



THE PANTHER PROWL

HENDERSON INSTITUTE NEWSLETTER FEBRUARY 2024

HENDERSON INSTITUTE BOARD of DIRECTORS

- William Holden, Chair
- Larry Carroll, Vice Chair
- Karen P. Johnson
- John Martin
- James Ragland
- Ozon Terry
- Frederick Williams
- Ruth H. Wilson
- Jacqueline Woodard
- Janice E. Woods

Dear HI Family,

We hope this Newsletter finds you and your loved ones in good health and renewed Spirit. As we enter this new year of 2024, our hearts are filled with warmth and devotion for those HI family members who have gone on before us. We will stay the course and continue to focus on meeting the HI Alumni Association objectives and enhancing your HI experience. Whether you choose to physically visit our Historical Museum, connect to the HI Website, take a virtual educational tour and/or join the celebration at this year’s Reunion, we know you’ll find the HI experience positive and uplifting.

The Board remains true to our purpose of consistently promoting interest, pride and awareness of our legacy, Henderson Institute, collaborating with the alumni, friends of HI and the Vance Co./Henderson community at large. In pursuance of this goal, we have outlined and remain focused on the following initiatives:

- a)-Ensure the stability and maintenance of the HI Historical Museum
- b)-Enhance the HI experience through educational, cultural and enrichment programs.
- c)-Recognize the achievements of alumni who have distinguished themselves in their careers and community service.
- d)-Acknowledge student academic excellence and achievement through awards and scholarships.

2023 BOARD COMMITTEES’ STATUS UPDATE

Museum Committee

Karen P. Johnson, Chair James Henderson, Vice Chair
Evelyn Alston LeVerne Burwell-Grant Linda Terry



The HI Museum Committee continues its mission to educate the Henderson/Vance County community of its rich history and to serve as an inspiration for future generations.

Tours/Activities: Throughout the year, various school, church, and family groups toured the Museum, including the following:

- The Vance County Schools’ “Just U and Me Mentoring Program,,” lead by its Director, Dr. Raphael Holloman
- A group of 16 visitors from Kentucky, led by Lenwood Jefferson, an alum of HI who served 27 years in the military.
- A group from Cotton Memorial Presbyterian Church toured the Museum as part of its 185th Anniversary Celebration
- Harold Richardson, a HI alum and veteran hosted an event at the Museum in observance of Veterans’ Day.

Find pictures and forms at www.henderson-institute.org

New Exhibit: A dedicated album featuring the athletic and coaching accomplishments of 1970 HI alum, James Melvin Ragland, is now on display in the museum. James' outstanding performance as a wrestler, football player and wrestling coach at South Carolina State University earned him numerous awards and recognitions, and induction into South Carolina State University Hall of Fame. James has also been named a Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference (MEAC) Coaching Legend.

Exhibit Updates: -The Museum Directors/Curator's Wall has been adorned with the portraits of Directors; Mr. Wendell Taylor, Ms. Ruth Burt and Curator, Ms. Edna Scott. The Obituary Binders have been restored and completed.



Association / Museum Voicemail Management

Chairperson, Dorothy T. Justus, addressed all voicemail calls via our HI voicemail system in a timely and efficient manner.

Necrology

Chairperson, LeVerne B.-Grant provided sympathy cards and made condolence calls to family members of our HI deceased.

2024 Plans

- The plan is to enhance our relationship with Vance County Schools and conduct more student group tours.
- Continue to follow-up on the funding request to the NC Assembly.
- Continue to focus on improvements to the building such as exterior trim painting and museum signage.

Museum Facility Support Committee

Willie Holloway, Chair

James Henderson, Vice Chair

Larry Carroll John Hodges Ozon Terry

Facility Improvements:

- Lighting on the 1st and 2nd floors of the museum have been repaired.
- New ceiling tiles for the museum office were installed to replace damaged tiles.
- A new computer and laptop for the 2nd floor has been purchased and are operational.

Constitution and By-Laws Committee

Calvin Thompson, Co-Chair Janice Woods, Co-Chair

The Board of Directors and the National Executive Committee have combined efforts to review the Constitution and Bylaws. The goal of the Committee is to suggest revisions that address challenges currently facing the Association. Robert Thompson, President of the National Executive Committee, and Janice Ellis Woods, Board Member, are serving as Co-chairs of the committee. They are fortunate to have Rose Jean Bullock, Ruth Helen Wilson, Sandra Walton Jones, and Marian Nelson working with them.

The Committee will submit draft recommendations to the full Board for their review and approval. All proposed changes will be reviewed and approved working with the HI membership body during the 2024 Business Meeting.

Website Committee

Frederick Williams, Co-Chair

Jacquelyn Woodard, Co-Chair

The HI Website Team posted more than 120 pictures from the 2023 reunion on the Website platform and they're currently available for viewing online. The Board extends our thanks to M. Thompson for photography services during the Reunion. The HI Website Service Provider's previous enhancements have improved overall Website performance to include increased processing speed and additional storage.



Budget and Financial Planning Committee

John Hodge, Chair Barbara Crews, Vice Chair
Linda Terry Scholarship Committee Member
James Henderson Calvin Thompson

The Budget Committee prepared the 2024 budget and reviewed it with the Board. The final budget was submitted to the Board, and it was approved. We're introducing tools and processes to improve transaction monitoring via more timely reporting and escalation of exceptions.

Nominating Committee

Ozon Terry, Chair Larry Carroll
John Martin John Hodge
Executive Committee Representative

We welcomed Mr. John Martin and Mr. James Ragland to the HI Board via the Nominating Committee process during 2023. Both gentlemen are graduates of the Class of 70.



Henderson Institute/Robert Bogan Scholarship Committee



Robert Bogan, Chair Anita Bailey Vivian Bullock James Harrison
Barbara Massey Elnora O'Hara Edward Ellis Deborah Brown
Geraldine Floyd LaVerne "Lucy" Johnson Pruden Jacqueline Woodard



Announcements for the 2024 HI Scholarships were sent via email on February 8, 2024, to all high schools in Vance County. Completed applications must be returned by March 19, 2024. The Applications process also includes an interview with the Henderson Institute Scholarship Committee. The program was created to recognize and support County High School Seniors academic futures and as an investment in the local communities' future goals. **Applicants must have excelled in their subject area and must be pursuing higher education at an accredited college or university.** Funding is made available to cover a portion of their related school expenses from their freshman year and beyond. Awards are made based on merit and community involvement. Recipients are notified of the results by a letter sent to them no later than the first Tuesday in May. School Counselors are also notified of these awards. Additional information about the program can be found on the Henderson-Institute.org. Website. **Eligible students are Vance County seniors, or seniors who can establish legacy (descendent of a graduate or former student of Henderson Institute). Students must meet the established criteria as outlined on the Henderson-Institute Website**

The Robert Bogan Scholarship Committee completed a major milestone during 2023. The Committee effectively managed its' overall investments, and they will sustain the HI Scholarship program in perpetuity. The program continued its mission of awarding four scholarships annually to four eligible College-Focused-Students during 2023.

The Alfred Street Baptist Church HBCU Scholarship Program

Ozone Terry Larry Carroll Sandra Jones Jackie Woodard
John Martin James Ragland Janice Woods

The Alfred Street Baptist Church HBCU Scholarship program was a tremendous success during 2023. Dr. Cindy Bennett, Superintendent Vance County Board of Education, fully embraced the program in Oct. 2023. Dr. Ross-Putney and Dr. Hall were introduced as additional support. Dr. Hall worked with the HI team every step of the program. Nine students were selected and travelled to the beautiful St. James Sport Complex, site of the Scholarship Festival in Springfield, Va.; three students participated virtually. All the students agreed it was the opportunity of a lifetime. The students and several HI members were invited and attended the Vance County. Board. of Education's December meeting. HI officers were acknowledged and celebrated. Superintendent Bennett and her team were excited about the partnership with HI and are looking forward to next year's program.

Black History Month Reminder

Black History is under attack by some states across the country. Educators are being restricted from teaching Black History, and Black History books are being removed from library shelves. Martin Luther King, Jr. said “Nothing in all the world is more dangerous than sincere ignorance and conscientious stupidity.” In a straightforward sense, Dr. King highlights the fact that these two states of mind can lead individuals, societies, and nations down a treacherous path. Sincere ignorance refers to the lack of knowledge or understanding about a particular subject, while conscientious stupidity refers to deliberate refusal to acknowledge facts and evidence.”



Our HI Museum is one of Henderson’s/Vance County’s most precious vaults of Black History. We need your continual support to keep our Museum, Our Treasure Chest of Black History, intact and thriving.

Lest We Forget”



Annual Henderson Christmas Parade

Evelyn Alston Linda Kelly

The Henderson Annual Christmas parade was held on Saturday, December 2, 2023. The theme of the Henderson Institute float was “Frosty and the Star.” Participants included Cub Scout Troop 101, Donald Floyd, Troop Leader, and Den Mother, Shuquana Charley.

We will continue to encourage members of the Association to participate in the annual parade.

THE 47th ANNUAL SCHOOL REUNION

The Henderson Institute Graduates and Former Students Alumni Association celebrated its 47th Annual Reunion, Labor Day weekend, Friday, September 1 - Saturday, September 2, 2023. The weekend was hosted by the Henderson Institute Executive Committee, and all activities were held at Vance Granville Community College. Friday evening participants received their registration materials then gathered for a Meet and Greet where they enjoyed a light repast, cornhole, bid whist and old school music. Throughout the weekend event, a slide presentation of past reunions was displayed, and HI merchandise was sold.

Saturday morning began with brunch. Calvin Thompson, Executive Committee Chair welcomed the group and Ola Thorpe-Cooper offered thanks. After the meal, William Holden, Board of Directors Chair opened the Annual Business Meeting. Committee reports and updates were given.

The Reunion Banquet was held Saturday evening. The Executive Committee and members from the classes of 1953 (Elnora Russell O’Hara) and 1963 (Charles Bullock, Pattie Peace Kittrell) participated in the program. Guest speaker, Terrell Blackmon, Henderson City Manager, reflected on the community and how it had changed throughout the years, and saxophonist, Gilbert Avent, entertained the audience with two soulful performances. The Memoriam presentation was narrated by the Necrology Chair, LeVerne Burwell-Grant (1969). Highlighting the evening was the recognition of three 1969 alums, John Hodge, Vera Daye Hodge, and Barbara Mason Crews, and one legacy, Alycia Crews, for over 30 years of service to the Reunion Registration Committee. They received individual plaques and lifetime Association memberships. Jamie Burwell was posthumously awarded for his dedicated service to the Association. After announcements and remarks, the evening ended in the singing of the Henderson Institute Alma Mater.

TRANSITIONS

September 2023 – February 2024

Your memory is a keepsake from which we will never part.

You are in God's keeping, and forever in our hearts.

Plummer Carl Bailey

Beatrice Ellison Barnhart

Freddie Bullock, Jr.

Lisle Bullock

Louise Henderson Burwell

William Clements Carroll, Sr.

Deloris Naomi Champion

Evelyn Maria Champion

Mary Southerland Evans

Antonio Griffin

Florence D. Scott Griffith

Joyce O. Williams Watson

Josephine Davis Hargrove

James Brooks "Kookie"

Hawkins

Vallie Marie Jiggetts

Edith Johnson Kingsberry

Jay Everett McClean

Barbara Joanne Marrow

James Hubert Royster

Josephine Taylor

Nathaniel Taylor

Claude Williams, Jr

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Calvin Thompson, National President Sandra W. Jones, 1st Vice Pres

Harold Richardson, 2nd Vice Pres. Evelyn Alston, Secretary James Harrison, Asst. Secretary

Linda Terry, Treasurer Dorothy Henderson, Asst. Treasurer John Hodge, Fin. Sec.

Barabara Crews, Asst. Fin. Sec. Ola Thorpe-Copper, Nat. Awards

LeVerne Burwell-Grant, Necrology Vera Hodge, Membership Susie P. Warren, Chaplain

Ola Thorpe-Copper, Asst. Chaplain Ruth H. Wilson, Publications

Robert Bogan, Nat. Scholarship Gilbert McKnight, Parliamentarian

Willie Holloway, Sergeant-at-Arms

Executive Committee Report

Thanks to the loyal panthers for your continued support of our Alumni Association. It is greatly appreciated.

The National Executive Committee is in the process of planning for the 2024 Annual Reunion which will be held August 30-31, 2024, at the Henderson Country Club. We will continue the fun that we had last year with music, card games and cornhole.

To assist Alumni who no longer drive at night or who have transportation barriers, we are investigating shuttle service availability. The customer will pay the cost.

Catering, program, and activity decisions have not yet been finalized. Therefore, please be prepared for an increase in the 2024 registration fee. The 2023 registration fee was \$75.00.

Again, thank you for your support and please try to **REFLECT**.

REFLECTIONS

The Executive Committee needs YOUR help. Please reflect on your times at Henderson Institute and share those memories with us. Your reflections will be featured in a slide presentation at the 2024 Reunion.

REFLECT on:

- A favorite teacher or class, even substitute teachers
- The cafeteria and the cafeteria workers
- The staff – principals, secretaries, and custodians
- The Band
- Athletics (Picking up rocks off the field before daytime football games), students and coaches.
- Clubs and summer camp
- Activities – plays, talent shows and parades.



Please feel free to **REFLECT on multiple topics**.

Mail your memories to Ruth H. Wilson, 1509 Lifespring Lane, Wake Forest, NC, 27587 or email to luckiewilson1509@gmail.com. **Please include your name and maiden name, and year of graduation or attendance.**