



Dear Fellow Alumni and Friends:

As president of the Tuskegee National Alumni Association (TNAA), it has been my honor to represent and provide leadership to our prestigious organization since August 2016. Without our strong alumni family, Mother Tuskegee could not remain one of the United States' leading universities. Our alumni family embodies the spirit of the university — personally and professionally — by showing the world TNAA excellence. During the past many months, I have enjoyed receiving numerous ideas from alumni all over the country concerning fundraising, student recruitment, campus improvement projects and other opportunities that will have a lasting and positive impact on the university's students, employees and alumni.

I am so proud of our alumni who are contributing their time, money and expertise to assure Tuskegee will remain an elite academic institution for generations to come. I look forward to meeting and listening to many of you throughout 2018.

If you have received this and are not a TNAA member, I encourage you to join our organization prior to March 1, 2018, to participate in our upcoming national leadership elections. You can become a member by connecting with one of our local alumni clubs or professional organizations, or joining online at [tuskegeenationalalumni.org](http://tuskegeenationalalumni.org).

Have a great Tuskegee Year!

Burt Rowe '70, President  
Tuskegee National Alumni Association



**Instilling Knowledge  
Demonstrating Leadership  
Providing Service**

## 2016-17 TNAA Activities and Highlights

### Capital Improvement Support

In August 2016, through a partnership between the Tuskegee University Engineering Alumni Association (TUEAA) and TNAA, we secured a \$30,000 "Retool Your School" HBCU grant from The Home Depot. We used these funds to refurbish the athletic tennis courts near Logan Hall. As a result, Tuskegee's men's and women's championship tennis teams now take pride in competing in a state-of-the-art tennis complex.

Along with the Tuskegee University National Athletic Association (TUNAA), TNAA provided the leadership, materials and labor required to renovate the Cleve Abbott Stadium dressing rooms for our Golden Tigers football team. Guy Harrison, TUNAA president, provided on-site leadership for the project, which was completed in July 2017 and cost approximately \$21,000.

Also in July 2017, and aided by another "Retool Your School" grant of \$40,000, TNAA again partnered with the university to enhance vital living and learning facilities ahead of the 2017 fall semester. TNAA immediately re-activated the "Adopt-A-Dorm" program in response to the

request. TNAA members Ed Grim and Eunice Ford provided strong leadership for this critical program, which refurbished restrooms and improved residence hall rooms and the student lounge in Adams Hall, a female dorm. In addition, Adopt-a-Dorm volunteers renovated eight restrooms in Luther Foster Hall, home to the College of Engineering. The total cost of materials and labor required to complete the projects totaled approximately \$385,000. Alumni volunteers provided their labor and expertise to assure the projects would be completed on time and within budget. In addition to the "Retool Your School" funds, the Tuskegee Alumni Housing Foundation provided \$40,000 in support, and individual alumni contributions of \$20,000 also made the work possible. [\[read more\]](#)

The Tuskegee Alumni Housing Foundation funded additional capital needs on campus during this time. TAHF funded a modern, \$160,000 ultrasound machine for the College of Veterinary Medicine. This availability of this machine was critical to ensuring the college maintained its academic accreditation. More recently, TAHF contributed \$80,000 toward the renovation of restrooms in Basil O'Connor Hall, home to the School of Nursing and Allied



Health. When the project is completed in a few months, the new restrooms will be ADA compliant, thereby better serving our students with physical disabilities.

### **Student Recruitment**

TNAA local alumni clubs have done a fantastic job supporting the university by helping to recruit a record number of freshman for the 2016-17 and 2017-18 academic years. During this time, approximately 600 freshmen enrolled each year. Alumni recruiting events at high schools, churches, colleges and convention centers have enabled Tuskegee to attract highly motivated and qualified students.

### **TNAA Communications**

TNAA has implemented a communication process/platform that utilizes email and social media to keep all alumni informed about TNAA and Tuskegee University announcements, issues and activities. Our goal is to be as transparent as possible with all alumni — not just our members. If you aren't already, follow us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#), and sign up for our e-newsletter using our [online subscription form](#).

### **Membership Networking and Engagement**

With the support of our Mobile Tuskegee Alumni Club, TNAA sponsored a tailgate party in September 2016 and an alumni reception in October 2017 in conjunction with the 5th Quarter Classic.

The five TNAA regions held their regional conferences during the summer of 2017. From June to August, TNAA members gathered at conferences held in Las Vegas; Austin; Atlanta; Detroit; and Hampton, Virginia. During the conferences, attendees received updates from TNAA and university leaders, shared best-in-class association practices, held young alumni forums, tended to regional business, and raised more than \$380,000 for Mother Tuskegee — not to mention enjoyed time for fellowship, networking and reminiscing.

With the support of the Montgomery Tuskegee Alumni Club, TNAA sponsored a well-attended tailgate party for the 2017 Labor Day Classic.

### **Young Alumni Outreach**

During the summer of 2017, TNAA's Young Alumni Committee hosted its inaugural young alumni brunches honoring Ryan K. Burke, fallen Tuskegee alumnus, former Southeastern young alumni regional representative, and past SGA President. During two days and in five cities — July 16 in Chicago and Austin; and July 23 in Oakland, Washington, D.C., and Atlanta — we hosted more than 200 alumni and friends at these brunches, which sought to provide young alumni and recent graduates in these areas with a network platform. The events also raised awareness and encouraged our young alumni to join and support TNAA. This coming summer, we hope grow these events to two additional cities that showed great interest, so look for a young alumni brunch in a city near you!

During homecoming weekend in October 2017, TNAA hosted its 3rd annual young alumni party. Kim Woodard, TNAA executive director, provided leadership for the party, which continues to be a big hit with our young alumni. The party also raised \$26,000 for TNAA. The funds will help provide academic scholarships for deserving students.

### **The Jock Smith TNAA House**

Tuskegee University dedicated the Jock Smith Tuskegee National Alumni House on October 28, 2017. Burt Rowe, TNAA president, accepted the keys to the house on behalf of all alumni. Tuskegee University and the family of Jock Smith have provided a home for TNAA that will facilitate its effectiveness and growth. [\[read more\]](#)

### **Leonardo-DRS T-100 Trainer Aircraft Project**

The TNAA Executive Board voted at its fall 2017 board meeting to support Leonardo-DRS in its quest to win the U.S. Air Force award for the T-100 trainer jet aircraft project, which is proposed to be located on Tuskegee's historic Moton Field. We expect the jet trainer project will make Tuskegee and the region the centerpiece for defense technology that will play a role in the protection of the U.S. and her allies. [\[read more\]](#)

## **2018 TNAA Priorities**

### **Presidential Search**

TNAA President Burt Rowe and Eminent Associates Chair Solomon Banks are among the volunteers serving on the Presidential Search Committee to identify the university's 8th president. The search process is proceeding on

schedule and should have candidates to present to the Board of Trustees for consideration in April/May 2018. Through our representation, we strive to ensure alumni views are reflected in the process. [\[read more\]](#)

## Biennial Convention

TNAA's 18th Biennial Convention will be held Aug. 2-5, 2018, in Cincinnati. The convention's theme is "Instilling Knowledge. Demonstrating Leadership. Providing Service." An estimated 220 alumni and university leaders will convene to carry out TNAA business, share about the university's status, offer best practices, raise money in support of the university and have good old 'Skegee fun. [\[learn more and register online\]](#)

## Election of TNAA Leadership

A change to our constitution and bylaws approved at the 17th Biennial Convention in Las Vegas requires that all TNAA officers be elected prior to the 18th Biennial Convention. The TNAA Executive Board has approved a third-party e-ballot process administered by Vote Net Solutions Inc. Kim Woodard is chairing the TNAA Election Committee, which has the responsibility of developing the election rules and process with the vendor. The new e-ballot rules and process will be provided to all dues-paying members of TNAA during March 2018. *The constitution and bylaws also require that an alumnus/alumna must be a member of TNAA on or before March 1, 2018, in order to be eligible to vote.* Walter Wortham, immediate past TNAA president, is chairing of our 2018 Nomination Committee. A call for nominations have been sent out to all TNAA members.

## 2018 The Home Depot "Retool Your School" Grant Competition

TNAA is again providing leadership for Tuskegee's quest for a 2018 "Retool Your School" grant from The Home Depot. Our goal is to win the top grant award of \$50,000, which would be used to upgrade living and learning centers as part of Interim President Charlotte Morris' ongoing fundraising focus on enhancing the campus' residential and academic spaces. The vote-based, social-media-driven contest is underway, and if Tuskegee receives the support it needs from our campus and alumni communities, we'll need everyone's help through April 2018. Helping is as easy as including the hashtag #Tuskegee\_RYS18 on all your Twitter and Instagram posts — but, of course, additional charitable, [online](#) donations will extend the benefits of the "Retool Your School" grant *when we win.* [\[read more\]](#)

In conjunction with our "Retool Your School" efforts, TNAA will continue its "Adopt-A-Dorm" program in July 2018 for the 21st year. Ed Grim will carry on in his role providing leadership for the approximately 100 on-site alumni and friends who are needed to help renovate student living and learning facilities. Alumni and friends

who wish to volunteer should contact Ed at [edgrim@comcast.net](mailto:edgrim@comcast.net).

## Tour Italy While Supporting Student Scholarships

TNAA is sponsoring a major fundraiser that will add much-needed funds to our various student academic scholarship programs, while expanding travel and networking opportunities for our members. The upcoming "Splendors of Italy" tour will allow alumni and friends to spend nine days (Oct. 6-15, 2018) touring cities and the scenic highlights of Italy. Alumni who are interested in joining TNAA members on this vacation should contact Brenda Lorthridge at [nupedst@aol.com](mailto:nupedst@aol.com) or [go online](#) to learn more.

## Member Information Management

In February 2017, TNAA instituted a Golden Database team to develop and maintain our database of 20,000-plus members and their contact information. In January 2018, the team's chair, Paul Jones, and Burt Rowe met with alumnus Don Winston in his interim role in Tuskegee's Office of Advancement and Development regarding the status of our databasing efforts, as well as the university's move to enhance its alumni and donor database platform. That meeting revealed that Tuskegee now has the resources to update its own database and no longer needs TNAA to do the work it was doing — chiefly for information liability concerns. Based on the university's latest feedback, TNAA's Golden Database project has been suspended. The university expects to implement a new database platform and update alumni information by the end of summer 2018.

In the meantime, you can always update your alumni information with and subscribe to the university's "Tuskegee Connection" alumni e-newsletter by completing its online [Alumni Information Update Form](#).

### Learn more about the Tuskegee National Alumni Association:

Online ▪ [tuskegeenationalalumni.org](http://tuskegeenationalalumni.org)

Facebook ▪ [www.facebook.com/TNAA1885](http://www.facebook.com/TNAA1885)

Twitter ▪ [twitter.com/TuskegeeNAA](http://twitter.com/TuskegeeNAA)

Instagram ▪ [www.instagram.com/tnaa1885](http://www.instagram.com/tnaa1885)