



THE
PANTHER PROWL

HENDERSON INSTITUTE 50TH REUNION NEWSLETTER JUNE 2026

Greetings Panther Nation!

With pride and joy, we invite you to join us for a very special weekend as we celebrate the 50th Henderson Institute Graduates and Former Students Association Annual Reunion—***the Golden Anniversary Reunion***.

Fifty years have passed since our first annual reunion, and we are excited to mark this unforgettable milestone together. While much has changed over the years, the memories, friendships, and shared experiences that connect us remain as meaningful as ever. This is a once-in-a-lifetime celebration, and your presence would make it even more special.

Our 2026 reunion will be a three-day celebration of laughter, reflection, and togetherness, taking place September 11–13, 2026.

Friday, September 11, 2026

- Golf outing at Kerr Lake Country Club, 600 Hedrick Dr, Henderson, NC
- Meet and Greet at Vance-Granville Community College, 200 Community College Rd., Henderson, NC 27537, featuring games, food, and karaoke
- Attire is casual—just come as you are and enjoy reconnecting with old friends.

Saturday, September 12, 2026

- Breakfast and business meeting
- **A Black Tie, Black and Gold Formal Banquet at Vance-Granville Community College, an afternoon of glamour and elegance in honor of our 50th Annual Reunion.**
- Hosted by the Class of 1966

Sunday, September 13, 2026

- **Black and Gold Sunday Worship Service** at Kesler Temple AME Zion Church, 426 E. Winder St., Henderson, NC, at 11:00 AM
- Sunday afternoon matinee featuring Gerald Alston & the Manhattans at 3:00 PM at McGregor Hall

We will continue our two featured competitions, along with several drawings throughout the weekend.

1. **Most Alumni Participants:** The class with the highest number of registrants will receive the 2026 Gold Cup for Most Alumni Participants. The cup will be displayed in the museum with a placard naming the winning class year. The winning class will hold this distinction for 2026 and may defend it in 2027.
2. **New Member Recruitment:** The alumnus who recruits and registers the newest Association members will receive free registration for two participants for the 2027 Annual Reunion. A **Referred By** section is available both online and on the Membership Form.

We are thrilled to welcome you, your classmates, your friends, and your family back to this landmark reunion celebration. Please mark your calendar for this unforgettable 50th reunion weekend and be sure to register by the deadline. We look forward to celebrating with you!

**Calvin Thompson, President
National Executive Committee**

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

REUNION PLANNING COMMITTEE

Calvin Thompson, National President Sandra Jones, National Vice President
Evelyn Alston, Secretary Ola Thorpe-Cooper Alice Clements Barbara Crews Fedora Daye
LeVerne Burwell-Grant James Harrison Dorothy B. Henderson James Henderson
John Hodge Vera Hodge Ruth H. Wilson Rose Jean Bullock (Class of 1966)

HENDERSON INSTITUTE

50th Annual Reunion

SCHEDULE of EVENTS

Friday, September 11, 2026

Golf Outing	Kerr Lake Country Club	7:00 AM
Registration	Vance-Granville Comm Coll	4:00 PM
Meet and Greet	Vance-Granville Comm Coll	5:00 PM

Saturday, September 12, 2026

Breakfast	Vance-Granville Comm Coll	9:00 AM
Business Meeting	Vance-Granville Comm Coll	10:00 AM
Museum Open	HI Historical Museum	1:00-3:00 PM
50 th Reunion Banquet	Vance-Granville Comm Coll	5:00 PM

Sunday, September 13, 2026

Church Service	Kesler Temple AMEZ Church	11:00 AM
Gerald Alston and the Manhattans	McGregor Hall	3:00 PM

Please Be Aware!

Only HI Alumni Association members may register themselves and/or their guests for Reunion activities. Note the following:

1. The HI Alumni Association Membership form is separate from the Annual Reunion Registration form. Please pay your 2026 membership dues even if you do not plan to attend the Reunion.
2. The Reunion Registration form is on the back of the Association Membership form.
3. Only current HI Alumni Association members who have paid their 2026 dues may register for the Reunion.
4. Submitted Reunion Registration forms from non-members of the HI Alumni Association will not be processed. Make sure that your membership is current.
5. Your membership year will be located below your name on the Reunion Newsletter address label. If the year is 2025 or before 2025, submit Association dues with your Reunion registration.

HENDERSON INSTITUTE BOARD of DIRECTORS

William "Bill" Holden, Chair Larry Carroll, Vice Chair Jeanette Kingsberry, Secretary
John Martin Karen Patterson Johnson James Ragland Frederick Williams Ruth H. Wilson
Jacquelyn Woodard Janice Woods

The Board sponsors a Golf Outing to support Vance County Public Schools students' participation in the Alfred Street Baptist Church HBCU Festival.

Please see the enclosed flyer.



Members of the Class of 1966 will be performing at the Reunion Banquet

*Sunday,
September 13
3:00 PM*

*McGregor Hall
Henderson, NC*

*Tickets: \$35.00 +
Processing*

*Box Office:
(252) 598-0662*



LIVE IN CONCERT
THE Manhattans
SUNDAY
SEPTEMBER 13TH
2026
TICKETS ON SALE MONDAY, MAY 11th 2026
LIVE AT **McGregor Hall**
Part of the Henderson Institute Alumni Association 50th Year Anniversary Celebration

**Please take time to review and complete the Awards Nomination Form.
Let others know that their efforts are appreciated.**

Custom HI Golf/Polo Shirt



We are pleased to offer custom polo shirts for our upcoming event. The shirts will create a unified look, making the occasion even more memorable and giving everyone a special keepsake to

remember the day.

Here's what you need to

know:

- **Sizes Available:**S-5XL (please double-check your size before submitting) **Note:** The shirts run a size larger than your normal size.

- **Price:** \$20.00 per shirt
- **Deadline to Order:** August 28, 2026
- **Payment:** Please include with your registration

Please submit your size and payment before the deadline so we can ensure everyone gets their shirt on time.

If you have any questions about sizing or ordering, feel free to reach out to me directly. Let's make this event extra special!

Thanks

Calvin Thompson
calvint426h@gmail.com



The Executive Committee is still finalizing a few details. Information about the Meet and Greet and motel accommodations will be shared by email and may also be posted on the website.

TRANSITIONS

William E. Burwell (1964)

Bettie Ruth Peace Dawson (1966)

Carolyn McKnight (1968)

Annie W. Monroe (1961)

Rev Saint Joseph Silver (1966)

James "Smitty" Smith (1969)