



## National Executive Committee



Greetings Panther Nation,

For the lifetime of our alumni and generations beyond, Henderson Institute continues to fortify the collective conscience with achievement and light. Because of the love poured into and out of the administrators, teachers, parents, students, and community; the reverberations of pride, dignity and promise that were once ringing in the halls of Henderson Institute are now resounding across the nation.

Last year because of the Covid-19 Pandemic, we postponed the 2020 Henderson Institute Annual Reunion and held a virtual reunion via Zoom. With the uncertainty of gathering in person again due to the pandemic, we still need to be mindful of everyone's safety; therefore, we have decided not to gather in person for our Annual Labor Day Reunion. However, we are not letting Covid get the best of us. We are diligently working to create a virtual annual reunion experience that leaves you connected, entertained, and fulfilled.

It gives me immense pleasure to announce that the **2021 Henderson Institute Annual Reunion will be presented via ZOOM Saturday, September 4, 2021, at 7:00 pm.** The National Executive Committee will be the host. The Zoom link will be forwarded via email and posted on the Association's website. Please make sure that your email address is current. For this event, we are making all of the necessary arrangements to make you feel comfortable. *We have booked a seat for you.*

Looking forward to seeing you at our virtual event. If you have questions, please feel free to reach out to me or any of the National Committee members.

Calvin Thompson, President

## Board of Directors Notes

### 1)- HI Board of Director Member Vacancy:

Regrettably, one of our Board members had to step down due to the sudden death of a loved one. "Mr. James "Buck" Brame was unable to continue in his Board role due to the loss of his oldest son. Our heart-felt prayers continue to go out for Mr. Brame and his family. James will be sorely missed for he served with great love and pride in support of Dear Ole H & I.

Currently, the Association has one vacant Board slot. If anyone is interested, please contact us at 914 552 8027.



### 2)-HI Scholarship Committee:

We extend our gratitude to Mr. Leslie Baskerville and Mr. C.B. Richardson for the many years of service in support of The HI Scholarship offering. Both gentlemen served with distinction for many year years. Mr. Baskerville resigned to spend more quality time with the family and to get some well-deserved rest. Mr. Richardson has decided to focus his energy on managing the Museum Endowment efforts full time. His multi-tasking efforts between the Scholarship Committee and the Endowment space became a bit of a challenge with his current transition from DC to Maryland.

**Important:** We are pleased to announce that two exceptional persons have already filled these slots; Mrs. Anita Patterson-Bailey and Ms. LaVerne "Lucy" Johnson-Pruden. Both ladies bring a world of business, Professional, Coordinating and Communication skills to the Association. It is with great appreciation that we welcome Anita and LaVerne into the HI Family of officers.

### **3)-HI Legacy Committee:**

Our former Legacy Committee Chairperson, Ms. Donetta Green-Evans was previously admitted to a facility for medical care. We were informed to proceed with filling this slot until future notice. We will continue to extend our prayers for Donetta and her family. When able, she will be welcomed back with open arms. Donetta performed tirelessly pulling this component of the Association together as well as growing the legacy membership. We are forever thankful for her leadership and direction.

**Important:** We realized the tremendous need to sustain the current status of the legacy effort by establishing a fully functional legacy team. We are blessed to have three extremely talented and well-rounded persons to step up to support our Legacy commitment. Join us in welcoming Ms. Anita Hicks, Ms. Flora Daye, and Ms. Alice Clements. They will be stepping into our New HI Legacy Committee as equal Co-Chairpersons. We are already expecting great things from this mature and well-developed team.

Bill Holden, Board Chairperson

## **HI Museum Planning and Operating Committee Update**

Due to the recent resignations of the HI Museum Curator, Ms. Edna Scott, and the Assistant Curator, Ms. Edith Carroll, a new HI Museum personnel structure has been established. The HI Museum Planning & Operating Committee was created to address the museums short and long-term requirements.

The committee members are as follows:

Ms. Dorothy Henderson – Current Museum Treasurer

Mr. Willie Holloway – Current Museum Building Coordinator

Ms. Sandra Walton-Jones, VP – National Executive Committee

Ms. Evelyn Alston, HI Fundraising Committee

Ms. Dorothy Terry-Justice, New Member, HI Class of '68

Ms. Ruth H. Wilson, HI Board, Museum Committee Coordinator

Ms. Karen Johnson, HI Board, Museum Committee Planner

To-date the committee has addressed the following areas:

- Building Security System to ensure that the security system is up-to-date and passcode

access is secure. Passcodes and keyholders have been identified.

- Detailed Museum Inventory: The Committee completed an extensive inventory of the museum in late April. The information is currently being input into a database for ongoing updates & tracking.
- Landscaping – Lawn: Mr. Willie Holloway is working with our lawn service provider to replenish the mulch around the building.
- Budget: John Hodge has completed the Museum's 2021 Operating Budget. All recurring service providers have been identified (Duke Energy, HVAC, Water, etc.).

Going forward, the Committee will address other critical areas to ensure that the HI Museum continues to serve the needs of the community and to highlight the many accomplishments and contributions of the HI Family.

The Committee would like to thank Ms. Edna Scott and Ms. Edith Carroll for their unwavering support to the HI Museum and the HI community. Their efforts stand as the lasting solid foundation for the future of the museum.

Karen Johnson, Museum Committee Planner

## **Henderson Institute Association** *Rolls Out Its New Website*

We are extremely excited to announce that the **Henderson Institute Alumni Association** launched a new website at ***Henderson-Institute.org*** on June 9, 2021.

The new site is a combination of the former Henderson Institute and Historical Museum Websites. The new HI website showcases unforgettable and notable people, places, and events.

Some of the great features on the new site include:

- A *historical timeline* on the evolution of Henderson Institute;
- A *virtual museum* tour for the benefit of all but, particularly for those who may not be able to visit the Museum;
- HI yearbooks between 1953 and 1970 that allow you to scroll back in time;
- An array of pictures from previous class reunions and other events held previously;
- Online capability to join and/or make a contribution to the Association, as well as register for each Annual Reunion; and
- Access to future issues of the Panther Prowl and the HI Newsletter.

The website will also honor HI alums who have made significant contributions to Henderson Institute's legacy. For its debut, the site will honor the following alums:

- Mrs. Henrietta Clark, whose contribution was instrumental in supporting the Museum.
- Ms. Andrea Harris, who worked tirelessly to support HI programs that focused on attaining economic parity for the overall African American community.
- Our honorable Tuskegee Airmen graduates who changed the military with their valiant achievements.
- Robert Bogan, Founder of the HI Scholarship Program; and Co-Founder of the Alfred Street Baptist Church's Historically Black Colleges and University Festival, a New Initiative that the Association participates.
- World renowned musical icon, Mr. Gerald Alston, lead singer of the Manhattans. (Visit the site to hear Gerald sing a beautiful rendition "A Change is Going to Come"; and
- Mr. Arlando Smith, famed television writer, stage manager and director who contributed to many favorite shows including, *The Jeffersons*, *All in the Family*, *227*, and the Richard Pryor show

We invite you to visit the site and share it with friends and family. We also invite you to share significant memorabilia that you may have collected pertaining to the Henderson Institute story. It is important that we continue to add to the Museum's collection to ensure that the legacy of this great institution is shared with all. We would like to thank all who contributed to supporting the reality of this project. Your contributions are greatly appreciated.

Thank you in advance for visiting the site and we hope to hear from you soon.

Jacqueline Woodard and Frederick Williams, Website Co-Chairs

### **The Triad Chapter**

The Triad is planning to make smaller donations to the Boys and Girls Club and Shop With The Cops programs. Fundraising alternatives, other than what we have done in the past, are being considered. There are currently 28 paid members. Some members made an additional donation included with their dues to defray our costs since we could not have any fundraising functions. New members are invited to join. Meetings are still on the first Saturday of every other month.

Marian Harrison, President

## Henderson Institute-Robert Bogan Scholarship Recipients



Taliya Lewis

The Henderson Institute-Robert Bogan Scholarship annually awards scholarships to students which have a positive attitude and are highly motivated to make a difference for a successful future in their personal lives as well as the community.

The 2020 recipient was Taliya Lewis. Taliya is the daughter of Lekwameh and Talisha Lewis. She was a graduate of Vance County High School. Her school activities include Varsity Women's Basketball, Women's Soccer, VCHS National Beta Club and VCHS Student Government Association. Currently she attends The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.



Yazi Majette

The 2021 recipient is Yazi Majette. She is the daughter of Rahesha Medina and Jimmy Majette. Presently she is attending Vance County Early College. Her extracurricular activities include Student Council Representative, Romanian Club, Yearbook Club and Teen Court. She plans to further her education at Winston-Salem State University in the Fall.

Each recipient will receive a \$1,000.00 reoccurring scholarship for four years when requirements are met.

This scholarship was established 14 years ago.

### Necrology Report

From January 21 to June 19, 2021, the HI family experienced nine deaths, . Contact was made with a card, a call or both. We hope that the concern expressed to our fellow members with help them through difficult times.

LeVerne Burwell Grant, Chairperson

## TRANSITIONS

### *Graduate/Former Student*

*Henrietta Clark*

*Maurice Harrison*

*Veronica Martin*

*Hiawatha Nicholson*

*William T. "Bo" Wynn*

### *Family*

*James A. Brame, son of James "Buck" Brame*

*Joanne Palmieri Garnes, mother of Anthony Garnes*

*Ozella Jones Vass, mother of Frank Vass*

*Ronnie Williams, brother of Billy Williams*

## *We Say Thank You, Mrs. Clark*

**“Lest We Forget”!** Henderson Institute graduates, former students, former teachers, staff and administrators, and the many associates of the former Henderson Institute gratefully identify with that famous slogan from Vance County’s former negro high school. In fact, that is the motto of the Henderson Institute Graduates and Former Students Association, Inc. An organization formed and chartered out of a vision stemmed from love for a heritage nurtured, prospered, and is still today being encouraged forward for everyone to partake.

The Henderson Institute Graduate and Former Students Association, Inc. celebrates and recognizes that vision and that love as being the catalyst that sparked the legacy of Henrietta Cross Hatton Clark with the HI organization. Mrs. Clark was a proud member, and graduate of the Class of 1934 of Henderson Institute. We give honor to her for having a vision for the preservation of a past that has affected so many lives. A vision that is honored and propelled forward today as the HI association continues to thrive and move. In 1981, Vance County Board of Education voted to begin demolition of the last two (2) remaining structures from the original Henderson Institute campus. The Administration and Classroom Building, and the Science and Laboratory Building which also housed the school’s Library were meeting a scheduled demise. The newer buildings from the expanded campus of Henderson Institute, known as the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Wings, were being incorporated into the county’s newly formed Eaton-Johnson Middle School.

This was disturbing to Mrs. Clark. As the administration building demolition was already set, she began making calls and rallying other alumni with the sole purpose of saving the last building. The vision to commence preserving the history of Henderson Institute, the high school that was

established in 1891, through its last graduating class in 1970, for the education of the Negro population of the area. That group of former students formed an association and began work to present a grand plan to the board of education. Mrs. Clark represented the Alumni Association by requesting that the Association be allowed to restore the last remnant of the school. The board agreed and leased the building to the association for one (1) dollar per year for ten (10) years.

Mrs. Clark continued the restoration charge by contacting the local representative to the North Carolina General Assembly.

A request for monies from the Assembly’s “pork barrel” fund was granted. That donation began a three (3) year repair and preservation journey. During that time, she and the group actively sought additional supporting financial assistance, furnishings, and artifacts. Contributions such as office furniture, signages, etc. were willingly gifted from community merchants and citizens.

Being impressed by the Association’s dedication and hard work, in 1986, Vance County Board of Education deeded the building to the Henderson Institute Graduates and Former Students Association, Inc. An HI ‘Panther Victory’ was gained, and a visible reminder of our motto, **“Lest We Forget”**, was continuing to prosper. (HI Panthers, while not knowing the date of this victory, wouldn’t it be nice if it was the 3<sup>rd</sup> week of October??) The building became The Henderson Institute Historical Museum.

Original school catalogs from 1907-1913 are stored in the North Carolina State Archives. Mrs. Clark, and her husband Olander Clark, financed the photocopying of these catalogs and donated them to the Henderson Institute Historical Museum. The catalogs remain on display today.



Mrs. Clark served on the Henderson Institute Graduates and Former Students Association Board of Directors for over ten (10) years. She led the organization for four (4) years as Board Chairperson.

Henrietta Cross Hatton Clark, an esteemed graduate of Winston-Salem Teacher's College now known as Winston-Salem State University, was a well-known and respected educator in Vance County. While every student at Henderson Institute may not have had a personal relationship or personal contact with Mrs. Clark, all who attended the school or even visited the campus have a small recollection of her existence. Mrs. Clark's home, then known as Mrs. Hatton, wife of Leo Hatton, stood directly across the street from the main entrance and the front of Henderson Institute's beautiful campus. The home stands there today. Many who matriculated the school, and young people in general, grew up in the communities around her. She was an influence in many of their lives. She welcomed so many to her home to swim in her pool, for the Negroes were not allowed to use the public swimming pools. She always encouraged all young people to do their best in school and in life. She was very inspiring and would continually remind you to become the greatest you can be. So, we say, "THANK YOU!"

A respected leader and mentor within the HI association, Henrietta Cross Hatton Clark died on March 3, 2021. She was so instrumental in establishing the association's second greatest asset, The Henderson Institute Historical Museum. The greatest asset, of course, are the people. The museum, through the dedication and creativity of each Curator through the years, has allowed us to gather there yearly to look at just a little of our past; articles, artifacts such as old band uniforms, majorette boots, instruments, school paraphernalia, trophies and awards, and pictures of our teachers, athletes, classes, etc. A particular favorite to everyone is the bust of Mr. C.V. "Boss" Knight, gifted in memory by his family. The Museum has kept us grounded while remembering our motto "*Lest We Forget*". The rescuing of that building

and the creation of the museum has given us continued opportunity to have a physical place of reflection and the recall of valuable memories. The past **must be** remembered to get to the future and to appreciate it to its fullest. Alumni still come to the museum, along with children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, family, friends, and neighbors to enjoy and learn. A hallowed place that was made possible from a vision, coupled with passion, tenacity, and lots of cooperation. It stirs feelings of happiness and pride, along with thankfulness to God for bringing us this far. Not by all, but by much of Mrs. Clark's encouragement, and by her faith and by our faith in God we are able to say, "Thank You".

We salute Mrs. Clark and her invaluable contributions to Henderson Institute and to the Association. She and her "ground laying" works will always be remembered and certainly appreciated. We, the Henderson Institute Graduates and Former Students Association, Inc. say "THANK YOU" Mrs. Henrietta Cross Hatton Clark, member of the graduating class of 1934! "*Lest We Forget*"!

That vision, The Henderson Institute Historical Museum, remains today in its original location on the edge of the former Henderson Institute campus, at 629 W. Rockspring St. Just as Mrs. Clark gave example, we envision a necessary expansion for additional space created by the county's recently closed and evacuated Eaton-Johnson Middle School. (Remember, this is where the 1<sup>st</sup> Wing and the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wing of the former Henderson Institute campus are located.)

The Henderson Institute Graduates and Former Students Association, Inc. continues to forge ahead representing the goals and visions of Mrs. Clark and those original association members, and of our ancestors, and those who came before. The Association hosts an Annual School Reunion in Vance County during every Labor Day weekend. Recognition will be given to Mrs. Henrietta Cross Hatton Clark during that weekend, along with other fallen HI Panthers. "*Lest We Forget*"!

*Written by Linda Kelly Terry*

# Henderson Institute Graduates and Former Students Association, Inc.

## Membership Form

P.O. Box 2081

Henderson, NC 27536  
henderson-institute.org

(252) 430-0616

MEMBERSHIP     New     Renewal     Change of Address

Place an (X) in the appropriate area(s)

**Graduating Class** (state year 1930 –1970) \_\_\_\_\_

**Former Student, Graduated from Another School** (*indicate attendance year(s), 1964-1973*) \_\_\_\_\_

**Legacy Membership** (*relative or spouse of a graduate or a former student*) \_\_\_\_\_  
Relative's Name

**Honorary** (*Not directly affiliated with Henderson Institute. Must be recommended by a member to the Board of Directors for approval*)

**Faculty/Employee**(state year(s) \_\_\_\_\_

### MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Last First Maiden Suffix

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
Home Cell

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

### CONTRIBUTIONS

General Operating Fund \$ \_\_\_\_\_  National Scholarship Fund \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Museum Endowment Fund \$ \_\_\_\_\_  Museum Operating Fund \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Other (Name) \_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_

### TOTAL FUNDS PAID

National Dues **\$20.00**    Contributions \$ \_\_\_\_\_    Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_

*Make check payable to:*

Henderson Institute  
PO Box 2081  
Henderson, NC 27536  
ATTN: Membership

# Panther Checklist



- ✓ Plan for the Virtual Reunion, Saturday, September 4, 2021, at 7:00 pm.
- ✓ Make sure you have internet access and if needed, someone to help you.
- ✓ Get updated HI and Reunion information at the new website:  
[www.henderson-institute.org](http://www.henderson-institute.org)
- ✓ Remember to pay your membership dues.
- ✓ Notify the membership chair when your contact information changes.
- ✓ Notify the necrology chair when there is a death.