As part of DSU’s Office of Alumni Relations for 28 years, she has become well-known to generations of former DSU students. Throughout her tenure in Alumni Relations, Robinson managed alumni events, meetings and reunions, special initiatives such as fan centers, membership drives, giving initiatives, an ambassador program, career and recruitment networks, and student philanthropy.

In her new role, she will draw on her vast experiences with DSU alumni in order to play an integral part in the multi-year Inspiring Brothers giving campaign now in its initial phase. Through donor relations, she can ensure that the myriad of alumni success stories are continually brought to the forefront.

Robinson is a DSU alumna, where she earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in English; she also has a master’s degree in Human Resources Management from Wilmington University.

What have you found to be most unique about DSU alumni through your work over the years? “The passion… the passion Del State graduates have and the love they feel for their alma mater.”

As an alumna and through your professional role, how has DSU made an impact in your life? “I spent four of the best years of my life as an undergraduate. I have enjoyed lifelong friendships with alumni and professors who touched my life back then and who continue to enrich my life today. Because of the quality of the education I received at DSU, I have been able to experience success and longevity in a demanding field, where a myriad of skills beyond academics is essential and a great deal of heart is absolutely necessary. I will bring to my new position the insights I’ve acquired through these many years spent at DSU to celebrate donors and facilitate donor care. I treasure the experiences and the relationships that have prepared me for this segue into a significant segment of my DSU journey.”

For other alumni whose lives DSU has touched, how can they help current and future students to have similar experiences? “They can help by being role models and mentors. They can help by remembering — if only briefly — what is was like to be a young person on the verge of becoming. They can help by reaching back with contributions to help provide scholarships and career guidance.”

What is your favorite memory during your time at DSU? “My favorite memory is being a member of the concert choir and going on road trips during spring break. Dr. Yvonne P. Johnson was our choir director back then. She took off on a huge responsibility each year taking a bunch of college students places some had never been. She even took us to the opera one year to see La Traviata. It was beautiful. We had a lot of fun, we learned a lot and we really gained an appreciation for what we had at home at DSU.”

Lorene Robinson, who has directed DSU’s Office of Alumni Relations for 18 years, has left that post to become the Office of Development’s new director of Donor Relations.

New faces in Alumni Relations and Donor Relations

Dr. Lisa Dunning has been named DSU’s interim assistant vice president for Alumni Relations, under the Office of Development.

In this role, she will oversee the University’s efforts to increase the nationally measured alumni giving rate and other targeted initiatives aimed at giving alumni tangible means of helping DSU actualize its newly-approved Strategic Plan.

Formerly the director of the College of Business’ Advancement Center and acting assistant dean of its undergraduate programs, Dunning has 15 years of experience as a higher education professional; she has also served as an adjunct faculty member for the College. She is the recipient of the College of Business’ 2009 Outstanding Leadership Award, the 2009 ACE Women’s Network Rising Star Award and a 2011 DSU Vice President’s Choice Award.

Dunning is a DSU alumnus, where she earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Management and a Master of Business Administration; she also has a doctorate in Business Administration from Wilmington University.

As an alumna and through your professional role, how has DSU made an impact in your life? “The quality education that I received at DSU as an undergraduate and MBA student prepared me for a viable career to assist and serve others in higher education. The educational foundation developed me into a self-directed and analytical thinker which allowed me to transfer these skills into my professional career at DSU. As a result, I have the ability to create new ideas, and more importantly, put those ideas into action.”

What is your vision for Alumni Relations? “The vision that I have for the Office of Alumni Relations is to create specific initiatives that will ensure alumni have an important role in helping DSU reach its strategic goals. These roles may include, but are not limited to, goodwill and recruitment ambassadors, facilitating career and educational seminars and workshops, and leadership development. Moreover, my goal is to develop a sustainable alumni engagement model that will consistently involve alumni, and give them several options to engage with DSU.”

For other alumni whose lives DSU has touched, how can they help current and future students to have similar experiences? “DSU alumni play a tremendous role in helping to shape future experiences for incoming and current students. As alumni of this great institution, we can strengthen awareness of the excellent academic program offerings and promote the positive impact of our individual accomplishments. Clearly, DSU has prepared its graduates to go forth and demonstrate that we can compete at any level…. It is time that we share our experiences with the individuals who come behind us so that they can follow or ideally exceed our footsteps.”

What is your favorite memory during your time at DSU? “As an adjunct professor and academic advisor, you develop a lifelong connection with some of your students. There is nothing more gratifying than as a former student contacting you to say, ‘I remember when we had these discussions,’ and the student acknowledges that it all makes sense now — ‘I didn’t understand it then, but it totally it get it now. I truly believe that life is about making impact!’”

Lorene Robinson | 302.857.7392

Lisa Dunning | 302.857.7823

On April 12, Delaware State University hosted its first-ever Alumni Ambassadors Outreach Day in conjunction with the annual Spring Open House. Alumni were encouraged by Interim Assistant Vice President for Alumni Relations Dr. Lisa Dunning to reach out to middle and high school students and bring them to campus to learn more about DSU.

More than 100 alumni and students took part in the day. While the students attended Open House activities, alumni heard an update about DSU from President Harry L. Williams, and they learned about how they can partner with the offices of Admissions and Alumni Relations to recruit and educate prospective students, as well as engage with and contribute to the University.

Attending Alumni Ambassadors Outreach Day were:

1. From left, Marquita Thomas Brown, Willie Everitt Jr., Kelley Wilson-Everitt and Latoya Stevens, all from the Class of 1999.
2. Roderick C. Morris ’75, Left, and Dr. Mechele Jennings-Morris ’75.
3. Albert Winal Jr., ’74, Left, and Mo Rivers.
4. From left, Ned Brown Jr., ’71, former New Castle County Alumni Chapter president; Phil Sadler ’62, Kent County Alumni Chapter president; and Charles H. Mays ’70.

If you weren’t able to attend Alumni Ambassadors Outreach Day but would like to learn more about how you can engage with DSU, please contact the Office of Alumni Relations at 302.857.6650 or alumni@desu.edu to learn more. Below are just a few of the ways you can get involved:

• Be counted! Contribute and support DSU through donations and service. Help raise the DSU national alumni participation rate.

• Stay connected! Update your contact information so that we can maintain accurate alumni records and ensure that you receive alumni newsletters.

• Be an advocate for DSU Promote position highlights to your respective communities.

• Become a goodwill ambassador Assist with student recruitment.

• Visit your alma mater Participate in campus events and Homecoming.

• Become an alumni mentor Assist current DSU students in making their mark on the world.

• Follow us on social media Check out DSU on social media and become a fan: Facebook — /DSUEdu; Twitter and Instagram — @DelStateUniv

• Help students obtain real-world experience Consider using DSU student interns for your company or organization. Contact the Office of Career Services at 302.857.6120.

• Share your position openings Forward information on your company or organization’s position openings to the Office of Alumni Relations for distribution to interested DSU alumni.
From 1920s to today, Pinkett family builds multigenerational DSU legacy

The parade of Pinkett family members who have attended Delaware State University can be traced back in large part to Joseph Pinkett Sr. and his wife Leona of New Castle, Del., who while being an iron plant molder and a custodian made education a priority for their children. “They instilled in their children and grandchildren early the need to get an education beyond school,” said their son Jerome Pinkett, who was one of the many family members who have earned a degree at Delaware’s only black institution of higher education.

Jerome’s parents had family examples that they could point to, beginning with Anna Gibbs Bell — a first cousin of Joseph Pinkett Sr. — who would graduate from the State College for Colored Students’ Teacher Education Program in 1927. She would become a career educator, ultimately retiring from Star Hill Elementary School near Camden, Del.

Mildred Pinkett Thomas — the sister of Joseph Sr. — was another family member to demonstrate to the Pinkett children that a college education was more than possible. After earning an education degree at Delaware State College in 1946, she would enjoy a fruitful teaching career in Delaware’s Colonial School District. Both Bell and Thomas are deceased.

Several of the children of Joseph Sr. and Leona would follow Bell and Thomas’ example and their parents’ encouragement toward higher education, with two of them fulfilling their undergraduate educational aspirations at DSU.

• Jerome Pinkett would not only graduate from Del State in 1961 with a Business Education degree, but he would also make his mark as a Hornet football backfield and the captain of the DSC baseball team. He later would go on to earn a Ph.D. Both are retired from careers in accounting and education administration, respectively.

• Barbara Pinkett Hicks — Jerome’s sister — and her husband Daniel also had a close relationship with Del State, as five of their children were graduates, beginning with Sherri Hicks Ridgeway ’72, whose husband John Ridgeway ’75 was honored this spring as the 2014 MEAC Distinguished Alumni for DSU. The following siblings of Sherri are fellow alumni: Tanya Hicks Gatson ’79, following her husband and fellow alum Leon Gatson ’76; Daniel Hicks ’82, Joseph Hicks ’85, and Garrett ‘Gary’ Hicks ’87. Daniel and Gary are deceased.

• Warren M. Pinkett — Jerome’s brother — and his wife Charlotte Ann have a grandson, Michael Pinkett Jr., currently attending DSU.

• Chanel Pinkett, the daughter of Jerome’s cousin Thomas Pinkett, graduated from DSU in 2005.

• While Bernard Pinkett — another sibling — earned his degree elsewhere (Central State University), his granddaughter Brandy Harvey graduated from DSU in 2005.

If we include in-laws and out-laws in our immediate families, we have more than 25 who have graduated from Del State.”

Jerome Pinkett ’61

DSC in 1984 with a degree in Accounting.

• Gilbert Pinkett — Jerome’s brother — also graduated in 1969 from DSC with an Accounting degree. His wife Geraldine, a 1971 graduate, went on to earn a Ph.D. Both are retired from careers in accounting and education administration, respectively.

• Tanya Hicks Gatson ’79, following her husband, Daniel, a 1976 graduate of DSU, and their son, Jerome Jr., are in the alumni raffle for MEAC Tournament tickets.

• Gary” Hicks ’87. Daniel and Gary are deceased.

• The patriarch’s namesake, Joseph H. Pinkett Sr., along with his wife Dorothy, produced four children who would graduate from DSU — Regina Pinkett ’73, Tina Pinkett Dancy ’76, Donna Pinkett Brown ’78 and Denise Pinkett Wynn ’87.

• Donna and Denise, who both earned degrees in Food Nutrition, both work for DSU’s Cooperative Extension Program.

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DSUAA 1967

ELECTED NATIONAL OFFICERS
June 2012–July 2014

President:
Dr. K. Bernard Chase '72
chasek@dsu.edu

Vice President:
Sheila M. Davis '91
mdavis@dukeuniversity.edu

Recording Secretary:
Theodore White '88
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Treasurer:
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Assistant Treasurer:
Joy J. Nicholas-Kelly '93
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Alumni Representatives:
Leonard Hudson '74 (2012–14)
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Chaplain:
Kelley R. Spring '02
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Parliamentarian:
Dr. Wanda Hollingsworth '96
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Chairman of Nominating Committee:
Alfred M. White '74
ManiccoleCDU.net

Immediate Past President:
Davina S. Williams '10
davvthe22@yahoo.com

JOIN THE DSUAA
Visit dsuua.com to become a member.

Philadelphia Alumni Chapter

HIGHLIGHTS
• Philadelphia Chapter President Jillian Inge joined alumni and Admissions counselor Kevin Harbage to represent DSU in February at the MEAC College Fair.
• The chapter represented DSU in March at the Youth Angel Scholar Career Day, a nonprofit organization founded by alumna Kelley Wilson-Everett.
• A “Meet and Greet” event was held in April at Joe’s Crab Shack in Philadelphia.
• The chapter took a group of students to DSU’s Spring Open House.
• The chapter’s Annual Cookout is planned for August; the date will be announced later.

CHAPTER MEETINGS
Philadelphia chapter meetings are held the first Saturday of the month at 10 a.m. at Bremloe House Apartments, 6091 Old York Road, Philadelphia. Questions? Contact Chapter President Dr. Jillian Inge at jinge@501di.com.

Sussex County Alumni Chapter

HIGHLIGHTS
• Fourth Annual Holiday Dinner Dance
• Special guests attending the Fourth Annual Holiday Dinner Dance hosted by the Sussex County Alumni Chapter in partnership with the DSU Foundation include three 2013 scholarship recipients.

CHAPTER MEETINGS
Sussex County Alumni Chapter meets the first Tuesday of the month at 7 p.m. at The Landing 11 Community Center, 400 Wilson St. in Millsboro, Del. Questions? Contact Chapter President Bernard W. Carr at bernardwcarr@comcast.net.

New Castle County Alumni Chapter

HIGHLIGHTS
• 33rd Annual Scholarship Lunchcheon
• The New Castle County Chapter will hold its 33rd Annual Scholarship Luncheon on Sunday, August 17, at 2 p.m. at the Deba Villa at the Cavaliers Country Club, 100 Addison Drive, Newark, Del. 19702. For more information, contact Troy Ashley, chairperson, at 302.559.4494 or Tashley76@hotmail.com. Sponsored in partnership with the DSU Foundation Inc., net proceeds provide scholarships for New Castle County students matriculating at DSU. The cost for this event is $50.

CHAPTER MEETINGS
The New Castle County Chapter meets the fourth Monday of the month at 6 p.m. at DSU/GWinnimngton on Kirkwood Highway. Questions? Contact Chapter President Theresa W. “Tessie” Holmes at 302.225.5609 or tess Holmes@gmail.com.

Class Notes

Kent County Alumni Chapter

HIGHLIGHTS
• Plans are underway to host the chapter’s annual summer membership cookbook in August.
• In partnership with the DSU Athletic Boosters Club, the chapter will sponsor a post-game reception during the football season. The activity is also sponsored by the DSU National Alumni Association.
• A post-holiday membership mixer was held in January.
• Membership has increased to 75, with a goal of 100.
• The chapter views membership as a priority.
• Dr. Judi Coffield, principal, and Dr. Alton Thompson, provost and vice president for Academic Affairs, DSU National Alumni Association. A post-holiday membership mixer was held in January. Membership has increased to 75, with a goal of 100. The chapter views membership as a priority.

CHAPTER MEETINGS
The Kent County Chapter meets the fourth Monday of the month at 7 p.m. on the DSU campus in Room 104 in the Agriculture Annex Building. Questions? Contact Chapter President Philip Sadler at philip sad@comcast.net.

Greater Hampton Roads Alumni Chapter

HIGHLIGHTS
• Annual Scholarship Luncheon
• Plans are underway to host the chapter’s annual scholarship luncheon.
• The chapter’s Annual Cookout is planned for August; the date will be announced later.

CHAPTER MEETINGS
The Greater Hampton Roads Chapter meets every other second Saturday at 1 p.m. at Dudley’s Driving Center, 2845 N. Ar maidale Ave. in Hampton, Va. Conference call meetings are held every other second Tuesday at 9 p.m. (Free call-in number: 559.546.1000. Participant access code: 251316). Questions? Contact Chapter President Al Weat Jr. at masteral @cox.net.

Rebecca Goddow has been named head football coach at Boiker High School in Sarastoa, Fla. Goddow teaches technology to Information Technology at the school and also is the assistant director of athletics.

You can be featured in an Echo Class Note.
Share your news with fellow alumni:
• Email alumni@desu.edu
• Visit www.desu.edu/echo-form

University officials, alumni and friends paid tribute to former Hornet basketball great Robert Vonderheide’s career, community service and contributions to his alma mater during halftime of the men’s Jan. 11 basketball game. Vonderheide ’72, a member of Delaware State’s 1,000-point club, was a Hornet standout from 1967 to 1970 whose name on the team was highlighted by two All-CIAA selections and a better than 17 points-per-game average.

Recreation and Parks. Brave began working for Baltimore City Recreation and Parks in 2012 as a recreation leader II at Northwood Recreation Center and has more than 12 years of experience in the sports and event management industry. He received a Bachelor of Science degree in Sports Management and a Master of Science in Sports Administration from Delaware State University.

Guy Miller Jr. has been awarded the 2014 Individual Artist Fellowship grant as an Emerging Artist. Winner’s Project Paper from the Delaware Division of the Arts. Miller is one of 17 individual Delaware artists who are being recognized by the state of Delaware for the high quality of their artwork in the visual arts, literature, music, choreography and folk arts. As part of the fellowship, Miller will receive a financial award of $12,000 to advance his career as a working artist.

Marisa K. (Phillippe) Bazeemore was recently promoted to senior communications specialist at Cominc Inc., a Fortune 500 company headquartered in Coming, N.Y. In her new role, she leads employee and executive communications initiatives forComing’s day displaying technology business unit.

Clarence G. Murray, a retired military command sergeant major, is currently employed as a supervisor at Defense Finance and Accounting Service (DFAS) in Indianapolis, Ind. He has been a government employee for nearly nine years. Lattale received a Bachelor of Science in Accounting from Delaware State University. He also holds a master’s degree from Oakland City University.

Felix A. Jones of Collegepales, Pa., recently published his first book, Do You Have Dreams, with Myer Press Literary Group. It is a story for prekindergarten to third graders that focuses on having dreams for the future and is available at amazon.com and barnesandnoble.com. Jones received a Bachelor of Science degree in Early Childhood Education/ Special Education from Delaware State University and is currently a teacher.

Bernard W. Carr recently retired as a police officer from the Metro Transit Police Department in Washington, D.C. He was a co-founder and chairman of Gogesw State University’s Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration Committee (1990–2014). For 25 years, he was responsible for seeing that the program was presented to the university and the community of Gogesw, N.Y. Henderson retired from Gogesw State University in February 2010 but continued to organize and plan the event. Henderson has been a commissioner of the Greater Rochester Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration Commission for two years.

2004

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