



Alston-Pleasants
Post-Graduate Scholars Fund

NEWSLETTER

Alston-Pleasants Community Fall Scholars Luncheon



Fall is in the air! In keeping with tradition, the Trustees met with current Scholars during the Alston-Pleasants Scholars Fall Luncheon at the Carolina Inn in Chapel Hill, NC on September 21, 2012. This was a great opportunity to meet other Alston-Pleasants Scholars, learn more about Miss Missouri, gain information about the scholar selection process and share experiences with other members of the Alston-Pleasants Community.

Pictured (Left to Right): Debbie A. Daniel, Helen N. Parker, Samuel D. Nixon, Meghan Howard, J. Gilbert Stallings, Maria Aguilar Noyola, Allison Blackburn, and Dan Thornton.

Congratulations to
current Alston-Pleasants
Post-Graduate Scholar

Georgia Blair Stephenson
from Halifax County
Class of 2011
pursuing a Law Degree at
UNC

Welcome to the newest
Alston-Pleasants Scholar

Samuel D. Nixon
from Halifax County
Class of 2016

*"By three methods we may learn
wisdom: First, by reflection,
which is noblest; Second, by
imitation, which is
easiest; and third,
by experience,
which is the
bitterest."
-Confucius*



TRUSTEE UPDATE

By Debbie A. Daniel, Trustee

The Trustees continue to strive to develop Fund-sponsored undertakings to promote stronger connections among the entire Alston-Pleasants Community.

We have established the tradition of holding two meetings each year for the Alston-Pleasants Community (a Spring Meeting that rotates in location among the three home Counties and a Fall Meeting each year in Chapel Hill to which current Scholars will be invited).

The 2011 Spring Meeting was held in Halifax County and the 2012 Spring Meeting was held in Franklin County. We plan to hold our Spring Meeting in 2013 in Warren County.

We were pleased to have Dan Thornton, the UNC Student Aid Office Associate Director - Merit Scholarships, join us for the Fall Meeting in Chapel Hill on September 21, 2012. It was a great opportunity for Dan to meet a number of current Scholars and Trustees for the first time. In the future, we plan to include other visitors whose experience with and support of merit scholarship programs would be of interest and benefit to our Community.

We distributed Alston-Pleasants Scholar sweatshirts to current Scholars at the Fall Meeting to promote the sense of community and increase awareness of the Alston-Pleasants Scholars. If you would like to purchase a sweatshirt, email us at alstonpleasants@aol.com for details.

In September, 2012, the Trustees adopted a resolution to make provisions for the acceptance of gifts contributed as perpetual memorials to people who have been of significant benefit in the lives of Alston-Pleasants Scholars. We plan to include announcements of these types of donations on the website and in the newsletter.

Given the circumstances, it seemed appropriate that the very first contribution of this type was made jointly by the Alston-Pleasants Post-Graduate Scholars Fund Trustees in Memory of Faith Danielle Hedgepeth. We extend our sincere condolences to the family and friends of Faith. She was an important member of the Alston-Pleasants Community and we were very proud of her recognition as the 2010 Alston-Pleasants Scholar.

Planning efforts are underway to enhance the functionality of the Alston-Pleasants Community website, www.alstonpleasants.org, coordinated by webmaster Melanie-Lark Benning with advice from Diane Kuehn. Feel free to send any suggestions for website content to the Trustees at alstonpleasants@aol.com.

As you know, all recipients of the undergraduate Alston-Pleasants Scholarships are eligible for our post-graduate and professional studies scholarships. Please let us know at alstonpleasants@aol.com on or before December 21, 2012 about your spring 2013 term plans.

We will need to know the course of study, the institution, applicable accreditation and the amount of your tuition. If an award is made, you will need to send us a transcript grades report.

To date, the Fund has provided scholarships to each of the five Alston-Pleasants Scholar graduate and professional studies applicants. Four Scholars have completed their graduate and professional studies while Georgia Blair Stephenson continues to pursue a law degree.

While Fund assets are limited, we do try to provide meaningful financial assistance. If you would like to contribute to this undertaking, the Fund is an Internal Revenue Service recognized tax-exempt 501(c)(3) private foundation so that your gifts of cash or stock can be currently deductible for income tax purposes.

If you have any questions or wish to make a contribution, please contact J. Gilbert Stallings at alstonpleasants@aol.com or Alston-Pleasants Post-Graduate Scholars Fund, P.O.Box 101, Basye VA 22810-0101.



 WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

Diane Sutton Kuehn (UNC, '87) had committed to Carolina and was virtually on her way without knowing she had even been considered for an Alston-Pleasants scholarship —until she was notified that she had won it! Apparently someone had nominated her, possibly her high school guidance counselor, she surmises.

Her expectations of what undergraduate life would be like were, of course, radically revised. As the youngest of three girls (one of her sisters is a Morehead scholar), raised by their father on a 400-acre farm between Henderson and Louisburg, she wasn't sure she could earn or borrow enough money to stay in school long enough to get a degree. But the A-P took care of that problem.

Upon graduation, she worked for a number of companies until she started her own firm, VisionPoint Marketing in 2001. Eleven years later, she now presides over a growing Raleigh-based company that provides online marketing consulting services and expertise, with a well-defined niche in the sector of higher education. Among her clients, whom she really likes to refer to as "people," are the NC State MBA program, UNC Charlotte, Campbell University and Boston College. She estimates that at least 80% of her work is with institutions of higher learning. Still, she intends to maintain some diversity in her clientele, if for no other reason than to "keep from getting stale," but also, one suspects, as a hedge against unforeseen changes in the marketplace and trends in higher education, an attitude that is central to the concept of "corporate strategy" but too often forgotten.

I asked her how education in business prepared her for this kind of career, technology expertise notwithstanding. At UNC, Diane was exposed to marketing for the first time via an outstanding faculty member. Since then, she knew she wanted to be in marketing but found sales in a marketing firm the only entry point available to her upon graduation. She said her education at UNC was a springboard to many career opportunities that built upon one another. Now as an entrepreneur, Diane invests quite a bit of time mentoring and helping students and budding entrepreneurs who are trying to build their own companies or simply move ahead in their career.

And I think that is why the community of Alston-Pleasants scholars is proud to have Diane as an exemplar of what we are all about and what that scholarship has enabled her to do with her education, career, and life.



*Alston-Pleasants Scholar
Diane Kuehn '87*

 A SPECIAL THANK YOU


The Trustees of the Alston-Pleasants Post-Graduate Scholars Fund would like to send special thanks to **Dennis Organ** for interviewing and authoring the article on Diane Kuehn.

IN MEMORY OF
FAITH DANIELLE
HEDGEPEETH



1992-2012

The Alston-Pleasants Community mourns the tragic loss of one of its young Scholars, Faith Danielle Hedgepeth, from Warrenton, NC. Representatives from the Alston-Pleasants Scholars and the Alston-Pleasants Post-Graduate Scholars Fund Trustees attended the funeral service on 9/12/12. Faith was also remembered at the 2012 Alston-Pleasants Scholars Fall Luncheon on 9/21/12 in Chapel Hill, NC.



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RECENT CONTRIBUTIONS

In Memory of
Faith Danielle Hedgepeth
1992-2012
by the Alston-Pleasants
Post-Graduate Scholars
Fund Trustees

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Meghan Howard, '12 has joined RTI International at its Research Triangle Offices as a Public Health Research Analyst in its Healthcare Quality and Outcomes Research Program.

Jennifer Lundholm, '05 is now employed with The Bernstein Companies in Washington, DC in the finance, asset management and development functions.

Georgia Blair Stephenson, '11 wed Kyle Kuplic on September 22, 2012. Best wishes to the new couple.



MORE ON MISS MISSOURI

Did you know?...

- She established the Alston-Pleasants Scholars Fund in 1958 for selected undergraduate UNC students from Franklin, Halifax and Warren Counties. Miss Missouri wanted the Fund to commemorate the memory of her grandfather, Willis "Congress" Alston.
- She didn't have a name until she was 11 years old, at which time she was named after her late mother, Missouri Florida Alston.

We Want To Hear
From You!

If you have any news that you would like to share with the Alston-Pleasants community, please type up a short announcement, including your name and UNC class year, and send it to the Trustees at alstonpleasants@aol.com.

Feel free to attach photos as well. We will do our best to include the information in a future newsletter.

Trustees

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