Brenda Silvils ’77

helps young girls learn skills to reach their full potential

Catalogue donation revives the words of second president William C. Jason

Hornet football: What’s ahead in 2014
Strategic and master plans set to guide DSU’s continued climb

The future course toward becoming No. 1 among the top Historically Black Colleges and Universities has become clearer over the last year. The University has completed its latest Strategic Plan — PRIDE 2020, which stands for Personal Responsibility in Delivering Excellence. It is a comprehensive and challenging document that keeps four focus areas at the forefront:

1. Preparing DSU for the future with a major emphasis on STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics).
2. Using DSU’s expertise to strengthen the community’s health and wellness.
3. Strengthening the University’s international partnerships.
4. Making major gains in improving the institution’s retention and graduation rates, while at the same time fulfilling our expectation that our graduates will be the first choice of employers.

The plan establishes goals that include creating an exceptional learning environment; the future expansion of DSU’s research portfolio; the strengthening and expansion of outreach, engagement and economic development programs; further enhancing the University’s environmental stewardship; and enhancing, leveraging and diversifying our resources to fulfill the institution’s mission. These goals are coupled with key performance indicators that will enable DSU officials to gauge how we are meeting those goals and to make whatever adjustments are needed for success.

In addition, DSU has completed its Campus Master Plan which will guide the institution in the continued physical growth and enhancement of the University complex (see story, Page 11). This plan will address the University’s immediate infrastructure needs while also making plans for construction projects 10-20 years from now.

The two plans — which both have been approved by the University’s Board of Trustees — paint an exciting panoramic picture of the future of DSU. Of course, for all of the efforts of its administrators, faculty, staff and students, it will not be enough without the faithful support of the University’s alumni and friends. It is our hope that you will make it a priority to invest in the greatness to come.

Dr. Harry Lee Williams
Alumni Spotlight

Brenda Silvils works to bless others in the same way she was blessed.

Silvils was not raised by a traditional mother and father, but instead was brought up by a succession of loving great-grandparents, aunts and uncles.

During her undergraduate years at then-Delaware State College, she was fortunate to have several Del State faculty members and administrators who were surrogate parent figures who shared their wisdom and kept a watchful eye for her.

Because she understands the benefit of having positive and nurturing people who helped her navigate life from childhood to her early adult years, Silvils has established a foundation in the greater Washington, D.C., area to provide young girls there with adult angels to help them make something of themselves.

Silvils’ Free2Rise Educational Foundation is a nonprofit organization committed to enriching the lives of girls in grades 6-8. The organization was originally established in 2011 to help girls who are children without natural parents, but over its first few years it has expanded to include other girls who come from challenging circumstances such as single-parent homes.

Guided by the “FREE” acronym of preparing girls to become Forever Responsible, Educated and Empowered to rise to their full potential, the foundation does so by providing advocacy, educational enrichment, life skills guidance, cultural exposure and travel experiences.

“If young girls don’t have angels show up in their lives to guide them, then they are at risk at never becoming all that they can be,” Silvils said.

Having had a “village” of family, friends and Del State folks helping to steer her life in the right direction from her childhood in her native Milford, Del., to her undergraduate years in Dover, she graduated from DSC in 1977 with a bachelor’s degree in Elementary Education.

She affectionately notes several Del State personalities who were especially supportive of her during her undergraduate years — such as Jethro C. Williams, the then-admissions director; sociology faculty member Ernestine Bittingham (“who was my surrogate mother”); and Dr. Richard Wynder, dean of students (“he was known as the Godfather”).

“There were others as well,” Silvils said. “Delaware State College was a very nurturing place.”

Her professional life, however, did not manifest itself as a school teacher. Career in financial systems upgrades

Following a short stint with a Philadelphia law firm and an unsuccessful attempt to settle in Atlanta, she returned to the Mid-Atlantic region in 1979, where the road to her professional calling began with Computer Science Corporation (CSC), where she started as a project accountant and progressed to the post of assistant manager.

Kisha Webster, DSU Class of 1995, center, joined with Brenda Silvils, second from right, to become the Free2Rise Educational Foundation’s program director. Helen Mitchell, a fellow graduate of Silvils from the Class of 1977, serves as a board member.


‘Forever Responsible, Educated and Empowered’

Through her Free2Rise foundation, Brenda Silvils ’77 provides middle school girls in Washington, D.C., with skills to help them reach their full potential.

• Story and photos by Carlos Holmes
I believe to whom much is given, much is required. It is therefore my charter to identify and provide positive role models and opportunities for young girls who don’t have the benefit of biological parents, as well as for other girls who need help to overcome life obstacles.

Brenda Silvils ’77

controller during 15 years with the company. During her CSC years, she became well-skilled in accounting and the implementation of financial systems upgrades. After she left CSC, she completed her MBA/International Business degree at George Washington University. She then worked from 1995-1998 for INTERSAT (International Telecommunications Satellite Organization), where she became astutely proficient in working with Oracle technology applications for financial systems upgrades.

Confident that it was time to launch her own financial systems upgrade firm, she established BLs Consulting in late 1998. Over the last 16 years, she has become a sought-after consultant for financial system upgrade work using Oracle software technology, tackling projects for companies such as the Ciena Corporation, GE Global Exchange, IBM, SEBCO/Pension Benefit Guaranty Corp., the Government Printing Office, The MIL Corporation, and several others.

Some projects can be completed in a few months, while others are multi-year endeavors. “I can only do one project at a time,” she said. “Once the project is done, I have to find a new project.”

She added, however, that because of the track record she has established, companies frequently seek her out for projects.

Free2Rise and other DSU alumni

While continuing to make her mark with her BLS Consulting firm, Silvils has found the energy and passion to focus on the girls she supports through Free2Rise.

“I believe to whom much is given, much is required,” Silvils said. “It is therefore my charter to identify and provide positive role models and opportunities for young girls who don’t have the benefit of biological parents, as well as for other girls who need help to overcome life obstacles.”

Silvils also has some DSU alumni help with her foundation. Helen Mitchell, a friend from the Class of 1977, serves as a board member; Kisha Webster, Class of 1995, is working as the program director for the foundation.

Mitchell is the owner of The Meeting Advisor Inc., which plans and coordinates conferences and conventions worldwide. Amid her business professional schedule, she finds time to support the Free2Rise endeavor.

“Our mutual friendship (dating back to their DSC freshman year) and knowing how Brenda feels about this cause got me involved, as I share in that passion,” Mitchell said. “To be able to mentor and know this small amount of time to support the Free2Rise endeavor.

The greatest purpose is for the girls to see that other people are invested in their future,” Webster said. “It takes much more than your family to make you great.”

This year, Silvils and her foundation are launching the Inspire Girls2Rise Educational Enrichment Program to provide the reinforcement of academic skills.

“We are working primarily with middle school girls, so when they age out, they will know that they are going to college,” Silvils said.

A self-esteem workshop is among the life skills enrichment opportunities that Brenda Silvils’ Free2Rise Educational Foundation offers middle school-age girls. Pictured at a workshop with Silvils, center, are participants and Free2Rise Board of Directors Assistant Secretary Katrina Dixon, right.
New head coach Keith Walker, right, and President Harry L. Williams

New era for Hornet men’s hoops

Interim head coach, longtime assistant Keith Walker will permanently lead team

President Harry L. Williams on April 15 announced the hiring of Keith Walker — who served as the interim Delaware State men’s basketball head coach for the last third of the 2013-2014 season — as the permanent coach.

In announcing the head coaching appointment, Williams said that Walker made a strong case for himself by the way he took over the leadership of the team and energized the players as interim coach. “Coach Walker did everything we asked of him when he agreed to be the interim head coach in the last 1½ months of the past season,” Williams said. “He stabilized the team, resulting in a more competitive unit on the court and a higher winning percentage.”

Williams commenced the search committee, noting that it ultimately came up with a group of strong finalists. “The fact that Walker emerged from this tough search process as the head coach selection reflects well on all our most recent interim performance as well as on his long-time dedicated service as assistant coach,” he said. Director of Athletics Candy Young said Walker’s performance under Walker’s interim leadership has led to the conclusion that he can move the men’s basketball program in the right direction. “The players responded positively to his coaching during his interim tenure and we believe that trend will continue and result in greater success for the Hornet men’s basketball program with Walker at the helm,” she said. Walker said that he is “very appreciative” of the head coaching opportunity. “I look forward to getting this men’s basketball program back to the championship level where it used to be,” he said. A DSU men’s basketball assistant coach since July 2000, Walker was appointed as interim head coach Jan. 30. In the subsequent 11 games, he led the Hornets to a 5-6 overall record and 5-5 mark in the Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference. Prior to the appointment, the team was 4-15 overall and 0-6 in the conference. During Walker’s interim tenure, DSU posted a season-high three-game win streak and later achieved an upset victory over the 2014 MEAC Tournament runner-up Morgan State.

As an assistant coach, Walker worked primarily with the DSU forwards and centers. During the 2013-14 season, his efforts with third-year player Kendall Gray were instrumental in the Hornet center’s team record of 81 blocks and being named on the All-MEAC Second Team. Walker’s defensive coaching was also validated during the 2011-12 season when the Hornets had a school-record 192 blocks, leading the MEAC in that category. Walker was a part of the coaching staff that helped lead the Hornets to three consecutive MEAC regular season titles from 2004-2007, during which the teams posted a league record of 46-8 (.850).

Prior to his arrival at DSU, Walker served as head coach at Division II Shaw University in Raleigh, N.C., from 1983 to 2000. Before entering the coaching ranks, he played seven years with various European and U.S. professional basketball leagues, including a brief stint with the NBA’s Philadelphia 76ers during the 1985-86 season. Walker has a 1981 Bachelor of Science in Business Administration from Clemson and a 1991 master’s degree in Student Personnel Services from Indiana University of Pennsylvania. He and wife Kim have three children, Dockery, Zachary and Sawyer.

Hornets look ahead to 2014-15 | Page 38

DSU awarded historic $1,050,000 for Osher Reentry Scholarships

Delaware State University has received a historic $1,050,000 grant from The Bernard Osher Foundation to permanently establish DSU’s Osher Reentry Scholarship Endowment, ensuring that significant scholarships will be annually available to nontraditional students. The Bernard Osher Foundation’s grant is also the largest scholarship contribution from a private source in the University’s 123-year history. The Osher Reentry Program at DSU is the only such program in the state of Delaware benefiting nontraditional students.

Nontraditional students are defined as being over the age of 25 and either resuming their higher education after an interruption of five years or beginning the steps toward a degree later in life. Osher Reentry Scholars — the scholarship recipients — can be full-time or part-time students and receive tuition scholarships of up to $5,000 each. Recipients may be awarded a scholarship again in subsequent years.

President Harry L. Williams announced the gift at the State Capitol during the April 10 DSU Day at the Legislature, saying The Bernard Osher Foundation and DSU are in agreement when it comes to prompting adults that degree completion is within their reach.

“As a state institution, it is important for DSU to be a viable option on the undergraduate level not only for young people who just finished high school, but also for adults who never completed their academic journey or who long to begin their journey at an older age,” Williams said. “DSU has long had a diverse variety of academic offerings to address the professional dreams of nontraditional students. Thanks to the generosity of the Osher Foundation, the University now has a scholarship pathway to help the students fund what they thought could not be possible. It truly is the push as many may just need.”

The Osher Foundation began its relationship with DSU during the 2012-2013 and 2013-2014 academic years, when it provided grants during each school year for scholarships for nontraditional students. Osher Reentry Scholarships were awarded during those years to adult DSU students from Delaware who demonstrated academic promise and a commitment to complete a degree program.

According to Dr. Mary Bittner, president of The Bernard Osher Foundation, confidence in DSU’s administration of the first two consecutive grants led to an invitation to apply for an endowment to permanently establish the Osher Reentry Scholarship Program.

“I am delighted that Delaware State University will now have an opportunity to continue supporting an increasing number of nontraditional students in the state of Delaware and the region,” Bittner said. “We have been impressed with DSU’s excellent stewardship of the Osher Reentry Scholars program, including the identification of processes that make the matriculation of nontraditional students easier and more productive. We congratulate the leadership of DSU and hold high hopes for the fine Osher Scholars at the University now and those who will follow them in the years to come.”

At present, there are 90 universities and colleges in 50 states participating in this program. The Osher Foundation, founded in 1977, seeks to improve quality of life through support for higher education and the arts. The Osher Foundation provides post-secondary scholarship funding to colleges and universities across the nation, with special attention to nontraditional students.

THOUGHTS FROM PREVIOUS Osher Scholars

Redhinda Marcus, a junior nursing major, feels that becoming an Osher Reentry Scholar (2013-2014) means he is not alone in his journey to degree completion at DSU. “There are times I want to give up, but I gather back my strength knowing that someday I can make a difference in somebody’s life being a nurse,” he said. “The scholarship has given me inspiration to continue on to drive hard for my dream.”

Rebecca Salhauari, a junior biology major, is honored to become an Osher Reentry Scholar (2013-2014). “My ability to come back to school at my age has affected my life positively, the story of how I ended up at Delaware State University is filled with so many challenges that I have overcome. I am very passionate about the opportunities I was given at such a difficult time in my life.”

HOW TO APPLY

DSU is currently accepting applications for 2014-2015 Osher Reentry Scholars. Interested students should contact the Office of Development at dsufoundation@desu.edu or 302.857.6055.

DSU Day at the Legislature

The Approaching Storm Marching Band performs outside of Legislative Hall during the annual Delaware State University Day at the Legislature. Members of the DSU Concert Choir sang to both the House and the Senate in their chambers, and the day also included a visit by President Harry L. Williams and other DSU officials.

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DuPont CEO shares corporate wisdom during visit

DuPont CEO Ellen Kullman visited Delaware State University on March 4 to share her corporate wisdom during a campus visit.

President Harry L. Williams, left, and DuPont CEO Ellen Kullman discussed a wide range of corporate topics during an Open Forum held as part of her campus visit.

Ellen Kullman, chief executive officer of DuPont and the chair of its Board of Directors, and President Harry L. Williams engaged in a dialogue during a standing-room-only February Open Forum on campus on the current emphasis of Delaware’s largest private employer, the importance of connecting science with the marketplace, and the important skills needed to work for the company.

As the DuPont CEO since 2005, Kullman is the 19th executive to lead the company since DuPont was founded in 1802. In overseeing the science company—which has 68,000 employees worldwide—Kullman has been ranked as No. 3 among the “50 Most Powerful Women in Business” by Fortune magazine, and also was named one of the 50 “World’s Most Powerful Women” by Forbes magazine.

Prior to the Open Forum, Kullman paid a visit to the Martin Luther King Jr. Student Center, where she spoke with student and faculty scientists about the 14 faculty research projects that were on display there in poster presentations.

“It was very exciting to see these research projects,” Kullman said. “I enjoyed the passion that the researchers had for what they are doing.”

The DuPont CEO shared that she is a native of Wilmington. After earning a Bachelor of Science degree in Mechanical Engineering, she worked for Westinghouse and General Electric before joining DuPont in 1988. On the way, Kullman earned a Master of Business Administration degree.

In noting that DuPont is a market-driven global science company, Williams asked the CEO how DuPont “connects the dots” from science to the market.

Kullman said that in the past, DuPont operated under the principle that if the company created the product, the marketplace would come.

“Now we spend a lot of time creating cross-sectional teams that work to bring science and engineering to the market,” she said. “We make our customers more successful, then we will be more successful.”

In talking about the skills DuPont is looking for in college graduates, she said the areas of finance, accounting, marketing, sales, engineering and science research are disciplines important to the company.

But she also noted that students should become adept at soft skills.

“If we stop being an innovator, we will stop growing,” she said. “If we stop learning, we will be left behind.”

She said because it is a science company, innovation is essential.

She said DuPont has helped her understand her self-awareness, how she comes across to people, “Kullman said. “I think you need to seek out people who will tell you the truth.”

At its March regular quarterly meeting, the Delaware State University Board of Trustees began a “go green” transition by using iPads for meeting materials.

New Campus Master Plan to guide growth for next 20 years

The Delaware State University Board of Trustees at its March meeting approved a new Campus Master Plan that will govern the physical growth of the University over the next 10-20 years.

The new Campus Master Plan (CMP) is designed to both address the University’s immediate needs while also outlining a set of long-term physical growth and existing building improvement recommendations in support of the University’s Mission Statement and Strategic Plan and consistent with the academic quality of the institution.

The CMP consists of:

- Emerging Urgencies: building projects to be launched within the next five years
- A Mid-Term Plan for building projects over the next 6-10 years
- A Long-Term Plan for the next 10-20 years.

One of the “Emerging Urgencies” has begun with the start earlier this year of the construction of the Optical Science Center for Applied Research (OSCAR) Building.

Also within the next five years, the CMP calls for the construction of a building that will house the University’s new Early College High School, as well as its Department of Education and its Health Services. Once this new building is complete, the University will then turn its attention to renovating the existing Education and Humanities Buildings.

The Mid-Term and Long-Term aspects of the CMP call for the construction of several new academic and department buildings, which would include labs and offices.

FOUNDERS DAY 2014

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Dr. Alisborne D. Smith, chair of the Board of Trustees, said it is important to ensure DSU’s facilities — current and future — are supported and maintained in order to carry out the University’s Mission Statement and Strategic Plan. As such, he said, the Campus Master Plan will be an essential tool to inform the decision-making by the board and the administration over the next two decades.

“This updated Campus Master Plan has input from all sections of the University, including faculty, staff, students and the community,” Smith said. “Also, this plan is designed to be evergreen, making it flexible and subject to changing circumstances.”

President Harry L. Williams noted that the growth of DSU is expected to continue.

“This must include provisions for the growth of the campus facilities,” he said. “This Campus Master Plan will guide us in infrastructure improvements that will accommodate the projected increases in enrollment, the new academic offerings that will be added, and the University’s commitment to enhance campus life and its educational experience.”

MAY COMMENCEMENT

Charles Ogletree, Obama mentor, is keynote speaker

Delaware State University invited Charles J. Ogletree Jr., prominent legal theorist, civil rights attorney, mentor to President Barack Obama and author, to be the keynote speaker of the 2014 May Commencement Ceremony on May 11. A Jesse Climenko Professor of Law at Harvard Law School, and founding and executive director of the Charles Hamilton Houston Institute for Race and Justice, Ogletree is a prominent legal theorist who has made an international reputation by taking a hard look at complex issues of law and by working to secure the rights guaranteed by the Constitution for everyone equally under the law.

Both President Barack Obama and his wife Michelle were students of Professor Ogletree when they attended Harvard Law School. He has continued to be a close friend of the First Couple and a confidant for the chief executive on a number of issues.

A native of Merced, Calif., Ogletree earned a Bachelor of Arts from Harvard College with distinction in Political Science from Stanford University, where he was Phi Beta Kappa. He also holds a J.D. from Harvard Law School. President Harry L. Williams expressed the University’s appreciation to two DSU alumni, Frank and Mary Marshall, friends of Ogletree, who were instrumental in his acceptance of the invitation to speak at the graduation.

LEFT: From left, student Micah Fowlom, News Director Carlos Holmes and students Daniil Okukapode, Devon McDonald and Harry Hudson donned late 1890s garb and greeted attendees at a February Open House at historic Little College Hall celebrating Delaware State University’s 123rd birthday.

RIGHT: The Open House also featured the stories of Mrs. Agustina E. Carr-Ross, left, and Dr. Bebe Hollogerman, right, who lived in Lockerman Hall as students in the 1940s. They are shown with President Harry L. Williams.
About 250 Delaware State University students volunteered for community service work throughout the state March 29 as part of the third annual Inspired Day of Service, hosted in partnership with the Delaware Prevention Coalition.

The students assisted with cleaning, painting, gardening and minor renovation work at the following locations: the A.I. DuPont Middle School in Greenville, the Bellevue Community Center and the West End Neighborhood House in Wilmington, the Brandywine Counseling Center in Newark, the Simon Circle Boys & Girls Club in Dover, the Food Bank of Delaware in Milford and First State Community Action in Georgetown. U.S. Sen. Tom Carper, pictured at top right with a group of students, showed up at the Bellevue site to give the students some encouragement as well as lend a helping hand.

Not only did President Harry L. Williams put in some work with the students at the Simon Circle and Food Bank sites, but so did his family — First Lady Dr. Robin Williams and their two sons, Austin and Gavin, second photo on the right.

While the annual Inspired Day of Service was created as a way for DSU Inspire Scholarship students to work off some of their required community service hours, many other students who do not have such a requirement also participate in the outreach.

**STUDENTS LEND A HAND IN VIRGINIA DURING SPRING BREAK**

A group of 35 DSU students spent Spring Break week in Norfolk, Va., during the MEAC Tournament volunteering for a variety of community service projects in that city. The students lent a hand at Good Mojo, a children’s thrift store that benefits the homeless; the Ronald McDonald House, a facility that provides residential support to families with children who are having surgery at local hospitals; the Dwelling Place Shelter; and the Judeo Christian Outreach Center in nearby Virginia Beach. The students, many from the DSU Gospel Choir, also had the opportunity to visit Virginia Beach, the Naval Museum and other sites. The Gospel Choir also sang at a few locations.

**DSU SIGNS COOPERATION AGREEMENT WITH TURKISH UNIVERSITY**

Delaware State University has expanded its international possibility through the launching of a new relationship with Cukurova University of Merzifon, Turkey. President Harry L. Williams joined CBU President Mehmet Paşakemir in signing a Memorandum of Cooperation between the two institutions which opens the door for possible joint research and teaching activities, faculty and student exchanges, collaborations in business, administration, sciences and education, and the exchange of pedagogical material.

**SOCIAL WORK AWARDED AFFORDABLE HEALTH CARE ACT GRANT**

The Department of Social Work was awarded a grant in the amount of $183,500 to train selected state employees about the Affordable Health Care Act. The training aimed to ensure that state service centers provide accurate information to Delaware residents regarding eligibility for insurance under the legislation and various plans from which they can choose.

**RESEARCH IN SPOTLIGHT IN SHOWCASE ON CAPITOL HILL**

DSU hosted its second annual Pride in Research Showcase for the Delaware Congressional delegation on Capitol Hill.

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DSU hosted its second annual Pride in Research Showcase for the Delaware Congressional delegation and staff in March, demonstrating how federal grants are enabling DSU researchers to tackle some of science’s most challenging issues. At the event at the Capitol Visitors Center in Washington, D.C. — attended by U.S. Sens. Tom Carper and Chris Coons — DSU researchers highlighted research in diverse areas such as optics, molecular genetics, economic development, cyber security, energy and movement science. The event is produced by the Division of Institutional Advancement.

**NASA CHEMCAM TEAM DISCUSSES MARS FINDINGS ON CAMPUS**

Members of NASA’s ChemCam Team of the Mars Science Laboratory mission met at DSU in December to discuss the latest findings from the Curiosity Rover’s exploration of the Red Planet. Dr. Naureen Melikchi, dean of the College of Mathematics, Natural Sciences & Technology and vice president for research, innovation and economic development, hosted a week of meetings with about 32 ChemCam scientists. The ChemCam is the laser-based technology on the Curiosity Rover. Melikchi is a member of the Curiosity ChemCam Team, as is graduate student Alissa Mezzacappa.

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**RESEARCH IN SPOTLIGHT IN SHOWCASE ON CAPITOL HILL**

DSU hosted its second annual Pride in Research Showcase for the Delaware Congressional delegation and staff in March, demonstrating how federal grants are enabling DSU researchers to tackle some of science’s most challenging issues. At the event at the Capitol Visitors Center in Washington, D.C. — attended by U.S. Sens. Tom Carper and Chris Coons — DSU researchers highlighted research in diverse areas such as optics, molecular genetics, economic development, cyber security, energy and movement science. The event is produced by the Division of Institutional Advancement.

**NASA CHEMCAM TEAM DISCUSSES MARS FINDINGS ON CAMPUS**

Members of NASA’s ChemCam Team of the Mars Science Laboratory mission met at DSU in December to discuss the latest findings from the Curiosity Rover’s exploration of the Red Planet. Dr. Naureen Melikchi, dean of the College of Mathematics, Natural Sciences & Technology and vice president for research, innovation and economic development, hosted a week of meetings with about 32 ChemCam scientists. The ChemCam is the laser-based technology on the Curiosity Rover. Melikchi is a member of the Curiosity ChemCam Team, as is graduate student Alissa Mezzacappa.
From catalogues, a peek into the early years

Book donation to the DSU Library revives the voice of second president William C. Jason

For the first time, the current generations of those studying the history of Delaware State University have the direct testimony of an early president, William C. Jason, concerning the successes and challenges that faced the then-State College for Colored Students (SCCS) in its first three decades. Until recently, words that came directly from Jason, the institution’s longest-serving president (1895-1923), had been largely lost in the annals of time. The only known evidence of his tenure under the tenure of the first SCCS president, Wesley Webb. While providing the list of faculty and Board of Trustees members, and beginning in 1894 the list of courses offered, neither contained a President’s Report. The first President’s Report under the Jason era appears in the 1896-97 catalogue, giving more details as to the nature of life on the SCCS campus in those early years. In reporting on the total enrollment of 54 students during 1895-96, the challenges of college attendance become a bit clearer. Only 12 of those students attended the entire eight months of the school year, 18 attended between five and seven months, and 33 attended four months or less. In subsequent reports, he attributes the inconsistent attendance to deficiencies in the educational commitment of students as well as competing work opportunities and inadequate housing on campus. Jason’s first report also expressed his belief in co-education (men and women attending school together) — not a widespread belief in those days. He noted the enrollment of three full-time female students and two part-time women during the 1895-1896 school year.

The vulnerability of the sparse campus building infrastructure is also revealed, as Jason shares in that first report that a “severe storm” in May 1896 wrecked the workshop and did damages to other buildings and crops; he estimated the damage from the storm was between $1,500 and $2,000. Because of the neglect of the state of Delaware in making provisions for education of African-Americans in the decades following the 1865 end of slavery, the SCCS found it necessary to establish a preparatory school in 1893 in addition to the College offerings. By the start of the Jason tenure, the College’s 17 students were outnumbered by the Preparatory School’s 35 students.

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The College is embarrassed greatly by the fact that most of our pupils have had little previous training. A tendency to pursue studies for which the proper preparation has not been made is quite marked. This a difficulty from which

William C. Jason served as president of the State College for Colored Students from 1895-1923.

Catalogue tidbits

TUITION
The cost to attend the State College for Colored Students remained unchanged from 1893 to 1918. During 1911-1912, the school year changed from three terms to two semesters.

- Delaware students: Free | Out-of-state students: $20 a year
- $2 matriculation fee | $2 per week for room and board

TELEPHONE CONNECTION
In suggesting certain improvements to be considered by the Board of Trustees in his President’s Report for the year ending 1901, President William C. Jason notes, “Another improvement which would be an economy rather than an expense is suggested by the frequent need of a telephonic connection between the school and Dover.” The installation of service was complete by 1904.

MASONRY AND COOKING
In his report for the year ending 1903, President Jason notes the addition of masonry as a new area of the industrial work due to the arrival of Nathan Green on the faculty. He also reported a cooking class had been added, as instructor Helen W. Anderson was furnished to the College by the ladies of the Century Club in Dover.

GOVERNOR AT COMMENCEMENT
The 1911 Commencement marked the first time the chief executive of the state was in attendance, as Gov. Simeon Pennewill gave an address during the ceremony.

SCHOOL NEWSPAPER
In his report for the year ending 1912, the president announced the establishment of the school newspaper The Echo, which published its first edition Nov. 24, 1909.

Story by Carlos Holmes
Top achievements

The State College for Colored Students’ top two achievements reflected in the 1893-1898 catalogues are arguably the establishment of ‘teachers’ education at the College and the development of the farm operations on campus.

TEACHERS’ EDUCATION

Teachers’ education began in the 1887-1888 school year with the establishment of a Normal School on campus. Lydia Lawes, the namesake of a current DSU women’s residential hall, was the initial instructor in teacher education and served in that position until 1912. Beginning in 1908, the College also became a focal point for established colored teachers in the state, as many began attending an annual Summer School of Methods, which provided workshops on different teaching topics.

FARM OPERATIONS

The SCCS’ success in converting the inherited inactive fields into a productive farm operation was instrumental in sustaining the College. Much of the foodstuff consumed by the College community came from the diverse crops of wheat, corn, tomatoes, beans, potatoes, and fruits. The SCCS farm operation also raised chickens and pigs to add meat to the food diet. In addition to feeding the SCCS population, surplus crops were also sold on the local Kent County market, becoming an additional source of revenue for the College.

The crop yield cited in the President’s Report for the year ending 1901: 564 bushels of corn, 694 bushels of plums, 175 bushels of white potatoes, 45 bushels of sweet potatoes, 202 bushels of apples, 5 bushels of white beans, 20% tons of onions, 4,872 quarts of strawberries, 4,872 quarts of plums, 5,000 pounds of pork was used by the school. There is no escape except through an improvement in the public schools. Special attention has been paid in the lower classes to laying good foundation,” he wrote.

The uphill challenge for education for a largely uneducated black populace notwithstanding, Jason expressed optimism about the education possibilities offered by the SCCS:

“No one has said in my hearing that Negroes cannot learn. That old idea is dying. But there is a widespread opinion that there are some things which it is better for him not to know. Many people interested in ‘Negro Education’ mean by that term what has become popular under the name Industrial Education, and are not only not teaching the black man how to be a good workman above all things. I was very glad to discover that the gentlemen who comprise our Board are not narrow or one-sided, and that you have decreed that a boy or girl trained in our school shall be instructed in what is and has always been understood to be fundamental to an education for any man, and be equally furnished with the special advantages of having a trade.”

Teachers

To shoulder the teaching load, the SCCS began with three instructors in its early years and later grew as high as 11 in 1913. In those days, both Presidents Webb and Jason served as instructors, as the former taught agriculture and biology. Jason was relatively prolific as compared to his predecessor, as the catalogue noted between 1895 and 1918 that he taught Greek, Latin, mental and moral sciences, English, rhetoric, oratory psychology, civics and political economy.

Government funding support

The catalogues’ record of government appropriations reveal an inconsistent pattern of state funding support for the SCCS. After the initial 1891 outlay of $8,000 to purchase the property on which the SCCS was established and a workshop and president’s cottage was built, between 1892 and 1896 the state allocated only $1,000 during that entire five-year period. Another $4,000 in state funding was provided in 1897, but then the College did not receive another state allocation until 1901, when $6,000 was provided for the construction of Lure Hall as a female dormitory.

Between 1902 and 1912, there were only two separate state allocations in 1907 and 1911 of $5,000 and $3,000, respectively. Beginning in 1913, the state began providing an annual allocation of $3,000; in 1917, that increased to $8,000. The SCCS also received federal funding ranging from $4,000 annually in the early 1890s to $10,000 a year by 1917. While it appeared to be much-needed funding to keep the institution afloat in its fledgling years, the money could be used for only certain aspects of the school’s operations. The College’s revenue from tuition and fees ranged from just over $1,300 in the 1897-98 school year (the first year such revenue was documented) to as high as almost $8,200.

Factored into those revenue figures was “credited labor,” which was the estimated value of the labor put in by students on campus. In addition to their classroom attendance, all students were required to roll up their sleeves and put in two hours of work daily in various areas of the campus such as the farm, building maintenance and cleaning, food service and other assigned tasks.

Campus chapel

President Jason, who was also a Methodist minister, also required students to attend 8 a.m. religious exercises and during week’s end as a Sunday service. Those services were probably held in the Main College Building (which survives today as the Loosermant Hall), until a chapel was built circa 1905.

While previous 1890 history has long claimed that Jason obtained more than $1,100 in pledges to support the chapel construction in the early 1890s, his President’s Report of 1905-1906 reveals that only $533 was actually received. He noted that funds had to be borrowed from the board to complete the chapel’s roofing and pay the lumber bill.

That chapel would later become the campus library circa 1930. The building now serves as the Thomassan Building.

Enrollment and infrastructure

According to the catalogues, the SCCS enrollment exceeded 100 students for the first time in 1904-05, bringing increased pressure on the modest building infrastructure of the College.

To meet those challenges, the SCCS used its meager resources and increased its physical plant from the original three buildings of its inaugural year to reflect a campus that possessed by 1906 a Main College Building, two dormitories for men and women, a chapel, the President’s Cottage, a workshop and a few farm structures. The most recent construction completions of that period (a men’s dormitory, an expansion of the Main College Building dining room and a 10,000 gallon water tower) were presumably made possible by Joshua Parker, a prominent African-American in Kent County who died in the spring of 1905 and willed his entire estate (valued between $6,000 to $8,000) to the SCCS, according to the President’s Report for that school year.

By the time the College celebrated its 20th year in 1911, its enrollment exceeded the enrollment of its Preparatory School by 79 to 50 students, respectively. By 1912-13, the Preparatory School would be done away with. The education deficiencies in many students did not disappear, however, and SCCS was forced to re-establish it in 1916-1917 as a graded school from the 4th grade to the 8th grades.

‘Abundant reason for hope’

As the SCCS proceeded into its third decade of existence, the realities of being a school with a population of Delaware youths deficient in fundamental education, that received inconsistent state funding support and that possessed an inadequate physical plant to accommodate a proper college program began to clearly show the shortcomings of the institution.

Jason’s report for the 1914-1915 school year notes the discouraging evaluation by the U.S. Commissioner of Education, who deemed the SCCS academic courses to be of high school grade. While other historical sources note that in 1916 Jason attempted to resign amid criticism over the lack of progress at the SCCS, there was no President’s Report for the 1915-1916 school year in that catalogue, perhaps as a result of that controversy.

Jason would nevertheless remain as president for another seven years. His 1916-1917 report would be the last one of this catalogue collection (no report appeared in the 1918 catalogue). He noted in the report that in the 26 years since the establishment of the SCCS, 171 students completed their course of study, while 829 were also enrolled for varying amounts of time. He added that 60 percent of the SCCS graduates had become colored teachers in the state.

Yet compared with the sum total of the other President’s Reports from that era, the 1916-1917 account from Jason reflects a bittersweet tone colored by the accumulated frustrations of his tenure while at the same time being still adamantly determined to maintain some semblance of optimism.

The below excerpt from that report no doubt reflects Jason’s strength — the ability to hold his head up and work to sustain and move the institution forward in the face of the daunting difficulties and challenges imposed by the segregation era that was in reality separate and especially unequal.

“There is nothing in this record of which to boast. Much more might have been done. On the other hand, we are not ashamed,” Jason said in his final report in the collection. “Considering the difficulties there is some occasion for a feeling of satisfaction, and even of pride. Certainly there is no room for discouragement, but abundant reason for hope.”

Male students were organized into two Cadet Corps companies and required to spend two hours a week in military tactics and drills, according to the 1907 catalogue. The group pictured is from 1911.
New faces in Alumni Relations and Donor Relations

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.

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 athletics capital campaign now in its final 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? “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, providing 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? “My favorite memory is being a member of the concert choir and going on road tours during spring break. Dr. Yvonne P. Johnson was our choir director back then. She taught us 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.”

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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 DSU 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’ 2008 Outstanding Leadership Award, the 2009 ACE Women’s Network Rising Star Award and a 2011 DSU Vice President Choice Award.

Dunning is a DSU alumna, 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.

What is your favorite memory during your time at DSU? “When Homecoming was concerned, one option was to go to celebrate donors and facilitate donor care. I treasure the experiences and the relationships that have prompted 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? “I think by being role models and mentors. They can help by reaching back with their insights I’ve acquired through these many years spent at DSU to assist and serve others in higher education.”

What is your vision for Alumni Relations? “I think that this year more so than in previous years 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 lifetime connection with some of your students. There is nothing more gratifying than 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 I totally get it now. I truly believe that life is about making impact!’”

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Uniting the latest generations of Hornets

Meeschach Stennett ’98 works to keep younger alumni connected with each other and their alma mater

W hen Meeschach Stennett was soon approaching the day he would receive his Bachelor of Science degree in Accounting, all he wanted to do was get his diploma, get off the DSU campus and begin the next chapter of his life.

He said it wasn’t that his experience on campus was negative; he was just anxious to get his accounting career started.

But it wasn’t long after his 1998 graduation that he began thinking about the DSU family that had been part of his undergraduate years. Once he was separated from them, he found that he missed his Hornet friends and wanted to see them again.

He returned to campus during the subsequent Homecoming to be reunited with his DSU contemporaries, only to find out that many of the younger generation alumni didn’t come back for that weekend.

“I would ask some of my DSU friends, ‘Are you going to Homecoming?’ and many of them would say, ‘I can’t go. It’s just not worth it.’ I truly believe that life is about making impact!”

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In the summer of 2004, Stennett organized a cookout at Lums Pond for the younger alumni. The success of that led to annual summertime cookouts being held.

Jamil “Swat” Perkins, Class of 1998, affirms that Stennett was the one who started reuniting the younger alumni. He began assisting Stennett during those early years; Perkins notes that the “Circle” name came from the place outside of Evers, Jenkins and Conwell halls where a lot of students would hang out. “We coined it the DSU Circle because that is what everyone knew.”

In 2006, Stennett and his Circle “co-founder” Perkins began establishing Homecoming events geared toward the classes of DSU graduates from the 1990s and 2000s and has kept them coming back ever since.

They started a Thursday happy hour event in Wilmington, Del., where there is strong contingent of DSU alumni. They followed
that by establishing what has become an annual Friday night Party Forever Young event held at the Duncan Center in Dover.

They began to hold a tailgate State Day Party on the grassy area next to DSU’s main gate during the Homecoming Game. For the first few years of their event planning, they held a Saturday night event at the then-Loockerman Exchange in downtown Dover.

“The difference in DSU’s Homecoming is now 180 degrees different,” Stennett said. “Now all my people are down here for Homecoming.”

In 2011-2012, Stennett served as the vice president of the DSUAA. That led to programming a Saturday night Homecoming weekend event in conjunction with the Alumni Association.

The DSU Circle’s success in bringing the younger alumni together has been textbook networking. “You can’t pull something like this off by yourself,” Stennett said. “There are influential alumni in their own right from New York to D.C. and we incorporate them. All the tickets move through them.”

DSU years and career
Event planning, however, was not Stennett’s aspiration when he left Bronx, N.Y., to attend then-Delaware State College.

To understand his background, one must know that he is a product of a determined mother of Jamaican heritage — Beverley Dyce. “My mother had plans for me, and that was education,” he said.

“When I was growing up, that was the crack era in New York City, and my mother wasn’t going to let me be a part of that cycle,” Stennett said. His formative years were also the years of the television show A Different World and the Spike Lee movie School Daze, both of which were based on a historically black college. Between what he had learned from that aspect of pop culture and what he and a friend saw when they visited DSU, Stennett knew Del State was the place for him.

In attending DSU in the mid-1990s, he sees the institution’s change in higher education status as a metaphor for his own corresponding transformation.

“I came to Delaware State College in 1992, and when I left it was Delaware State University,” Stennett said. “It also signified my transition from adolescence to adulthood.”

Following his graduation, he returned to the Bronx for a season and worked as a temp accountant for a firm in “The Big Apple.” Sometime during that next school year, he came back to DSU to celebrate the birthday of his former roommate Milton Garrick, who was graduating that year.

“That is when I met my wife Illyana (then) Green in the parking lot of Tubman Hall,” Stennett said.

Meeting his wife gave him all the motivation he needed to come back to Delaware, where he obtained a position with Pioneer Chemical Co. and later with Scientific Games. He and Illyana were married in 2000, 14 years later, their union has produced three children — Izzy, 14; Maaliyan, 10; and Marlee, 5.

In 2003, Stennett started to work for his current employer, DuPont, where he began as a fixed assets coordinator and would progress upward to his current post as a senior plant accountant at one of DuPont’s largest manufacturing sites.

Meanwhile, The DSU Circle has been a primary life passion for him. His success in bringing the younger alums together is all the more remarkable in that, during the first few years, he did it without the use of social media. Today, however, the DSU Circle is on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram, and also has a website life of its own — www.DSUcircle.com.

“It started off as a way of just trying to keep us together,” Stennett said.

Leland Nelson, Class of 1996 member and the owner of Dirty Dog Hauling (a professional residential and commercial junk hauling firm that he calls a modern day “Sanford & Son”), is one of the “influential alumni” who has helped to keep alumni in the Harrisburg, Pa., area in the loop about The DSU Circle events.

“We have had some very good cookouts where we have been able to enjoy good fellowship with each other and our families,” said Nelson, who earned a Bachelor of Science in Accounting. “(Stennett) is big on alumni engagement. If he sees anything positive about alums in the news, he will get that information out there through The DSU Circle.”

Garrick, Stennett’s former roommate, said that Homecoming parties of The DSU Circle have been “mesmerizing,” as well as “good clean fun.” He notes the benefits of bringing the younger alums together goes beyond partying.

“It is important to understand that Stennett has created a family outside of our immediate families,” said Garrick, who earned a 1998 Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education and currently teaches mathematics at Pottsgrove Community College Borough of Manhattan (N.Y.). “Life can be stressful, but when we get together, we are able to release some of that stress with good people and good energy, all of which is medicinal.”

In addition, Perkins notes that a lot of alums have their own businesses and companies, “and the networking allows us to connect and collaborate.”

Stennett said he wouldn’t exert so much energy into The DSU Circle if he wasn’t seeing the positive result of the efforts.

“When I get alums to come back and say that it was the best Homecoming they have ever been to, and that they can’t wait to come back next year, then it is worth it,” Stennett said.

Story by Carlos Holmes
Alumnus preserves stories of Philadelphia’s 16th Street League through documentary film

Alumnus preserves stories of Philadelphia’s 16th Street League through documentary film

The Echo

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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 alumnae 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 Everett Jr., Kelley Wilson-Everett and Latoya Stevens, all from the Class of 1999.
2. Roderick C. Morris ’75, left, and Dr. Mechele Jennings-Morris ’75.
3. Albert Weal 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.

Honor a hoops legacy

Class of 2004 alumnus Isaiah Nathaniel, who showed his new documentary 16th and Philly at DSU in February, stands on the court at 16th Street in Philadelphia.

A class of 2004 graduate, Nathaniel made his alma mater part of the premiere tour of his new documentary 16th and Philly, a part of the premiere tour of his new documentary on the Philadelphia—area pickup basketball league.

Nathaniel, who also played basketball for Delaware State University from 2000-2004, has done a documentary on the famed North Central Philadelphia Basketball League — known commonly in Philly as the 16th Street League, because its outdoor courts are located on the corner of 16th Street and West Susquehanna Avenue in North Philadelphia. During its prominent years of the early 1980s to the early 2000s, it was considered one of the top pickup leagues on the East Coast.

The league produced a number of players who went on to compete in college, overseas, in professional leagues and in the NBA such as Hank Gathers, Bo Kimball, Doug Overton, Lionel Simmons, Ronald “Flip” Murray, Cantino Mobley, Aaron “AO” Owens, Rodney “Hot Rod” Odrick and many others.

Nathaniel said the documentary was made to honor the memory and legacy of the 16th Street League and preserve some of the stories. “Anytime people talk about basketball in Philly, there’s always some who remember and talk about the 16th Street League,” Nathaniel said. “Whether you witnessed it as a player or a spectator, it never leaves you.”

In addition to DSU, the film has also premiered in Philadelphia. The filmmaker is also working toward a New York City screening sometime in the spring and is exploring distribution options.

Nathaniel is the CEO of his own information technology consulting business in Philadelphia — Calcom Technologies — which among himself and the seven technicians he employs does full-service IT support work in the tri-state Pennsylvania, New Jersey and Delaware region, including web and graphic designs, branding, marketing and disaster recovery. He is also a co-partner in Diamond Eye Sports, a sports media firm that includes photography and videography services. It is the latter business through which Nathaniel made the film.

With two businesses to tend to, as well the production and promotion of his film, Nathaniel said his years as a DSU student-athlete majoring in information technology served him well. “Having to juggle sports and academics at DSU prepared me for the juggling I have to do now in different pursuits,” Nathaniel said. “Anytime people talk about basketball in Philly, there’s always some who remember and talk about the 16th Street League,” Nathaniel said. “Whether you witnessed it as a player or a spectator, it never leaves you.”

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Story and photo by Carlos Holmes

Honoring a hoops legacy

Class of 2004 alumnus Isaiah Nathaniel, who showed his new documentary 16th and Philly at DSU in February, stands on the court at 16th Street in Philadelphia.
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 high 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 1948, 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 be inducted into both the DSU Athletic Hall of Fame and the Delaware Afro-American Hall of Fame. Jerome would go on to earn a Master of Business Administration (Personnel Services) from Glassboro State University in New Jersey. During his career, he was a teacher at several Delaware high schools and a 25-year guidance counselor at DSU. Dubbed “Preacher” by his colleagues, Jerome retired from careers in accounting and education administration, respectively.

• White Bernard Pinkett — another sibling — earned his degree elsewhere (Central State University, his granddaughter Brandy Harvey graduated from DSU in 2005. The patriarch’s namesake, Joseph H. Pinkett Jr., along with his wife Doctores, produced four children who would graduate from DSU — Regina Pinkett ’75, Tina Pinkett Dancy ’76, Donna Pinkett Brown ’78 and Denise Pinkett Wynn ’87. Denise’s husband Desmond Wynn ’86 also graduated from DSC. Another sibling, Pamela, did not graduate from DSC, but her husband David Crocker died in 1980. Donna and Denise, who both earned degrees in Food Nutrition, both work for DSU’s Cooperative Extension Program.

• 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 (story, Page 28). The following siblings of Sherri are fellow alumni: Tanya Hicks Gaison ’79, following her husband and fellow alum Leon Gaison ’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.

“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 ’01

DSU 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.

• Daniel Hicks ’82; Joseph Hicks ’85; and Garrett Hicks ’87. Daniel and Gary are deceased.

• Ronald Pinkett, Jerome’s son, graduated from DSU.

“高 achieving family members of DSU”

SUMMARY

Since the 1920s, the Pinkett family has graduated more than 25 from Delaware State University, including the patriarch’s namesake, Joseph Jr.; his sister Mildred; and his brother, Warren. The family has also produced many other graduates, both in and out of the immediate family, including Ronald, Jerome’s son.

The Echo 24
Connor Kirkwood Highway. Questions? Contact Chapter President
Alexis Maull at alexismaull@dsu.acom.

Chapter Meetings
The Greater Hampton Roads Chapter meets every other second
Saturday at 1 p.m. at Dudley’s Driving Center, 2845 N. Armistead Ave. in Hampton, Va. Conference call meetings are held every other second Tuesday at 6 p.m. (Free call-in number: 559.546.1000. Participant access
code: 2513164, Questions? Contact Chapter President
Al Weal Jr. at mastercook@comcast.net.

Kent County Alumni Chapter

Highlights
• Plans are underway to host the chapter’s annual
summer membership cookout in August.
• In partnership with the DSU Athletic Boosters Club, the chapter will sponsor a post-game reception following the football season. The activity is also sponsored by the DSU National Alumni Association.

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 philsad@comcast.net.

New Castle County Alumni Chapter

Highlights
• 33rd Annual Scholarship Luncheon
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, 150 Addison Drive, Newark, Del. 19712. For more information, contact Troy Ashley, chairperson, at 302.559.4848 or Tasley76@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 Tuesday of the month at 6 p.m. at DSU/Wilmington on Kirkwood Highway. Questions? Contact Chapter President Tressa W. "Tessie" Holmes at 302.229.5909 or tesselomes@gmail.com.

Philadelphia Alumni Chapter

Highlights
• Philadelphia Chapter President Jillian Inge joined alumni and Admissions counselor Kevin Hanrie to represent DSU in February at the MEAC College Fair.
• The chapter represented DSU in March at Youth Angel Scholar Career Day, a nonprofit organization founded by alums 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 9 a.m. at Broomly House Apartments, 6091 Old York Road, Philadelphia. Questions? Contact Chapter President Dr. Jillian Inge at jilliang0510@gmail.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 Inc. included three 2013 scholarship recipients.

Chapter Meetings
The Sussex County Alumni Chapter meets the first Tuesday of the month at 7 p.m. at the Old Landing 11 Community Center, 401 Wilson St. in Millsboro, Del. Questions? Contact Chapter President Robert Griner Sr. at 302.947.4580 or draine11@verizon.net. The chapter’s new mailing address is PO Box 108, Millsboro DE 19966.

Elect National Officers
June 2012-July 2014

President: Dr. Y. Bernard Chase Jr. 
chasechair@dsu.acom

Vice President: Sheila M. Davis ’91
sdavis@dsu.acom

Recording Secretary: Thea Marie White’98
dusses@dsu.acom

Assistant Recording Secretary: Janet Jenkins-Court
jcw@jwilsonco.net

Treasurer: J. Gaylyn Florence ’96
jgaylflorence@comcast.net

Assistant Treasurer: Jaye C. Hopkins-Kileta ’93
jchkpks34@comcast.net

Alumni Representatives: Leonard Hudson ’71 (2012-14)
kedwardkubata@gmail.com

bdean393@gmail.com

Chaplain: Kelby R. Jones Jr.
chair @ yahoomail.com

Parliamentarian: Delia Hollingsworth ’46
khollingsworth@comcast.net

Immediate Past President: Danita E. Allen ’10
detgilbr4200@yahoo.com

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

Stay in touch with DSU!

Alumni: Update your contact info & we’ll keep you ‘In the Loop’ about your alma mater.

Sign up to receive ‘In the Loop’ — an email newsletter designed to help you stay informed about DSU happenings and events — and you can be entered into a drawing to win two free tickets to DSU’s Homecoming game vs. North Carolina A&T on Saturday, October 19! Visit www.desu.edu/intheloop-signup to provide or update your information.

A winner will be selected from all new ‘In the Loop’ sign-ups received before June 15.

The winner will be notified by email and also will be announced in the summer issue of The Echo.

We hope to connect with you soon!

In Memoriam
We sorrowfully acknowledge the following deaths within the DSU family and extend heartfelt condolences to their survivors.

ALUMNI
Earle D. Goodman ’79
Aug. 19, 2010

Aver Dupree ’64
Aug. 11, 2011

Ellie P. Peoples Jr. ’66
March 2, 2012

Frank Smith’72
Dec. 5

Louis Spaldhaden ’80
Dec. 22

Ronald Thompson Sr.’98
Dec. 24

Jessica R. Harper ’95
Jan. 4

Mitchell F. Lane ’68
Jan. 6

Leo R. LeCompte ’57
Jan. 21

Dr. Oliver M. Harmon ’62
Feb. 1

Geneva Rodgers ’51
Feb. 7

Clarence C. Barrs Jr. ’78
Feb. 11

Alano H. Shockley Jr. ’43
Feb. 11

Verge P. Lewis ’46
Feb. 17

Carney M. Sims ’01
March 7

James M. Hogtun ’65
March 20

Dr. Anthony Miles
March 23

Overton Jr. ’67
March 29

David N. Reeders ’75
April 6

Michael Weller ’98
April 12

Karen Coleman ’98
April 20

FACULTY & STAFF
Olivia Washington
Instructor, 1967-1988
April 11, 2013

Nettie McGahan
Audit clerk, 1963-2000
Dec. 23

Verge P. Lewis
Custodian, 1946-1976
Feb. 12

LEO R. LECOMPTE
The DSU community mourns with the family of Leo Richard LeCompte, Class of 1957 alumnum and longtime University administrator, who passed away Saturday, Jan. 4, at age 76 in New York City.

LeCompte graduated from then-Delaware State College with Bachelor of Arts Degree in 1957. LeCompte worked for Delaware State from 1969 until his retirement in 1997 as the director of Financial Aid and as the assistant vice president of Student Affairs. He was a resident of Camden, Del.

Note: Death notices sent to the Office of Alumni Relations must be accompanied by creditable documentation such as a religious clipping, death certificate or funeral program.
Ridgeway honored as Distinguished Alum

Longtime alumni supporters Drs. Berlin N. and Reba R. Hollingsworth recently presented President Harry L. Williams a display check representing a $10,000 contribution to create the Dr. Berlin N. and Dr. Reba R. Hollingsworth Endowed Scholarship. DSU students from rising freshmen to seniors with at least a 2.75 GPA and demonstrated financial need will be eligible. Dr. Berlin met his wife of nearly 67 years, the former Reba Ross, while they were working summer jobs in Asbury Park, N.J. in 1947. Dr. Reba’s junior year at then-Delaware State College, they were married. She graduated from DSC in 1949, completing a six year educational track that included graduating from the Laboratory High School in 1945. Upon earning her bachelor’s degree, Dr. Reba became a high school teacher and guidance counselor. Dr. Berlin matriculated a few years later at Delaware State, earning a bachelor’s degree in Business Administration in 1967. After graduation, he was the first manager of the school’s student center. He went on to spend 22 years in the public school system. Dr. Berlin served as principal and Dr. Reba served as counselor during summers in the 1970s when they conducted student study tours throughout Europe and coordinated study tours for foreign students throughout the United States. Now retired, the couple teaches and counsels organizations on parliamentary procedures and time management, as well as provides marital and premarital counseling.

The Hollingsworths say that Delaware State provided them with a good basic education and gave them the confidence to know that they could compete with anyone, anywhere in the world. They also say that they have an obligation to give back to their alma mater and encourage other alumni and friends to do the same.

Together, the Hollingsworths have contributed more than $23,000 to Delaware State over the years.

Family of William C. Jason sets up $10K library endowment

A new endowment has been set up by a descendant of William C. Jason, the longest serving president in the history of DSU. Dr. Berlin met his wife of nearly 67 years, the former Reba Ross, while they were working summer jobs in Asbury Park, N.J. in 1947. Dr. Reba’s junior year at then-Delaware State College, they were married. She graduated from DSC in 1949, completing a six year educational track that included graduating from the Laboratory High School in 1945. Upon earning her bachelor’s degree, Dr. Reba became a high school teacher and guidance counselor. Dr. Berlin matriculated a few years later at Delaware State, earning a bachelor’s degree in Business Administration in 1967. After graduation, he was the first manager of the school’s student center. He went on to spend 22 years in the public school system. Dr. Berlin served as principal and Dr. Reba served as counselor during summers in the 1970s when they conducted student study tours throughout Europe and coordinated study tours for foreign students throughout the United States. Now retired, the couple teaches and counsels organizations on parliamentary procedures and time management, as well as provides marital and premarital counseling.

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Corporate internships and mentoring programs prepare students for careers in business

During the past several years, Delaware State University and several corporations with offices or headquarters in the region have developed internship and mentoring partnerships through the Office of Development for DSU students.

The programs provide opportunities for students to gain knowledge and transferrable skills through hands-on experience, helping to prepare them to become the “first choice of employers,” a goal cited in DSU’s Vision Statement.

Barclaycard Mentor Program

The first program to be developed, the DSU/Barclaycard Mentor Program, continues its success from the initial launch in spring 2012. The program has experienced tremendous growth since its inception.

Eleven students participated as the program’s third group of interns in spring 2014, with four returning from the first cohort. Students attended a six-week training course in Advanced Excel. Additionally, the training was offered to focus on core competencies and prepare students for project-requiring data analysis. Students also handled project-based assignments given by their mentors in the areas of credit risk and marketing analytics.

At the end of the semester, each intern is expected to facilitate a 30-minute formal presentation. Through the internships, students gain knowledge and transferrable skills relevant to the banking industry, including: Customer analytics; taking large sets of data and framing the information to make evidence-based decisions; working on projects and understanding the processes from beginning to end, and levels of preparation and familiarity with manipulating data using software programs.

Meet an intern | Clarence J. Banks

Clarence J. Banks, a senior Management — Finance and Banking major from Wilmington, Del., graduating in May, has taken part in the Barclaycard Mentor Program each spring semester since its inception.

Barclaycard, in Credit Risk and Strategic Analytics at Barclaycard US, where he gained experience in completing market research of new account credit card offerings, compiling industry information and making comparisons, and supporting strategy documentation and auditing of new account credit policies. Banks also had the opportunity to take part in internships the past two summers at Monsanto in St. Louis, Mo. On campus, he is a senior resident assistant, Alpha Scholar, president of the National Society of Collegiate Scholars, chairperson of the Accounting & Finance Club, chapter treasurer of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity Inc., former treasurer of the Men’s Council and a mentor. Within the community, he is an active volunteer. He has received academic and community service awards through the College of Business and works to maintain a high GPA while staying active.

What are the most important skills that you took away from your internship?

“Soft skills that I can apply to many other things — and not just business. I have learned how to communicate properly, the art of networking, and the importance of business etiquette. Skills like this can be used for anything in life. I have also improved my technical skills — skills such as finance and learning how to use different computer software.”

What are your career goals?

“My ultimate career goal is to become a chief financial officer of a Fortune 100 company and eventually become an entrepreneur. With my campus involvement and past internship experience, I had four job offers. I accepted a job offer in Newark, N.J., at the company headquarters of Prudential Financial. I’ll be a financial analyst in the FLDP program (a rotation program targeted at high potential accounting and finance associates).”

What is your favorite part about being a Hornet?

“Meeting people that are willing to help you and embrace you no matter what background you have. DSU is one big diverse family. The atmosphere, students, faculty and staff made me have a great and memorable experience — from the maintenance staff cracking jokes and watching you grow, to the president of the University sitting down with you to see what he can improve. We are ONE Hornet family making our mark on the world!”

JPMorgan Chase and Co. Technology Mentor Program

Created in September 2013, the JPMorgan Chase and Co. Technology Mentor Program for DSU students (TMP) is designed to help students develop life skills for roles and future careers that complement their classroom learning at DSU.

Eight students from the College of Business majoring in Management Information Systems and the College of Mathematics, Natural Sciences and Technology majoring in Computer Science were the initial participants in the program, gaining experience in the scope of services offered by JPMorgan, and specific job requirements. Since the inception, three students have been offered full-time jobs after graduation.

Meet a participant | Alejandra Rodriguez

Alejandra Rodriguez of Bath, Maine, a senior Management major with a concentration in Management Information Systems, was among the first students involved in the JPMorgan Chase and Co. Technology Mentor Program pilot program this academic year.

“During her time at DSU, Rodriguez has been on President’s List four out of five semesters and the Dean’s List the other semester. She was part of ROTC, completing Field Training (Boot Camp) the summer after her sophomore year and receiving academic and participation awards. She was inducted into Beta Gamma Sigma, the College of Business Honor Society, and this spring was working on being inducted into The National Society of Leadership and Success.

Rodriguez recently accepted an offer with JPMorgan for its Operations Analyst Development Program with direct placement in Anti-Money Laundering Operations, which begins in July. She also plans to continue her education and pursue a Master of Business Administration.

What is the most important knowledge that you took away from the program?

“This pilot program gave me the opportunity to network with individuals in the firm, so that I could learn about the build-up and culture of JPMorgan. I was also very fortunate in having a very active mentor, Terrance Bowman, who gave me the necessary tools to succeed.”

What would you tell a fellow student about the experience?

“It was a very beneficial experience; not only did I manage to network and have many interview opportunities, but also I was able to grow personally. Looking back and speaking with my classmates who were also in the program, I’ve realized you’re only going to get out what you put in. This wasn’t a program where you gain experience or manage projects, but if you are persistent great things can happen.”

What is your favorite part about being a Hornet?

“I enjoyed the class size and the relationships that I was able to create with my classmates and professors.”

Alejandra Rodriguez

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Meet an intern | Neil P. Shah

Neil P. Shah, a Junior Management — Finance and Banking major from Milford, Del., has participated in two of DSU’s internship programs. Shah completed his first internship as a data analyst with Sallie Mae in August and interned as a strategic analyst with Barclaycard US during the spring 2014 semester.

Through these opportunities, he was able to strengthen his auditing skills, as well as gain experience forecasting supply and demand in the marketplace.

Also during the spring semester, Shah had the honor of participating in the NASDAQ OMX closing bell ceremony March 19 in New York City during a trip organized by Dr. Nandita Das, associate professor in the College of Business. He was accepted for the Major League Baseball Diversity Business Summit in April, where he had the opportunity to interview for a club summer internship.

On campus, Shah has been the president of the Investment Club, treasurer of the Student Advisor Council and a member of the Accounting and Finance Club. He has participated in the Black Executive Exchange Program and represented DSU at the Opportunity Funding Cooperation (OFC) Business Plan Competition and the Nation Diversity Case Study Competition (NDCCC). He has also been involved in community service by volunteering for Hornet Days, Open Houses and Parents Day.

After his December 2014 graduation, he plans to study for the first level Chartered Financial Analyst (CFA) exam and gain a few years’ work experience while pursuing CFA certification. Shah then hopes to obtain a Master of Business Administration in Finance/Marketing.

How did your internships help to prepare you for the future?

“The most important things that I learned were networking and the ability to organize and prioritize. ... I have gained a broader understanding of the financial world and the various opportunities that exist. I have been able to gain firsthand experience with different aspects of the business world. I have been able to gain exposure to different industries and different types of companies.”

What is your favorite part about being a Hornet?

“My favorite part about being a Hornet is that since it is a small University compared to other universities, it is very easy to stand out if your academic and extracurricular activity record is good. It is just like how my advisor puts it — it is better to be a big fish in a small pond than to be a small fish in a big pond.”

Meet the intern | Daronte L. Baxter

Daronte L. Baxter, a Junior Accounting major from Wilmington, Del., took part in a new opportunity with Wawa Inc. from June to January as the first DSU executive intern to CEO Chris Gheysens.

Through his internship, Baxter gained experience creating weekly reports that spanned a variety of key metrics. In addition, he was responsible for keeping Gheysens aware of the various changes in the industry and economic environment and climate, as well as completing special projects to help other analysts and project teams with their ventures.

A Dean's List student, Baxter also works on campus as an academic tutor, assisting students with financial accounting, managerial accounting and cost accounting. He is a member of the Delaware State chapter of the National Society of Leadership and Success.

After his May 2015 graduation, he plans to enroll in a dual admission program to earn Master of Business Administration and Juris Doctorate degrees. His ultimate goal is to become a Certified Public Accountant specializing in forensic accounting.

What are the most important skills that you took away from your internship?

“During my time at Wawa Inc., I learned two very important things. The first of these was the importance of networking. ... I met many contacts who were willing to help me along my professional journey. They allowed me insight into the company, and as a result I was able to affirm my career choices. Secondly, I learned the importance of being self-efficient and self-sufficient. Working in a business environment, it is important to be able to use your time efficiently so as to meet deadlines and exceed expectations.”

How did the internship help to prepare you for your future goals?

“In order to be a forensic accountant, it is imperative that I have knowledge of the accounting and business procedures of different industries. Working at Wawa, I was able to experience the processes they used firsthand. Furthermore, I was able to meet and talk with many certified public accountants and other financial professionals, including Mr. Gheysens himself, whom advised me and shared their experiences with me. Being able to receive guidance from such vast wealth of knowledge is priceless in itself.”

What is your favorite part about being a Hornet?

“My favorite part about being a Hornet is being able to be a part of an institution that is striving for greatness. Delaware State is positioning itself and its students to be able to achieve great things after they graduate college, and while they are still here. I am proud to be part of a University that not only prepares me for success, but pushes and challenges me to achieve it.”
The 2013 President’s Scholarship Ball drew more than 400 guests to make a strong statement of financial support for Delaware State University students. The event raised more than $105,000 for student scholarships.

Held in the ballroom at Dover Downs Hotel & Casino, the ball was emceed by CBS3 morning news anchor Ukee Washington, who grew up at DSU as the son of Dr. Ulysses S. Washington, the retired head of the Department of Agriculture. The Scholarship Ball featured smooth music by the DSU Jazz Ensemble and the Joe Baione Jazz Quintet, while Mike Hines and the Look later got the attendees on the dance floor. The event also featured auctioneer Clyde Selby, a Class of 1970 alumnus who took live bids for an evening trip to a Broadway show in New York, U.S. Congress memorabilia, two tickets to the 2014 President’s Scholarship Ball, and more.

A highlight was the testimonies of two students, speaking about how receiving scholarships allowed them to pursue a college education — one becoming Mr. DSU and the other president of the Student Government Association.

The Scholarship Ball received strong support from:

- **Premier sponsors:** Delmarva Power and DuPont.
- **Platinum sponsors:** AstraZeneca
- **Gold sponsors:** Delaware Today and the Delaware State News.

Tickets are available now for the 2014 President’s Scholarship Ball, which will be held Saturday, December 13, 2014, at Dover Downs. To purchase tickets or to learn more about sponsorship opportunities, please visit www.desu.edu/presidents-scholarship-ball.
Alum, former pro Rod Milstead joins offensive coaching staff

HORNETS ALSO ADD NEW SAFETIES COACH

One of the most decorated players in the history of the Delaware State University football program is among two additions to the Hornets’ coaching staff this spring.

Head coach Kermit Blount recently announced that Rod Milstead has joined his staff as offensive line coach. Blount has also appointed former Virginia State University head coach Andrew Faison as safeties coach for the Hornets.

Milstead was a standout offensive lineman for the Hornets from 1988 to 1991 before an eight-year career in the National Football League. During his tenure with the Hornets, Milstead was a three-time All-Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference (MEAC) First Team selection (1989, 1990, 1991), and a 1991 Associated Press Walter Camp and Sheridan Black College All-America First Team pick.

He helped lead DSU to the 1989 MEAC championship and a share of the conference title in 1988 and 1991. In addition, he helped pave the way for the Hornets’ No. 1 ranking among all Division I-AA (now FCS) teams in rushing at 300.2 yards per game in 1990.

Delaware State named Milstead as its Male Athlete of the Year and Senior Male Athlete of the Year in 1992. He was inducted into the Hornets’ Athletic Hall of Fame in 2003.

Milstead earned a bachelor’s degree in Sociology/Criminal Justice from DSU in 1992. Following his collegiate career, he was selected by the Dallas Cowboys in the fifth round of the 1992 National Football League draft. After several weeks in the Cowboys’ training camp, he was traded to the Cleveland Browns, where he played two seasons. In 1994, Milstead signed with the San Francisco 49ers, where he joined former Hornet star wide receiver John Taylor.

Milstead was a member of San Francisco’s 1994 Super Bowl champion squad that captured the title with a 49-26 win over the San Diego Chargers in Super Bowl XXIX in Miami, Fla. In four seasons with the 49ers (1994-97), Milstead competed in 36 games, including 12 starts.

He completed his professional playing career after two seasons with the Washington Redskins (1998-99), during which he appeared in 20 games, starting 11.

In 2013, Milstead was offensive line coach at DSU’s MEAC rival North Carolina Central University.

From 2000-2006, he was assistant head coach/offensive line coach at his high school alma mater, Lackey High in Indian Head, Md.

Faison was head coach at Virginia State University, a member of the Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association, where he posted a 58-52 overall record from 2002 to 2012. In 2013, he was a special assistant to the athletic director at Virginia State.

From 1995 to 2002, Faison was defensive coordinator and recruiting coordinator at Winston-Salem State University under head coach Kermit Blount, now his boss at DSU.

In 1987 and 1988, Faison was Virginia State’s defensive coordinator and recruiting coordinator.

Visit the football section at dsuhornets.com and click on this story for a video interview with offensive line coach Rod Milstead.

SEASON TICKETS ON SALE NOW

The DSU Department of Athletics would like to thank last year’s football season ticket holders for your continued support of our fellow Hornets.

2014 SEASON TICKET PRICING

- Home Side—Reserved $100
- Home Side—General $80
- Early Hornet (Return purchase by June 20) $100

Contact the DSU Ticket Office Athletic.Ticketing@desu.edu 302.857.7487

Elaine Aisha Peete

Golfer Peete named 2014 Arthur Ashe Jr. Sports Scholar

Sophomore golfer Elaine Aisha Peete has been selected as a 2014 Arthur Ashe Jr. Sports Scholar by Diversity Issues in Higher Education magazine (formerly Black Issues in Higher Education).

The prestigious award was created in 1992 to recognize high school and collegiate student athletes who emulate the legacy of the late Arthur Ashe, the African-American tennis great, civil rights leader and humanitarian.

2014 Arthur Ashe Sports Scholars nominee must be students of color, have a cumulative grade point average of at least 3.2, be an active member of an intercollegiate athletic team during the 2013-14 academic year and have a demonstrated record of service to the campus or community.

Peete, a forensic science major, is in her second year as a member of the DSU women’s golf team. She is also the niece of legendary pro golfer Calvin Peete, the most successful African-American on the PGA Tour prior to the emergence of Tiger Woods.

Peete and the other 2014 Arthur Ashe Scholars were honored April 10 at an awards luncheon and symposium at George Mason University in Fairfax, Va. In addition, Diversity Issues in Higher Education published its annual dedication to scholar athletes in April.
Basketball teams look ahead to brighter 2014-15

MEN

Delaware State is looking ahead after posting a 9-21 overall record (5-11 MEAC) during the 2013-14 season. Despite the record, there were a number of performances and hopeful signs for the future.

Junior center Kendall Gray was named to the 2013-14 All-Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference Second Team after shattering the team blocks record for the second time and posting career high scoring numbers. Gray blocked a school-record 81 shots this season, eclipsing the previous team high of 75 he recorded during the 2012-13 campaign. In addition, he averaged a career-high 11.5 points per game.

The Hornets are also encouraged by the play of freshman guard Deandre Haywood, who was named to the MEAC Rookie Team after averaging 6.2 points in 27 games in his first season. Junior forward Tysawn Bell, who was second on the team in scoring at 12.1 points per game; and junior Kendrell Williams, who led the Hornets with 84 assists and was fourth on the team in scoring at 12.6 points per game.

The 2014-15 Hornets will have to replace the lone senior for the Lady Hornets, All-America guard Tierra Hawkins. Hawkins, who missed the final 12 games because of a shoulder injury, was one of eight players in the nation averaging 20-plus points and 10-plus rebounds per game before being sidelined.

“The majority of the team is freshman and now they all stepped up to the plate in dealing with the injuries I could not have any happier with them,” said Louis.

EQUESTRIAN RIDERS EARN NATIONAL ACADEMIC RECOGNITION

Eight members of the DSU equestrian team have been cited by the National Collegiate Equestrian Association for their success in the classroom.

Senior Heather Holz is listed on the 2013-14 NCEA Academic All-America First Team. First team honorees must have completed in 70 percent of the school’s meets and have a cumulative grade point average of at least 3.5 on a 4.0 scale.

Sophomore Alexis Gratkowski has earned NCEA All-Academic Second Team honors.

WOMEN

Battling injuries to key players throughout the season, the Delaware State women’s basketball team, under second-year head coach Tamika Louis, finished 2013-14 with a 3-13 mark in MEAC play and an 8-21 overall record.

At season’s end, freshman sensation Raven Baskin, who set a new team record for most points scored in a season (595), earned MEAC Third Team and All-Rookie Team honors after finishing second in the conference in scoring with 21.3 points per game.

The lone senior for the Lady Hornets, meanwhile, was guard-forward Dranea Harmon, who wrapped up her varsity career stitting second in assists, 10th in steals and 12th in rebounds on DSU’s all-time list. Harmon also finished two shy of becoming the 15th player in team history to tally 1,000 career points. Despite losing Harmon, the future is bright for the Lady Hornets with the entire team scheduled to return, including junior forward Tierra Hawkins, Hawkins, who missed the final 12 games because of a shoulder injury, was one of eight players in the nation averaging 20-plus points and 10-plus rebounds per game before being sidelined.

“Although the majority of the team is freshman and now they all stepped up to the plate in dealing with the injuries I could not have any happier with them,” said Louis.

Bernard W. Carr recently retired as a police officer from the Metro Transit Police Department in Washington, D.C. He retired in 1984, his assignments included: investigator, field training officer, bicycle patrol and photographer. He was elected in May 2013 to serve a two-year term as DSU Alumni Association alumni representative. Carr is a member of Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity Inc.

Felicia Jones of Collingdale, Pa., recently published her first children’s book, Do You Have Dreams, with Myren 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.

University officials, alumni and friends paid tribute to former Hornet basketball great Robert Winderhoedt’s career, community service and contributions to his alma mater during halftime of the men’s Jan. 11 basketball game. Vanderhoedt ’72, a member of Delaware State’s 1,000-point club, was a Hornet standout from 1967 to 1970 whose time on the team was highlighted by being a second All-CIAA selection 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. Works on 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 $1,000 to advance his career as a working artist.

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Marisa K. (Phillippe) Bazeamore was recently promoted to senior communications specialist at Commg Inc., a Fortune 500 company headquartered in Commg, N.Y. In her new role, she leads employee and executive communications initiatives for Commg’s display technologies business unit.

2004

Recharde Goodway has been named head football coach at Booker High School in Sarasota, Fl. Goodway teaches introduction to Information Technology at the school and is also the assistant director of athletics.

2004/2007

Quincy A. Rose recently graduated from Wilmington University, where she earned an Education Doctorate degree in Innovation and Leadership with a concentration in Organizational Leadership. Rose is currently an assistant professor of Education at Tusculum College, where she also serves as the assessment coordinator for the Teacher Education Program and was recently promoted to the leadership role of department chair for the Master of Arts in Teaching Program. Among her notable accomplishments, Rose has been asked to speak at a leadership retreat on the topic of student and faculty engagement.

2008

Rashaan Torian Brave was promoted to sports facility director of the William J. Myers Pavilion within the Division of Youth and Adult Sports at Baltimore City
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