

## FROM THE CHAIR

of the General Alumni Association of  
Fisk University, Incorporated  
*Janine Smith '84*

Happy Holidays!

We are nearing the conclusion of a calendar year that has been full of challenges. I am confident that we have met most, if not all, head on and have laid a groundwork for 2021 which should produce great results. Thank you to all alumni who have pitched in to make sure things happen.

Hopefully most of you were able to enjoy [Jubilee Day 2020](#), [Homecoming 2020](#) and [Commencement 2020](#) – all virtual events. If you would like to revisit or experience each for the first time, just click on the event in the previous sentence and you will be able to do so (as many times as you would like).

On the local level, I am happy to report that Tampa/St. Petersburg alumni are engaged and are close to establishing our newest local alumni association. On the regional level, starting January 2021, the newly elected leadership will take the reins of our Midwest Region. Angela “AJ” Nealy will serve as the Midwest Regional chair, with Ayo Thomas serving as the Midwest Regional vice-chair. As this transition takes place, I want to thank Kris Smith '75 for her stellar leadership, as well as Deborah Rountree and Helen Davis Gardner, MD.

On the national level, once our current election closes on December 29, 2020, our membership will have elected an alumni trustee who will serve a 3-year term (Jan. 2021-Dec. 2023). I am sure those of you who joined us on the Zoom Candidates Forum will agree that we have three outstanding candidates.

Mark your calendars! The GAAFU's Membership Committee will launch our 2021 Membership Drive in February 2021. Let me remind you that our membership fees remain the same for 2021: Annual \$50 and Life \$750. You may use the link in this newsletter to pay online.

As I mentioned in my September Message and per the General Alumni Association's Bylaws, alumni are asked to

1. Establish and administer fundraising activities
2. Assist with recruitment/retention
3. Assist in the establishment and maintenance of affiliated **local chapters**
4. Organize and mobilize the collective strength of the alumni; collaborate with the University in initiating and carrying out programs designed to affect the continued growth and welfare of Fisk University.

**FUNDRAISING:** The University is focusing on cultivating major donors. If you have a personal relationship with a potential donor, please contact me at [\*\*gaafu.chair@gmail.com\*\*](mailto:gaafu.chair@gmail.com)

**RECRUITMENT:** The Association is continuing our “Each One Reach One” Recruitment Campaign. We are asking each alumnus/alumna to help recruit one incoming freshman or transfer student for Fall 2021. If you want to refer a high quality student to Fisk, forward their name and contact info to [\*\*gaafu.recruitment@gmail.com\*\*](mailto:gaafu.recruitment@gmail.com).

**LOCAL ASSOCIATIONS:** If you are interested in forming a new club, contact me at [\*\*gaafu.chair@gmail.com\*\*](mailto:gaafu.chair@gmail.com).

Thanks to all alumni who have continued to positively impact Fisk as we endure these difficult times by continuing to organize and mobilize our collective strength. Wishing you a wonderful holiday season and a Happy New Year!