



Alston-Pleasants  
Post-Graduate Scholars Fund

# NEWSLETTER

## Alston-Pleasants Community Spring Event



The weather was perfect for the Alston-Pleasants Community Spring Event at The Person Place in Louisburg, NC on April 21, 2012. This was a great opportunity to interact with other Alston-Pleasants Scholars, learn more about Miss Missouri and share experiences with members of the Alston-Pleasants Community. In addition to the Alston-Pleasants Post-Graduate Scholars Fund Trustees, the event was attended by a number of Alston-Pleasants Scholars, the Warren County Clerk of Court and three generations of Miss Missouri's family.

Pictured from left to right are: Patricia Scott (Great-Niece of Miss Missouri), J. Gilbert Stallings (APPGSF Trustee) and Spencer Scott.

Congratulations to  
Alston-Pleasants  
Post-Graduate Scholars

*Albert Jay Richardson*,  
from Halifax County  
Class of 1991  
awarded a Master of Public  
Administration degree from  
UNC

*Angela Spruill, RN*  
from Halifax County  
Class of 2001  
awarded an Adult Nurse  
Practitioner degree from  
UNC

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

*"The main part of intellectual  
education is not the  
acquisition of facts but  
learning how to make  
facts live."  
-Oliver Wendell  
Holmes*



## TRUSTEE UPDATE

By J. Gilbert Stallings, Trustee

The Trustees are continuing the development of Fund-sponsored undertakings to promote stronger connections among the entire Alston-Pleasants Community.

We implemented the Alston-Pleasants Community website, [www.alstonpleasants.org](http://www.alstonpleasants.org), as described in the Fall 2011 Newsletter.

We are continuing to hold a meeting each spring in one of the three home Counties to which Scholars and others interested in the Alston-Pleasants Community will be invited. In 2011, this 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 are also continuing to hold a Fall Meeting each year in Chapel Hill to which current Scholars, whether attending UNC or any other university, will be invited. It is expected that, from time to time, we will be joined by representatives of the UNC Student Aid Office who administer the undergraduate Alston-Pleasants Scholarships and other visitors whose experience with and support of merit scholarship programs would be of interest and benefit to our Community.

During 2011, the Trustees adopted two new programs to recognize and express appreciation to some of those whose support and assistance are of great importance to the Alston-Pleasants Community, the designation of

## Fund Champions and Fund Counselors.

The Trustees recognized as the first Alston-Pleasants Post-Graduate Scholars Fund Champions, Missouri Alston Pleasants, who in 1958 established the undergraduate Alston-Pleasants Scholars Fund; Hon. Alice Faye Hunter, Clerk of Superior Court, Franklin County, Hon. Rebecca C. Spragins, Clerk of Superior Court, Halifax County, and Hon. Richard E. Hunter, Jr., Clerk of Superior Court, Warren County, each of whom takes a personal interest in and supportively oversees the administration of the undergraduate and graduate scholarship Funds; and Dan Thornton, Associate Director, Merit Based Scholarships, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Office of Scholarships and Student Aid, who is administratively responsible for the selection of undergraduate Alston-Pleasants Scholars and who maintains a continuing interest in and cooperates with the graduate studies scholarships that the Fund provides.

The position of Counselor recognizes the service and assistance that, in light of their shared experience and demonstrated interest in the Alston-Pleasants Community, will be expected to be provided by former Fund Trustees. Tasha K. Dickinson, a Trustee in 2009-2010, was the first to be named a Fund Counselor.

We also recognized with great appreciation the important and capable services that Peter Bault provides to the Fund in the design, development and continued operation of the Alston-Pleasants website. His continued assistance will be of great importance as we go forward with plans to develop and operate our expanded on-line connection with the Alston-Pleasants Community.

As you know, all recipients of the undergraduate Alston-Pleasants

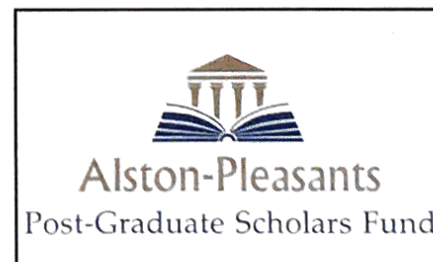
Scholarships are eligible for our post-graduate and professional studies scholarships. Please let us know at [alstonpleasants@aol.com](mailto:alstonpleasants@aol.com) on or before May 28th about your summer school plans and by July 31st about your fall term plans.

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. Albert Jay Richardson and Angela Spruill were awarded graduate degrees in May 2012 and 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 me at [alstonpleasants@aol.com](mailto:alstonpleasants@aol.com) or Alston-Pleasants Post-Graduate Scholars Fund, P.O.Box 101, Basye VA 22810-0101.





# Alston-Pleasants Community

## Spring Event 2012



Photos from Left to Right and Top to Bottom: 1) Place Settings 2) Alston-Pleasants Post-Graduate Scholars Fund Trustees Helen N. Parker, J. Gilbert Stallings and Debbie A. Daniel 3) The Person Place Brochure 4) Elizabeth Kraemer with Alston-Pleasants Scholars Allison Blackburn and Maria Aguilar Noyola 5) Refreshments 6) Alston-Pleasants Post-Graduate Scholar Angela D. Spruill 7) Spencer Scott (Great-great Nephew of Miss Missouri) 8) John, Clare and Mary Scott (Great-great-great Nephew and Nieces of Miss Missouri) 9) Hon. Richard Hunter (Clerk of Court of Warren County), Elizabeth Kraemer and Allison Blackburn.

### A SPECIAL THANK YOU



The Trustees of the Alston-Pleasants Post-Graduate Scholars Fund would like to send special thanks to **The Person Place Board of Directors** for allowing us to use The Person Place for the Alston-Pleasants Community 2012 Spring Event!

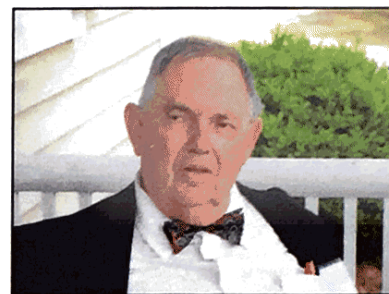


## WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

As Alston-Pleasants Scholars, we continue to benefit from Miss Missouri's investment in the youth of our three county home community. At the Alston-Pleasants Community Spring Event, we had an opportunity to hear more about who she was from one who, in childhood, knew her in a close and continuing way.

An Alston-Pleasants Scholar of the Class of 1967, Joe Pearce had that close connection. In fact, Miss Missouri might have seen in Joe the potentiality that she wished more generally to recognize and encourage.

Many of us have known Joe as a distinguished educator and historian. Many of us have enjoyed wide-ranging conversations with him. On April 21, 2012, we had the pleasure of hearing from Joe recollections of the Alston-Pleasants Scholars Fund Founder and his friend, Miss Missouri.



*Alston-Pleasants Scholar  
Joseph A. Pearce, Jr. '67*

Joe said *"Her gift made it possible for our attending that great institution, the University of North Carolina ... I consider myself extremely fortunate that in my younger days I had the great privilege of knowing Miss Missouri personally ... Daddy had known Miss Missouri and her husband Mr. Pleasants his entire life ...*

*One incident concerning Miss Missouri stands out quite vividly in my mind. I remember it as clearly as if it were only yesterday.*

*It was June of 1958, the very day that the article appeared in the News and Observer announcing Miss Missouri's gift ... Miss Missouri had called Daddy several days earlier, asking him to drive her to Raleigh to meet with Mr. Leroy Martin, her financial advisor at Wachovia Bank ... this time was during the summer vacation, and so Miss Missouri had invited me to go with them ... Miss Missouri told me "Joe, now I want you to walk around while we are waiting and get a good look at this bank", and so I did. This was back in the days when banks had marble floors and polished brass railings ... Daddy, Lula and I sat over in the corner while Miss Missouri and Mr. Martin went over her stocks and bonds, discussing buying and selling stocks, etc ... and we headed back to Louisburg ...*

*Miss Missouri asked Daddy to stop at Johnny's Restaurant and get each one of us a cone of ice cream ... There were Miss Missouri and her housekeeper Lula in the back seat and Daddy and I in the front seat, happily licking our respective cones of ice cream, licking and laughing like four little children, ranging in age from 91 to 13 years of age. I especially remember the twinkle in Miss Missouri's eyes and the smile of happiness on her face.*

*This was a memorable experience for me, one that I will never forget. That was the last time Miss Missouri went to Raleigh. That was in June of 1958. Miss Missouri died the following February ...*

With tears in his eyes, Joe concluded with this comment: *"By the time, five years later, when I entered the University in the fall of 1963, on an Alston-Pleasants Scholarship, both Miss Missouri and my Daddy had died. I often thought that both of them would have been pleased and proud."*



J. Gilbert Stallings (the first Alston-Pleasants Scholar) and Joseph A. Pearce, Jr. (the fifth Alston-Pleasants Scholar) take the opportunity to enjoy a front porch chat before the Spring Event festivities begin at The Person Place in Louisburg, NC.

## A SPECIAL THANK YOU



The Trustees of the Alston-Pleasants Post-Graduate Scholars Fund would like to send special thanks to **Joseph A. Pearce** for sharing his childhood memories of Miss Missouri with the Alston-Pleasants Community at the 2012 Spring Event!

## ALSTON-PLEASANTS POST GRADUATE SCHOLARS EARN DEGREES

Angela Spruill, a 2001 UNC graduate from Halifax County, is the third Alston-Pleasants Post-Graduate Scholar to earn a Masters degree.

She has been with the Bone Marrow Transplant program at UNC for several years where she trains new nurses, mentors students and manages the staff schedule. In 2007, she earned an Oncology Excellence Award for Nursing and later was named as one of the Great 100 Nurses in North Carolina.

On May 12, 2012, she received the degree of Master of Science in Nursing from UNC's School of Nursing.

In her spare time, Angela enjoys reading, spending time with family and friends and Carolina sports!

When asked about her Alston-Pleasants experience, Angela stated, *"It has been an absolute pleasure being an Alston-Pleasants Scholar. I have enjoyed meeting and networking with my fellow Tar Heels."*



Albert J. Richardson is a Halifax County native, currently employed as Process Manager & Assistant Vice President, Credit Audit for The PNC Financial Services Group, Inc.

While at UNC, Albert received his Bachelor degree in Political Science with a Business minor in 1991. On May 12, 2012 he became the fourth Alston-Pleasants Post-Graduate Scholar to graduate when he completed his Master of Public Administration degree.

Although he enjoys coaching Youth Basketball and Baseball, and attending Pow-wows to celebrate his Native American Heritage, his favorite pastime is spending time with his wife and four sons.

Albert stated, *"The Alston-Pleasants Undergraduate and Post-Graduate Funds have truly been a blessing to me and my family. The awards did what they set out to do -- They encouraged me, recognized me and motivated me to continue on with my studies. Without the undergraduate award, paying for my studies would have been extremely difficult for me and my family."*

Albert offers the following advice for Alston-Pleasants Scholars: *"Learn the importance of networking early. Try to complete some internships in career areas of interest. Be willing to call those who have been successful in those areas, invite them to lunch and learn as much about the career or organization as you can."*





## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Angela D. Spruill**, '01 has a forthcoming publication: Walton, A., Mason, S., Busshart, M., Spruill, A., Cheek, S., Lane, A., Sabo, K., Taylor, A. (in press). "Safe handling: Implementing hazardous drug precautions," *Clinical Journal of Oncology Nursing*.

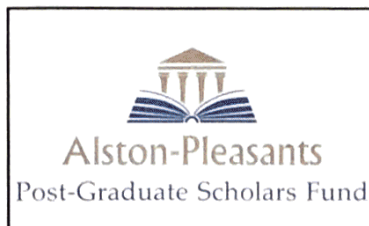
## ALSTON-PLEASANTS COMMUNITY WEBMASTER APPOINTED



In April 2012, Melanie-Lark Benning, an Alston-Pleasant Scholar of the UNC Class of 2009, was appointed to serve as Webmaster for the Alston-Pleasant Community.

In this assignment, Melanie-Lark will be responsible for the operation of the website and the solicitation of ideas for useful new features. The website will increasingly promote the sharing of news and views, including new Fund undertakings such as useful mentoring and career development advisory services for Alston-Pleasant Scholars.

Please visit the website at [www.alstonpleasants.org](http://www.alstonpleasants.org)



## MORE ON MISS MISSOURI Did you know?...

- She established the Alston-Pleasant 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.



- A long-time resident of Louisburg, Miss Missouri, as she was known, was the wife of William Henry Pleasants, who died in 1917.
- A photo of her home in Louisburg, NC.



## We Want To Hear From You!

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