



Alston-Pleasants
Post-Graduate Scholars Fund

NEWSLETTER

Alston-Pleasants Community
2013 Spring Event



What a wonderful Spring day! In keeping with tradition, the Trustees met with members of the Alston-Pleasants Community during the Spring Event at Cherry Hill Plantation in Inez, NC on April 6, 2013.

Pictured (Left to Right): Alice Faye Hunter, Melanie-Lark Benning, Angela Spruill, Patricia Scott, Spencer Scott, Tomarra Hall, Helen N. Parker, Spencer Scott, Connie Hedgepeth, Patrick Raiford, Denise Scott, Mary Brody Raiford, Rolanda Hedgepeth, and Debbie A. Daniel.

Congratulations to
current Alston-Pleasants
Post-Graduate Scholar

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

*"Education is the most powerful
weapon which you can use to
change the world."
-Nelson Mandela*





TRUSTEE UPDATE

By Helen N. Parker, Trustee

The Trustees are continuing their efforts to strengthen and expand connections across the entire Alston-Pleasants Community. Our e-community has expanded beyond our website, www.alstonpleasants.org, launched last fall, and now includes a Facebook page (be sure to "like" it!) and plans for future LinkedIn connections. We hope to use these forums to share news and views, and to provide opportunities for useful mentoring and career development advisory services for Alston-Pleasants Scholars.

We are pleased to announce that the Honorable Alice Faye Hunter has reappointed J. Gilbert Stallings to a three-year term that expires in 2016.

Subsequently, we learned that Alice Faye Hunter has resigned after four decades of service in Franklin County. Since its inception, she has been supportive of the Alston-Pleasants Post-Graduate Scholarship Fund.

The Trustees appreciate her support and have acknowledged her service by appointing her to be a Champion of the APPGSF.

Congratulations to Charles M. Davis, a retired local attorney, on his appointment to serve as Clerk of Court in Franklin County Superior Court.

Our tradition of an annual spring meeting in one of our three home counties continues. In April of this year, we completed the "cycle" across our three counties with a spring event at Cherry Hill Plantation in Warren County. With its Alston family connection and lovely setting, Cherry Hill was a wonderful location for the event, which is featured in this newsletter.

We also plan to continue our practice of holding a Fall Meeting each year in Chapel Hill to which current Scholars, whether attending UNC or another school, will be invited. This year, the Fall Meeting will be held in September, so look for news about the event on our website.

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 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 each semester.

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

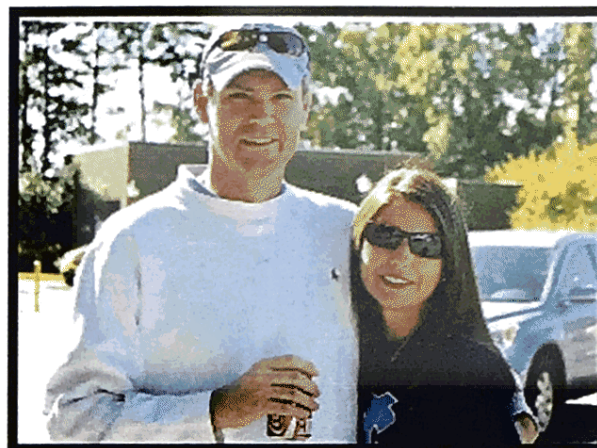
If you have questions or wish to make a contribution, please contact us at alstonpleasants@aol.com or Alston-Pleasants Post-Graduate Scholars Fund, P.O. Box 101 Bayse VA 22810-0101.



WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

Todd Arthur (UNC B.S., 1989, D.D.S., 1993) provides a narrative that reminds me a lot of my own. He grew up in Roanoke Rapids, the youngest member of a family that included no college graduates and limited means of furthering his own education beyond RRHS. What he did gain from that family was a sense of how hard they had to work to make ends meet and provide for the basic everyday needs of their offspring. So Todd, early on, was determined to find some means of setting himself on a path that included higher education.

He says that he “knew there were loans available that I could apply for that would allow me to get an education,” which was also my original plan, and of course nowadays, that idea probably figures into the majority of undergraduates’ planning at one time or another. Todd relates that he “did not know anything about the [Alston-Pleasants] scholarship,” so he was “very surprised to learn that I was selected” for that prize. (If this sounds familiar, it’s because Diane Kuehn, the A-P scholar we saluted in the last newsletter, didn’t know she had won that scholarship either, until she showed up on campus to start her freshman year.)



Alston-Pleasants Scholar

Todd Arthur '89 & his wife Wendy

Thus did the A-P help Todd realize “that my dreams of a college degree were becoming more attainable.”

Todd went on to earn his B. S. in biology, having considered for quite a while that he wanted a career as some kind of health care professional. After looking at all his options, he settled on dentistry, “mainly because of the convenient hours and the opportunity to own a business.”

He would beg to differ with Thomas Wolfe’s assertion that “you can’t go home again.” Todd came back to Roanoke Rapids right after finishing dental school to partner with a colleague, with whom he has practiced for 20 years. Together, they have funded three annual scholarships for the dental hygiene program via Halifax Community College. The way he sees it, “It is in this way that I feel as though I have been able to give back some of what I have been blessed with through the Alston-Pleasants Scholarship.”

Todd always knew that he wanted to go to Carolina, because the entire family rooted for the Heels’ football and basketball teams, and now his daughter is in her freshman year at UNC. He and wife Wendy also have a son who is a junior in high school and already looking to add to the family’s Carolina degrees, and of course give Mom and Dad ample cause to get back to the Hill on a frequent basis.

Hearing his story, knowing what he’s done with the opportunity provided by the Alston-Pleasants scholarship, how he’s now “passing it on” to help others get more education, has to cheer all of us who can claim him as an A-P kinsman.

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 Todd Arthur.

WEBMASTER UPDATE

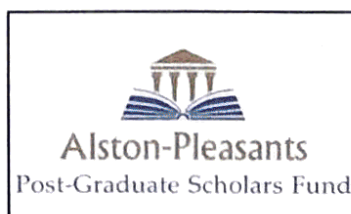
BY MELANIE-LARK BENNING

Have you ever wondered who the other Alston-Pleasants Scholars are who attended UNC before or after you did? Now there's a way to find out and connect with them if you wish!

We are excited to announce that we are revamping the Alston-Pleasants online presence. Working with past Alston-Pleasants scholar Diane Kuehn, we have created an Alston-Pleasants Scholars Facebook page (www.facebook.com/alstonpleasantscholars) which will help increase the sense of community among Alston-Pleasants scholars and other stakeholders, as well as serve as an outlet for increasing awareness of the Alston-Pleasants scholarships. Please visit the Facebook page and "Like" us to stay informed of what's going on and to connect with others in our community!

The Alston-Pleasants website (www.alstonpleasants.org) is also being updated more regularly and is a great resource for information. Launched in 2011, the website archives and shares the background and history of the Alston-Pleasants community, and is now being updated with current Alston-Pleasants community news. One example of a new addition is the "Memorial & Honor Gifts" section under the "Support" heading. Check it out!

We are also planning to create an Alston-Pleasants presence on LinkedIn in the future, so stay tuned for updates! If you have suggestions for our Facebook page or website, please email Melanie-Lark Benning at mbenning09@gmail.com.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Angela Spruill, '01 passed the ANCC Adult Nurse Practitioner Certification exam in September and is working in this role at UNC's Cancer Hospital. She recently published an article in the *Journal of Hospice and Palliative Nursing*, entitled, "Barriers in Hospice Use among African Americans with Cancer."



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.
- She spent her summers at Saxham Hall in Inez, NC.

RECENT CONTRIBUTIONS

In Honor of
Patricia & Spencer Scott
by J. Gilbert Stallings

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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