPC](https://www.facebook.com/SSUNASDPC)

770-990-9593



## GREATER ALBANY CHAPTER HIGH SCHOOL RECRUITMENT



## SSU 5K RUN/WALK



This activity is to raise funds for the Blue and Orange 5-K endowment at SSU. It was developed by SSU Alums Derrick Campbell, Wayne Govan, Kashandra Jackson and Chantrice Rogers to be awarded to students majoring in Mass Communication, Engineering or Biology.

**SSUNAA**  
**PO BOX 22843**  
**Savannah, GA 31403**

***Elected Officers***

Clyde Newton  
*President*

Tony Wright, Sr.  
*Vice President*

Cassandra Huntley  
*Recording Secretary*

Florine Baker  
*Corresponding Secretary*

Harold N. Washington  
*Treasurer*

Lisa Earls, MBA  
*Financial Secretary*

Lonnie Denton  
*Chaplain*

Roy L. Jackson  
*Immediate Past President*

***Regional Vice Presidents***

Birmell Hatcher  
*Southern Region*

Clifford Wilburn  
*Eastern Region*

*Northern Region*

John E. Lang  
*Mid-Western Region*

*Western Region*

***Appointed***

Dr. Percy Mack, Jr., Ed.D  
*Executive Vice-President*

James O. Thomas, Jr.  
*Parliamentarian*

Willie J. Walker, Esq.  
*General Legal Advisor*

Dr. Clemontine Washington, Ed.D  
*Constitution & By-Laws*

Alvernia W. Jackson  
*Liaison/Facilitator*

## **SSUNAA MEMBERSHIP**

**Fellow Alums,**

**Membership within the National Alumni Association is viable to increased support for our beloved university and its student body. Increased memberships within SSUNAA can have a greater impact when we lobby on behalf of education with our state and federal lawmakers. We will have a louder voice as we advocate at the Georgia Board of Regents for better programs, projects and support for SSU.**

**SSUNAA membership begins annually on July 1 and ends June 30. Complete an application online at [www.ssunaa.com](http://www.ssunaa.com) or contact us at [ssunaa1949@aol.com](mailto:ssunaa1949@aol.com) or by mail at**

**SSUNAA  
PO Box 22843  
Savannah, GA 31403**

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**Annual Membership - \$70  
Standard Life Membership - \$1,000  
Prestigious Life Membership - \$1,500  
Diamond Life Membership- \$2,500**