

# JOURNAL OF SISTERHOOD

The official newsletter of the National Alumnae Association of Spelman College.

September 2016

## From The President's Desk

Greetings Spelman Sisters!

Welcome to our new monthly newsletter! I am Tara Leigh Buckner, C'87, president of the National Alumnae Association of Spelman College (NAASC). I am so very excited about serving you and all of the opportunities it brings to strengthen our organization and support our beloved Spelman College.

This year, we celebrate the, *quasquicentennial* of the founding of our alumnae association by Clara Howard, C'1892. NAASC is an integral part of how Spelman College achieves its mission. Moreover, our alumnae have been recognized for leading the model of HBCU alumni financial giving, college recruitment and Sisterhood. The theme for the 2016-2017 program year is, "**Living the Legacy of Sisterhood, Service and Success.**" The membership committee has been working very hard to plan and execute a wonderful year of tribute to the work of Sister Clara Howard and NAASC. I plan to build on the hard work of the previous NAASC presidents by focusing on five areas that serve our organization and the College.

### 1. **Membership! Membership!**

#### **Membership!**

National Membership Chair Diandria Barber, C' 90 is implementing a new strategy that includes expanded services to current and new members. Together with NAASC Vice President and Spelman College Director of Alumnae Affairs Sharon Owens, I will work with Spelman College leadership to strengthen the relationship so that we are exchanging ideas around the needs of the College as well as what is important to all alumnae.

### 2. **Celebrate the Greatness of NAASC!**

This program year, we will celebrate the 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the founding of our alumnae association. We honor the first graduates of Spelman Seminary – Ella N. Barksdale, Lou E. Mitchell, Adeline J. Smith, Sallie B. Waugh, Ella L. Williams, and Clara Howard, who became the first president of the Spelman Club. We also acknowledge the incorporation of the NAASC in 1976 – 40 years ago.

### 3. **Service: Do Something for You...Do Something for Your Community**

Spelman women are about improving the places where they live. We must,

however, take care of ourselves while also providing service to our communities. I would like our chapters take a two prong approach to service. I would like us to "Do something for you and do something for your community."

***Do something for you...***

NAASC will continue its relationship with the American Heart Association, supporting, the "Love Your Heart Month" effort in February. Heart disease is the number one killer of women in the United States.

***Do something for your community...***

New this year is that NAASC will establish a relationship with the Children's Defense Fund, led by our own Spelman Sister, Marian Wright Edelman, C'65. This effort will focus around the CDF's efforts to end child poverty and violence in America.

**4. Fundraising for Spelman**

We will continue our support of the Donald and Isabel Stewart Endowed Student Scholarship which directly supports our Spelman little sisters. Contributing to DISES is a great way to know your impact on the College. All DISES donations count toward challenge gifts such as your reunion class gift and/or homecoming.

**5. Strengthen the Executive Committee and Chapter Operations.**

I plan to support chapter operations by improving the effectiveness of the Executive Committee. Building on Immediate Past President Dr. Daphne Smith's work, I will increase the transparency of the Committee's work, via this newsletter and by offering training for NAASC leadership so that we have efficient meetings. This includes the use of training webinars on agenda setting, parliamentary procedure, budgeting, fundraising, and membership development to improve the effectiveness of chapters as well as providing learning opportunities that are of interest to the general membership. In addition, I encourage the participation of presidents and vice presidents in the December Leadership Development Institute where we will offer information that will be appreciated by your chapters.

**6. Seek out Opportunities to Celebrate Sisterhood.**

Our sisterhood is strong! Our love and care for each other is envied by many organizations, let's keep enjoying each other and learning from each other. Let's celebrate us and the collective achievement of us.

All this and more is proposed for the 2016-2017 program year. Please join me in supporting NAASC through work and play!

Sisterly,

*Tara L. Buckner*

## Meet the 2016-2017 NAASC Executive Committee!

The National Alumnae Association is governed by the Executive Committee. The Committee is made up of both elected and appointed officers. This month we feature the elected officers!



**Tara Leigh Buckner, C'87**

**Position:** President

**Major at Spelman:** Political Science

**Degrees:** B.A., M.P.A.

**Current Employer:** Better Family Life, Incorporated

**Spouse:** Aaron N. Swain (Morehouse C'86)

**Children:** Maurn Buckner-Swain, Meridian Buckner-Swain

**Fun Fact:** As of August 2016, 11 members of my family have entered the gates of Spelman!

**Contact:** [president@naasc.org](mailto:president@naasc.org)



**Keva Wright Berry, C'79**

**Position:** President Elect

**Major at Spelman:** Music Performance

**Degrees:** B.A., M.Ed. (Management)

**Current Employer:** University of Southern Maine

**Spouse:** Lemuel Berry, Jr.

**Children:** Lemuel Berry III, Cyrus James Berry, Kyla Marshall

**Fun fact:** Purple is my favorite color and in high school, I wore something purple every day!

**Contact:** [president-elect@naasc.org](mailto:president-elect@naasc.org)



**Daphne L. Smith, C'80**

**Position:** Immediate Past President

**Major at Spelman:** Mathematics

**Degrees:** B.A., Ph.D.

**Current Employer:** Humana

**Fun Fact:** I enjoy action movies and mystery novels

**Contact:** [emeritus@naasc.org](mailto:emeritus@naasc.org)



**Husniyah Lateefah Dent Bradley, C'97**

**Position:** Recording Secretary

**Contact:** [recordingsecretary@naasc.org](mailto:recordingsecretary@naasc.org)



**Veronica Gale Leonard, C'87**

**Position:** Assistant Recording Secretary

**Major at Spelman:** Computer Science

**Degrees:** B.S., M.S.

**Current Employer:** Lockheed Martin Corporation

**Children:** Anthony Murray, II, Tyler Murray, Alexis Murray

**Fun Fact:** In my 'me' time, I like hitting golf balls and sweating in yoga heat!

**Contact:** [assistantrecordingsecretary@naasc.org](mailto:assistantrecordingsecretary@naasc.org)



**Rhonda Waller PhD, C'91**

**Position:** Corresponding Secretary

**Major at Spelman:** Sociology

**Degrees:** B.A., M.A., Ph.D.

**Current Employer:** The Bizzell Group / Montgomery College

**Children:** Kai Adura Waller C'19

**Fun Fact:** I love to travel – If there is no beach, it's not a vacation!

**Contact:** [correspondingsecretary@naasc.org](mailto:correspondingsecretary@naasc.org)



**Karyn Smith Wills, C'84**

**Position:** Financial Secretary

**Major at Spelman:** Biology, Pre-med

**Degrees:** B.S., M.D.

**Current Employer:** Aetna

**Spouse:** Darrell Wills

**Children:** Quinton Cole, Imani Cole

**Fun Fact:** I have a new passion, road cycling. I love being on the road and letting the road dictate my workout. So far I rode over 1,600 miles this year and I will do my first century ride (100 miles) in October. I will like to encourage more women to ride bikes. It is great exercise and you meet wonderful people.

**Contact:** [financial@naasc.org](mailto:financial@naasc.org)



**Georgette Woodward Johnson, C'75**

**Position:** Treasurer

**Major at Spelman:** Psychology

**Degrees:** B.A.

**Current Employer:** Retired

**Spouse:** Thomas J. Johnson, Jr.

**Children:** Omar-Jamal Jones, Khari H. Jones

**Fun Fact:** Enjoy spending time with family & friends. A true Atlanta Falcons & Carolina Panthers football fan. Hobbies include adult coloring and painting.

**Contact:** [treasurer@naasc.org](mailto:treasurer@naasc.org)



**Pamela Bigelow, C'88**

**Position:** Assistant Treasurer

**Contact:** [assistanttreasurer@naasc.org](mailto:assistanttreasurer@naasc.org)

Next month we will feature the elected regional officers and appointed officers.

# National Alumnae Association of Spelman College 2017 Awards

The NAASC Executive Committee is accepting nominations for the prestigious NAASC Awards, which will be presented during the 2017 Reunion Blue Note Theater on Saturday, May 20, 2017. *Award recipients must be present at the Blue Note Theater to receive the award.*

If you would like to nominate an alumna, please return the completed nomination form, see page 7 of the newsletter, to [MargaretDismondMartin@gmail.com](mailto:MargaretDismondMartin@gmail.com) **by Friday, November 11, 2016.**

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## NAASC Awards Criteria

### Merit Award

- 1. The alumna shall have been out of college for at least five years.**
- Evidence of sustained and/or exceptional service to the college as a volunteer (i.e. student recruiter, outstanding committee work in the association, etc.) shall be presented.
- Evidence of sustained financial support of the college regardless of the amount contributed, or exceptional support in any given year shall be presented.
- Evidence that the alumna has represented the ideals of Spelman College through service to the community; outstanding professional achievement as evidenced by recognition of one's profession or peers, either locally or nationally shall be presented.
- Nominees for this award must meet at least three of the four specified criteria.

### Hall of Fame Award

- 1. The alumna shall meet ALL FOUR of the criteria for the Merit Award.**
- In addition to these criteria, the alumna shall possess credentials which evidence national or international recognition and acclaim.

### Young Alumna Award

- 1. The alumna shall meet ALL FOUR of the criteria for the Merit Award.**
- In addition to these criteria, the alumna shall not have graduated from Spelman more than 10 years.

**\*\*Nomination Form is located on Page 7 of this newsletter\*\***

## Save the Date! Upcoming NAASC Events

Monthly we will feature upcoming NAASC events. This includes special events, leadership webinars, and meetings. To have your events listed in the monthly newsletter please forward the information, along with your contact information to [correspondingsecretary@naasc.org](mailto:correspondingsecretary@naasc.org) no later than the 5<sup>th</sup> of the month preceding your event. Events MUST be NAASC related.

**First Chapter Leadership Webinar:**

**PARLIAMENTARY PROCEDURE**  
For Effective Chapter Leadership




Sunday, September 25, 2016  
6 p.m. EDT

Facilitated by  
**Elizabeth A. Sapp James**  
NAASC Parliamentarian

Webinar ID: 701-235-387  
<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/8239452443691803649>

Open to All Chapter Presidents, Vice Presidents  
and Interested Leaders

*Living the Legacy of Sisterhood, Service and Success*



Northwest Region  
NAASC NORTHEAST REGION  
**CONFERENCE 2016**

AGENTS OF CHANGE:  
Combating the Disparities within  
the African American Community

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH REGION IV OF THE  
MOREHOUSE COLLEGE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

**OCT. 7-9**  
**THE HOTEL AT**  
**ARUNDEL PRESERVE**  
**HANOVER, MD**

Featuring...  
Welcome & Networking  
Reception  
sponsored by *Chick-flicks*  
SpellHouse Talks  
Sunday Prayer Breakfast  
with Min. Thomas L. Bowen,  
Morehouse C'89  
Vendors...and more!

Register at [naascnortheastconference2016.eventbrite.com](http://naascnortheastconference2016.eventbrite.com)  
For complete conference info visit [www.naascnortheast.org](http://www.naascnortheast.org)



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## ALUMNAE HOMECOMING 2016

October 27 – 30, 2016

More information at [www.spelmanlane.org](http://www.spelmanlane.org)

Click on events and homecoming

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## NAASC Executive Committee Meeting & Leadership Development Institute

Friday, December 2 – Sunday, December 4, 2016 – Spelman College Campus

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