



# HORNET

## ALUMNI MESSENGER

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### A Tradition of Family Shines Through Harris-Stowe's 2013 Commencement Convocation



**Dr. Albert Walker**  
HSSU President

**Inside this issue:**

2013 Commencement Convocation.....	1-2
Message from the Asst. VP of Communications Marketing, Alumni Affairs & Development.....	3
Spotlight on Alumni.....	3
HSSU Internships.....	4
Humanities Professor Receives Book Publishing Deal.....	5
\$25 Spirit of Giving Campaign...	5
Spring Fundraiser & Silent Auction.....	6
HSSU Celebrates Scholarship Recipients.....	7
Distinguished Alums.....	8-9
Spotlight on Alumni.....	8
Join the HSSU Alumni Association.....	10
"Five Reasons Why HBCU Alumni Don't Give Back".....	11
On the Horizon.....	12

Commencement Convocation at Harris-Stowe State University has always been a family tradition – bringing loved ones together to celebrate the academic accomplishments of their students. This year is no exception, as Executive Assistant to the President Lea Sutherlin, a 22-year employee of HSSU, walks across the stage with her husband Steve Sutherlin, who is also graduating, as members of the 2013 class.

Both Sutherlins had previously taken college courses years before, and it was in 2008 that they vowed to finish – together! Lea and Steve will earn their bachelor of science degrees in Business Administration, joining the ranks of their alumnae daughter, Tasha Sutherlin, valedictorian of the class of 2008.

“Steve and I had both taken classes here and there, but you know how life takes over,” Lea explained. “When Tasha graduated, as soon as we got to her through the crowd at the end of the ceremony and told her how proud we were, she said, ‘Thank you – your turn!’”

Lea, with her military background, put off going to college to be a wife and mother of three daughters, while working full time at HSSU. Additionally, Steve, also an Army veteran, supported his family as a bonding officer for the St. Louis County Department of Justice.

Undeniable advocates of education, the Sutherlins put aside their own aspirations of earning degrees to provide support to their daughters, Tasha, Angela and Tiffany. After completing her studies at HSSU, Tasha

earned a master of arts degree in Communications and an MBA, both from Lindenwood University. She is currently studying law at Case Western Reserve School of Law in Cleveland, Ohio.

Lea further recalls Tasha’s strong encouragement of her parents returning to school. Said Tasha, “Both of you have worked very hard to get my sisters and I to where we need to be; now you must do something to reinvent yourselves! Go to college and graduate so when you both retire, if you want to pick up something new that requires a degree, you’ll be ready!”

And that readiness has come after both were comfortable with the paths that their daughters have chosen. Angela, the middle child, has dabbled with school off and on during her pursuit of an acting, singing and dancing career. Known as Dharma Jean to the St. Louis arts community, the junior Education major had a brief stint on Fox 2’s “American Idol,” and frequently performs her own original music around town. Outside of singing, you can find her serving as a residential assistant in the Rev. Dr. William G. Gillespie Residence Hall at HSSU. Understanding her parents’ urging of education has kept her grounded and focused on what’s important.

*Continued on page 2.*



## 2013 Commencement continued...

"While my parents have always supported my talents and dreams of being a superstar," Angela says jokingly, "I have known through it all that they wanted me to earn a degree. It's taken me a while, but I'm growing into my own at HSSU, and looking forward to the doors that being an educated black woman will open for me. I have my parents to thank for laying that foundation."

Tiffany, their youngest girl, completed her pre-requisite courses at Harris-Stowe prior to enrolling at Barnes Jewish/Goldfarb School of Nursing. She graduates this spring with a bachelor of Nursing degree.

"Harris-Stowe State University has been an educational staple for our household for many years, and has created an opportunity for new career paths for our entire family," said Lea. Her husband Steve agreed, saying, "Oftentimes, we found that pursuing higher education simultaneously has helped us to better define problems and formulate solutions in a productive manner as a family, and as a family, we believe that with God, all things are possible!"

Harris-Stowe's commencement convocation was held on Saturday, May 11, 2013, at 11 a.m., in the Emerson Performance Center's Board of Regents Gymnasium. The 2013 valedictorian Matthew C. Wright, a four-year starter

on HSSU's soccer team and four-time scholar athlete.

Also this year, KWAME Building Group CEO and Chairman of the Board Tony Thompson will deliver the keynote address and be recognized with an honorary doctorate of Humane Letters. Thompson founded KWAME, a full-service construction management firm, which is headquartered in St. Louis, in 1991. Thompson and his company have been long supporters of HSSU, and his story of how he rose to success in the construction industry as a minority engineer captivated Harris-Stowe graduates.

Charles Hoessle, emeritus director of the Saint Louis Zoo and former member of the Harris-Stowe Board of Regents was also be awarded an honorary doctorate of Humane Letters. Atty. Wayman F. Smith III, the recipient of an honorary doctor of laws degree, has been an active member of the university Board of Regents for more than 20 years, and chairman of that body for the majority of those years. Both individuals have made outstanding contributions to the university and the overall greater St. Louis community, state and nation.



**2013 Commencement Convocation**  
Saturday, May 11, 2013

*Pictured left to right:*  
Top row: Steve and Lea Sutherlin;  
Dr. Michelle McClure and valedictorian  
Matthew C. Wright

*Bottom row: Dr. Albert Walker, Tony  
Thompson, Atty. Wayman F. Smith III  
and Charles Hoessle; 2013 Graduates*



On Saturday, May 11, 2013, 162 graduates were ushered into the Alumni Association after receiving their Bachelor of Science degrees. These graduates (pictured left), will now embark on a new journey as they enter their professional careers. We proudly welcome them to the Alumni Association family!

## Message from the Assistant Vice President of Communications, Marketing, Alumni Affairs & Development



**Courtney Z. McCall**  
Assistant Vice President of  
Communications, Marketing, Alumni  
Affairs and Development

Dear HSSU Alumni,

Summer is finally upon us. It seemed, for some reason, to take so long this year. I'm glad that we can now enjoy the warm weather and start planning summer vacations. I write to you as we, the HSSU family, come off of another memorable commencement convocation. The stirring 2013 keynote address was delivered by President and CEO of KWAME Building Group Anthony Thompson. He engaged in an act of kindness that 162 graduates will be talking about for years to come – he spread \$15,000 amongst the graduates and left a cash surprise under each of their seats – ranging from \$50 to \$100. While this proved to be a great gesture and gift to our graduates, he educated them on being philanthropic and challenged each of them to turn the money back in to their alma mater as a gift. While only a few opted to do so, we were grateful for the seed of “giving back” that he planted in the minds of our most recent grads, as we encourage them to stay connected to HSSU and continue to support their institution.

Throughout the newsletter, you will see various actions of support that took place during the spring 2013 semester. The Spring Fundraiser & Silent Auction was a remarkable event. There were so many businesses that contributed to the Foundation's first effort at hosting this event. Additionally, you will see students highlighted as they continue to represent HSSU well by being academically and socially talented and landing internships with major corporations and organizations. Thanks to those companies that continue to aid in the college educational process for our scholars. Such partnerships are what prepare them for the world! Another major showing of support that is highlighted this issue was demonstrated in this year's Scholarship and Prizes Award ceremony that we held in April in the Bank of America Theatre. This year, it was all about the students and the donors who financial contributions are making a huge difference! Both of the aforementioned were showcased in the St. Louis American during the month of May.

As alumni, I'd like to urge you to get involved and for you too to focus on making a difference. There is still so much that can be done. Mentor a student. Sponsor a student. Buy books for a student. Establish a scholarship. Simply give! No matter what level... included in this issue is an envelope for an initiative that was started last year: the \$25 Spirit of Giving, because \$25 can go a long way if everyone gives.

Hope you enjoy this issue of the *Alumni Messenger*.

For HSSU,

Courtney Z. McCall  
Assistance Vice President  
Communications, Marketing, Alumni Affairs, & Development

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## Spotlight on Alumni

### Arian Williams

*Associate Project Manager for Pacific Gas & Electric Company (PG&E), San Mateo, CA*

Arian graduated in 2006 with a Bachelor of Science in Information Systems and Computer Technology with a emphasis in Managing Information Systems (MIS). In 2012, he received his Master of Arts degree in Information Systems with a emphasis in Security from the University of San Francisco, CA.

*“HSSU was pivotal in how I would apply what I learned from my instructors in my profession. Having instructors with real-world experience allowed me to have a better understanding of how to apply my knowledge in real-world scenarios, while also understanding company cultures and behaviorisms which allow me to become a valuable asset to my organization.”*

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## Harris-Stowe Students Accentuate Job Training and Corporate Relations Through Internships

Through diligence, dedication and a focus on co-curricular activities, Harris-Stowe State University students are making the most of their summer by successfully competing for scholarships and earning their place in the workforce. HSSU students realize that academic excellence makes for an easy transition to what could potentially be the next phase of their career.

Jordan Fowlkes and Michael Tabb, senior Accounting majors at the Anheuser-Busch School of Business (ABSB) at HSSU, have received internships with The Boeing Company. These paid internships will begin May 31, and continue full time through September 2013, with the possibility of being extended. Their training and professional development will include budget forecasting for Supply Chain Management and Operations in the Boeing Defense, Space and Security unit in St. Louis.



Fowlkes, in addition to being considered a star student, has held several offices for student organizations at HSSU including former vice president of the Student Government Association (SGA), president of the Pre-Law Club and currently serves as president of the ABSB Accounting Students Association (ASA).

"Through this experience I want to learn more about The Boeing Company, budget forecasting and further develop my leadership skills. In general, I hope to gain more knowledge about the vast field of accounting at the corporate level," said Fowlkes, who is a former vice president for the Thurgood Marshall College Fund Student Advisory Council and a Des Lee Fellow for the United Way.

He has previously interned as a grade 6-8 mathematics teacher for the St. Louis Public Schools and Pamoja Preparatory Academy, in addition to holding positions at the Department of Veterans Affairs and Thurgood Marshall College Fund.

Michael Tabb, also a stellar HSSU student representative, serves as president of the National Association of Black Accountants (NABA) Student Chapter-St. Louis and a former president of ASA, the Pre-Law Club and a past Thurgood Marshall student ambassador. He has experience as a junior accountant with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) in Atlanta, Ga., an intern he held last summer.

The Atlanta CDC accepted two more of Harris-Stowe's students as interns this summer. 2013 Health Care Management graduate, James Guest IV and senior Urban Affairs major Christopher Miller will reside in Atlanta on a paid internship.

Guest's 11-week program in collaboration with Morehouse School of Medicine in Atlanta, Ga., will involve research and counseling for incarcerated men to develop substance abuse prevention and HIV intervention programs.

"The ABSB at HSSU does more than provide a quality education – they provide great internship opportunities for their students," explained Guest. "Dr. Eisel, chair, of the Health Care Management department was a key advocate for me in attaining the internship. These are opportunities I needed to further my training and skills to be successful in my field and prepare me to enter graduate school."

Prior to the CDC, Guest interned for the St. Louis Collector of Revenue and the State Department of Veteran Affairs. His on-campus involvement includes past president for the HSSU Health Care Management Club and the United Way Student Chapter.



Christopher Miller, SGA president and former Mr. HSSU, will spend his 10-week CDC internship writing safety regulations and operations procedures for the Office of Safety, Health and Environment.

Said Miller, "This opportunity with the CDC will provide me hands-on experience in public affairs and allow me to showcase the skills and talents I have acquired while at HSSU."

Harris-Stowe's College of Arts and Sciences has collaborated with Saint Louis University (SLU) to provide a joint summer lab experience for senior Biology majors Rana Bost and Ronnesha Smith and sophomores Aya Alkhaleeli and Andres Nieto, who will participate in a new summer internship program at SLU's School of Medicine, Department of Pharmacological and Physiological Sciences. These six-week paid internships will require each student to work in a different medical research lab at the School of Medicine.

## Harris-Stowe's Humanities Professor Receives Book Publishing Deal



Harris-Stowe State University Humanities Professor Reynaldo Anderson, Ph.D., recently signed a book publishing deal with Lexington Books to produce an original manuscript on the lives of three remarkable women. The book, entitled, "Black Atlantic Heretics of Empire: The Caribbean Radicalism of Amy Jacques, Elma Francios and Claudia Jones," represents several years of scholarship and research.

Inspired by a trip Dr. Anderson took to Trinidad, home of Jacques and Jones, this narrative is framed around historical events from World War I through the early 1960s. It interprets how Jacques, Francios and Jones set the stage for the women's rights movement of the 1970s. Most importantly, how they cut across race, class and gender barriers during this time.

As Anderson explained, "This book illustrates the political contributions of three historic women of African Caribbean descent whose legacies have been largely underappreciated."

Due to be released in 2014, Dr. Anderson hopes to expand the understanding of how important the three women were to the development of particular social movements.

"This is a story that needed to be told," said Dr. Anderson. "Taking on this challenge provided me with the opportunity to travel and see where and how these women lived. They occupied their own unique space

and promoted important ideas of the day that had a lasting impact not only on their region in regards to colonialism, racism, sexism and labor rights, but globally."

Future endeavors for Dr. Anderson include serving as a visiting lecturer this summer at the Ghana Institute of Management and Public Administration for two weeks, and he is currently working on two additional books, one of which he is a co-author. His areas of research include Africana studies, social media and rhetoric.

As Dr. Anderson continues to grow personally and professionally, he is looking forward to highlighting his research and experiences through his writings and sharing it with his students. "I have learned through this experience that to write a good book, it takes time and patience," he said.

As former chair of the Black Caucus of the National Communication Association, Dr. Anderson's many roles include past membership on the board of Saint Louis Prison Performing Arts. He is an executive member of the Missouri Arts Council, an appointment given by former Missouri Governor Matt Blunt.

Dr. Anderson earned a doctor of philosophy in Communication Studies from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, a master of arts degree in Speech Communications from Oklahoma State University and his bachelor of arts degree from Jackson State University.

He is married to Dr. Denise Hooks-Anderson, assistant professor at Saint Louis University School of Medicine and medical accuracy editor for *The St. Louis American*. They have two daughters, Zari and Lauryn.

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## \$25 Spirit of Giving Campaign

In 2012, the Office of Communications, Marketing, Alumni Affairs & Development launched its "\$25 Spirit of Giving" campaign. This new initiative was introduced to give everyone an opportunity to give at a comfortable level. Times are hard, trust, we at Harris-Stowe State University realize this! Yet, we still need the support of our friends and alumni. The money raised from this ongoing campaign will be deposited into the HSSU Foundation account and go toward helping students in need. A postage paid envelope has been included in this edition to send your contribution. We look forward to your continued support!



## HSSU's Inaugural Spring Fundraiser & Silent Auction

In an effort to increase funds associated with the Harris-Stowe State University Foundation, the Office of Communications, Marketing, Alumni Affairs & Development hosted a Spring Fundraiser & Silent Auction, featuring saxophonist Tim Cunningham and songstress Angela Sutherlin, who is a junior Education major at HSSU. Sutherlin had a brief stint on the mega-hit reality talent show, "American Idol." Doors opened at 6 p.m. and the show started at 7 p.m.

The event was held in the Emerson Performance Center's Bank of America Theatre on May 4, 2013, and included more than 50 auction items that were up for bid. An Apple iPad, Dell laptop, hotel stays, various sporting events and arts and entertainment tickets were sold at a fraction of the original price. Alumnus Dr. Ben Quillian donated a framed Charles Bibbs print and active alumnae sisters Joan Moehl and Catherine Stenger solicited area business such as the Casino Queen and Saint Louis Zoo for additional items that sold without a hitch!

Tickets were sold at \$35, and attendees enjoyed delicious hor d'oeuvres, complimentary drinks and live entertainment that ended around 9 p.m. Profits from the fundraiser, which is the first of its kind ever held at the university, will benefit student scholarships. More than \$8,000 was raised from community and corporate donations, auction proceeds and tickets sales. Mark your calendars for the first weekend in May 2014, as another fundraiser is on the horizon!

Anyone interested in serving on the planning committee for the next fundraiser concert and silent auction or donating items, should contact the Office of Communications, Marketing, Alumni Affairs & Development at (314) 340-3391 or [mccallc@hssu.edu](mailto:mccallc@hssu.edu). The HSSU Foundation is a 501c3 organization, and all contributions are tax deductible.

Photos by Maurice Meredith



## Even During Times of Decreased Donor Giving, HSSU Still Celebrates Scholarship Recipients

College sophomore Drake Hall graduated from Webster Groves High School with a 3.8 grade point average. He was well liked and well involved during high school. Because of his grades, he, of course, was inundated with college options. He chose to attend Harris-Stowe State University not only because it was close to home, but he was offered the Henry Givens Jr. Scholarship, which, covered his tuition, books, fees and room and board – and he needed the financial assistance.

Now, a sophomore who serves as a residence hall assistant, Hall is considered one of HSSU's bright and shining stars, as he continues to excel academically. He will bring the occasion at this year's scholarship ceremony, an annual tradition that highlights university donors and showcases students who will be financially rewarded for their educational achievements. Most importantly, it gives donors an opportunity to see the benefits of their monetary contributions up close and personal.

Marguerite Bieler Notorangelo, who grew up on a dairy farm in Ferguson, Missouri, graduated from Harris Teachers College in 1940. Realizing at a very young age that she wanted to be a teacher, Harris was the perfect choice for her, as it was considered the best option for aspiring educators during that time. While at Harris, she played basketball and joined a sorority. She was hired as a teacher by the St. Louis Public Schools and later by the Ferguson-Florissant School District.

"She loved teaching," said her daughter Marge Greenwald. "Most of her years were at Griffith School teaching fourth grade. She was well loved by her students, and many would stop her at Famous Barr or other stores and say hello."

At Notorangelo's 90th birthday party, she was honored with a scholarship in her name – The Marguerite Bieler Notorangelo Educators Scholarship – for students majoring in teacher education at Harris-Stowe State University.

"When a scholarship was set up in her name, it was to honor her love of teaching and to make funds available to foster another teacher," said Greenwald.

In 2010, Marguerite's husband, Anthony Notorangelo, donated \$25,000 to HSSU to establish the renewable scholarship, and each year since the contribution, one student has received \$3,000 per semester.

Donor Gwendolyn Downs never attended college, but she and her husband Roger have always deemed education an important part of an individual's success. Based on criteria that she and her family set, she

annually gives to HSSU via two scholarships that she established in two of her brother-in-law's names. Additionally, she takes it one step further and donates a car every two years to a deserving single mother who is working toward her bachelor's degree, something that has never been done before at HSSU.

"I wanted to give back because people were so kind to us as children and always helped my parents," said Gwendolyn Downs of she and her husband's choice to donate funds to HSSU. "At this stage of our lives, it's not about us; it's about what we can do for someone else to make their life just a little bit easier."

The need for committed donors like the Notorangelo and Downs family is now greater than ever before, as overall college fundraising – especially at Historically Black Colleges and Universities – is struggling due to the economy. More than 93 percent of HSSU students rely on some form of financial aid, therefore, raising additional funds to assist students with matriculating and persisting through college is a major university priority. Implementing new tuition structures, such as offering up to 16 credit hours for the same rate as a 12 credit-hour load helps students take more classes without added expenses and eventually graduate faster. Such initiatives are what make Harris-Stowe the most affordable bachelor's degree option in the state, allowing the university to maintain exceptional affordability and accessibility for its students.

Corporations such as Anheuser-Busch and Peabody Energy have been long-time supporters of the award ceremony, as well as entities such as the HSSU Alumni Association and the Fox Family Foundation. The scholarship award ceremony, which is hosted by the Enrollment Management operation at HSSU, will take place on Friday, April 12, 2013, at 11 a.m., in the Emerson Performance Center's Bank of America Theatre. Nearly 70 students will be given scholarships. If you are interested in establishing a scholarship or donating to HSSU, please contact the Office of Communications, Marketing, Alumni Affairs & Development at (314) 340-3391. All donations to the Harris-Stowe Foundation, a 501c3 organization, are tax deductible.



**2013-2014  
Scholarship &  
Prizes Awards  
Ceremony  
Friday, April 12, 2013**

*Pictured: Recipients of  
the fall 2013  
Anheuser-Busch  
Foundation  
Scholarship*

## Welcome to the Club: Distinguished Alumni 2013

On Friday, May 10, 2013, three new Harris-Stowe State University graduates were honored as newly inducted Distinguished Alumni sons and daughters. Deputy Chief of Staff for the City of St. Louis Office of the Treasurer Leonard Johnson, president, founder and artistic director of Fundisha Enterprises Mama Lisa Gage and Dr. James Wipke, executive director of Secondary Schools for the Rockwood School District. They were each honored and recognized at a private luncheon held at the St. Louis Club the day before the commencement convocation.

In his role as deputy chief of staff, Johnson is responsible for working with the treasurer and chief of staff in developing and implementing all policy objectives, strategies and operating plans for the Treasurer's Office. He also serves as a liaison for the treasurer, addressing community issues and coordinating interaction with other organizations. Previously, he was the policy compliance and operations manager of AmeriCorps East St. Louis and the coordinator for leadership and training programs in the Office of Student Life at the University of Missouri – St. Louis (UMSL).

His volunteer efforts focus on bringing mentorship and leadership to the young men of St. Louis. Johnson founded the Young Men's Achievement Academy and Project: Youth Impact (YMAA/P:YI), a non-profit organization that pairs inner-city students with a mentor. He has facilitated his Advanced Leaders Program and other training workshops on campuses including UMSL, the University of Missouri – Science & Technology, Fontbonne and Maryville University, to name a few.

While at Harris-Stowe, Johnson was an active student leader, having served on the University's Board of Regents as a student representative, president of the Student Government Association, student ambassador for Harris-Stowe Orientation Leader and the president of the Beta Nu Chapter of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, all of which prepared him to step into the workforce fully equipped.

Also as a student, Johnson commemorated the 40th anniversary of the death of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., by spearheading a city-wide initiative called DreamKeepers, a coalition of students and young professionals working for racial harmony and economic justice. He helped raise more than \$13,000 for the Dr. King National Memorial Project. Last year in the



*Pictured left to right: Darius Chapman, Leonard C. Johnson III and Courtney Z. McCall*



*Pictured left to right: Darius Chapman, Dr. Jim Wipke and Courtney Z. McCall*



*Pictured left to right: Courtney Z. McCall, Mama Lisa Gage and Darius Chapman*

## Spotlight on Alumni



### **Heather Britton**

*5th Grade Elementary Teacher for Gary Gore Elementary, Jennings School District*

Heather graduated in 2006 with her Bachelor of Science degree in Elementary Education with a concentration in Early Childhood Education. She received an MA in Education Administration May 2013 from Lindenwood University.

*"HSSU has provided an excellent foundation for my teaching career. My professors as well as my student teaching supervisor could not have done a better job at preparing me for my first steps into my career. I am able to credit my knowledge of connecting and building lasting relationships with my students and their parents to HSSU. Understanding the importance of classroom management has been extremely vital during my past six years of teaching. Without Harris-Stowe instilling the importance of that particular element, I can honestly say that teaching would be very difficult. I'm grateful for everything that I have experienced at HSSU. The love and dedication that the professors gave me, I strive just as hard to give to my students each and every year."*

wake of the death of Trayvon Martin, Johnson organized the YMAA and the HSSU Student Government Association to host the "Stand Up For Trayvon" memorial and student empowerment rally. The event, included remarks by members of the state legislature, local community activists and students from the HSSU, Saint Louis University, Washington University and Lindenwood.

In 2008, he was recognized by the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. State Celebration Commission of Missouri with a Distinguished Youth Leadership Award. He is an Allstate Give Back Day Hero, and he was selected for the 2008 Man of Essence Award from the ladies of the Beta Delta Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.

Jim Wipke came to Harris-Stowe State University after transferring from East Central Community College. His first year in attendance at HSSU was in 1991 where he devoted most of his time studying and playing soccer on an athletic scholarship.

Jim graduated in 1993 with the following accomplishments: 1991-1993 Harris Stowe College Soccer Captain; 1991-1993 Academic All-American; 1991-1993 Scholar Athlete; 1991-1992 Second Team All-Conference; 1991-1993 Dean's List; 1993 Dennis Cody Sportsmanship Award; 1993 Kappa Delta Pi Honor Society; and 1991 Honorable Mention All-Regional.

Since Dr. Wipke left HSSU he has spent the majority of his time in Rockwood School District but also spent two years in Parkway. He began his teaching career at Ridge Meadows Elementary and then moved on to Crestview Middle School.

In total, Dr. Wipke spent eight years teaching 5th and 6th graders in the Rockwood School District before he moved to the Parkway School District for two years where he was an administrator at Parkway South Middle School. He later returned to Rockwood as an assistant principal before becoming principal of Crestview Middle School and the principal of Eureka High School. These positions were held prior to moving into his current position of executive director of Secondary Schools for the Rockwood School District.

In 2007, as principal of Crestview Middle School, Jim received Rockwood's highest honor, a ROSE award, Rockwood's Outstanding Service in Education. In 2008, Jim earned his doctorate degree from Maryville University.

Mama Lisa is the president, founder and artistic director of Fundisha Enterprises, an organization that focuses its works on empowering the community through the preservation of African culture and celebration of performing arts traditions from the diaspora. With more than 30 years of professional experience, Mama Lisa brings seasoned expertise in academics, percussion, dance, storytelling, craft and oral history.

In partnership with these efforts, Mama Lisa continues to speak, teach and perform with various local and national entities. Her credits include Afi Ama Folk Performing Co., Unity Art Ensemble, Non-Stop Reggae, Grupo Atlantico (Columbia), Drums N Harmony, Cambooley, Mc Cree Theatre (MI), Umoja African Arts Co. (PA), Us Players (SLU), Katherine Dunham Center for Arts and Humanities, and the St. Louis Black Repertory Co. Mama Lisa has also collaborated with poet laureate Shirley LeFlore, Dunham choreographer Theodore Jamison and folk masters Kasa Panzu (Dem. Rep. of the Congo), Donald Dorcilus (Haiti) and Oswald Moses (Trinidad). She continues to remain active in local youth projects sponsored by St. Louis metropolitan school districts, churches and libraries, Better Family Life, Community Women Against Hardship, The Griot Museum, the Missouri History Museum and the St. Louis Art Museum. Her skills and talents have also been preserved on film in two documentaries done for cable, "Mama Lisa Teaches Kwanzaa" and "Changing Times: Teen Talent."

As an alumna of Harris-Stowe State University and Webster University, Mama Lisa's mastery teaching experience of 24 years spans a variety of education venues as well. First, she developed an African-centered curriculum for her home-school program, Academic Home Care. She has served as a tenured teacher in the University City and Normandy school districts teaching middle and high school mathematics. Simultaneously, Mama Lisa spent 14 years as an instructor of African Cross-Cultural Studies at Lindenwood University. In conjunction, her company's tri-annual GUMBO Cultural Education Conference provided students and the community with a chance to learn Black world languages, folk histories, songs, music and dances from Africa and the Caribbean. Lastly, the national StoryCorps project has preserved information about Mama Lisa's career at the American Folklife Center in Washington, D.C.

Mama Lisa continues to travel and study in Jamaica, Gambia, the Bahamas, Haiti, Ghana, Togo, Brazil, Mali, Morocco, the Dominican Republic, South Africa, Senegal and various African-American enclaves throughout the United States. Recent projects by Mama Lisa include articles published in local newspapers along with folk arts exhibitions downtown. Several news and travel articles are archived with *The St. Louis American*, and she authors a monthly column dedicated to cultural literacy in the *Ferguson Times* called 'Djeli Tales.' In 2011 and 2013, Mama Lisa's vision and costuming for BCS Krewe floats in the St. Louis Mardi Gras Grand Parade netted second and third place winnings.

HSSU proudly welcomes each of these individuals into the elite class of sons and daughters who have held their alma mater in high regard and made exceptional strides within their profession. Congratulations!

## Join the HSSU Alumni Association Today!

The Harris-Stowe State University Alumni Association offers graduates an ongoing opportunity to share memories, enjoy camaraderie and continue their life experiences together. As a community-serving institution, HSSU is fortunate that many of its graduates remain in the St. Louis area; as such, our alumni are able to maintain long-term connections. The Alumni Association also enables graduates to share the gift of

education with deserving, yet financially challenged students. Fees paid to the Alumni Association, a registered nonprofit entity, are 100 percent tax deductible. Everyone, whether you graduated from Harris-Stowe or are a friend of the institution, can join the HSSU Alumni Association. Join now and your membership will be valid through May 31, 2014! Regular Membership costs just \$25.



# HARRIS-STOWE

## STATE UNIVERSITY

# ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP TODAY!



- Rekindle college friendships*
- Free admission to HSSU athletic events*
- 10 percent off all University Bookstore merchandise*
- Support scholarships to your beloved alma mater*

WE NEED YOU. PLEASE JOIN TODAY!

Membership Form

Membership valid through May 31, 2014: \$25

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Referred by (if applicable) \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

I attended (check all that apply):  Friend of Harris-Stowe  
 Harris (HTC)  Stowe (STC)  Harris-Stowe College  
 Harris-Stowe State College  Harris-Stowe State University

Year of Graduation \_\_\_\_\_

Payment

Everyone, whether you graduated from Harris-Stowe or are a friend of the institution, is welcome to join the HSSU Alumni Association. You may join the Alumni Association online at [www.hssu.edu/alumni](http://www.hssu.edu/alumni) or you may mail in your application. Make all checks payable to the "HSSU Alumni Association."

I have enclosed a check for \$25 for Regular Membership.  
 I have paid \$25 online for a Regular Membership.

MAIL TO: 3026 Laclède Avenue • St. Louis, MO 63103 • (314) 340-3390

### Membership Benefits

Your HSSU Alumni Association membership also grants you access to many exciting benefits and discounts, such as:

- Free admission to HSSU athletic events
- 10 percent off all University Bookstore merchandise
- Free alumni news updates
- Free use of the University weight room
- Discount to the Hornet Dining Hall
- Full access to the AT&T Library and Technology Resource Center
- 10 percent off University facility rentals
- 5-10 percent off Enterprise locations
- Membership to Working Advantage, an online discount provider

## “Five Reasons Why HBCU Alumni Don’t Give Back”

Written by *HBCU Digest*

There are a handful of historically black colleges and universities that have a healthy alumni giving rate, and when I use the term healthy, its relative to the campuses that have virtually no alumni buy-in. Some stats suggest HBCU campuses hover around 5-10 percent of tracked alumni giving back, and with most campuses having somewhere between 15-30,000 known alums, that major vein of private giving is annually on the pockets of about 3,000 people per school.

Mostly, HBCU alums are at fault. We give to our respective religions, we give to commerce, but don’t give higher education that sense of salvation or status that we give to the former two industries. HBCUs themselves have a problem with asking people, but largely, there are five reasons why HBCU alums don’t give back to their alma maters.

**5. HBCUs don’t ask often enough** – Resources are a major issue at HBCUs, so they can’t afford to send mailers and magazines out every month that keep alums engaged. They have to strategically use phone bank solicitations, because, again, it’s a money thing.

**4. HBCU alums think they don’t make enough money** – The majority of HBCU alums are not rich, with rich indicating an individual net income of more than \$100k year. People commonly associate ‘giving back’ with huge checks. And for those working and middle-class HBCU grads who correctly align giving back with any level of giving, lean economic times makes their willingness to mail in 50-100 dollars annually that much lower.

**3. Willing HBCU donors don’t have the money** – The biggest pool of willing donors to HBCUs are retirees – the students who attended HBCUs in the golden era of black college culture. They see the value from a past and future perspective, but with so many now living on fixed income, their pennies aren’t able to match their passion.

**2. HBCUs are asking for money for the wrong things**— The HBCU giving ask is largely vague, and is generally focused on the solicitation for scholarship support from 20 years ago. Yes; there are thousands of black students who need financial support to attend HBCUs. But if HBCUs don’t begin asking for money to support capital projects, student activities and sports, these same broke students will be looking for scholarship support to attend predominantly white colleges that focus intensely on the student experience.

**1. HBCU sports are horrible** – Generally, HBCU sports programs are awful. People come to games to hear the bands not because the bands are universally spectacular, but because they have more entertainment value than the players, coaching and officiating on the field. Without solid sports, there is no HBCU mechanism to build civic pride - the primary factor in finding private and corporate support for institutions. The more that HBCUs treat sports as something to do and not as the key marketing vehicle for their institutions, the less likely they are to make the case to alums to get excited enough to finance the school.

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### Stay Connected with HSSU!

Harris-Stowe State University is on Facebook and Twitter! Reunite with University friends, look at pictures, watch videos and learn about all the exciting upcoming University events! Don’t forget to sign up as a “fan” of Harris-Stowe State University to show your school spirit. Go Hornets!

Friend us at [www.facebook.com/HarrisStowe](http://www.facebook.com/HarrisStowe) or follow us on Twitter at [HarrisStowe](https://twitter.com/HarrisStowe).



## On the Horizon:

### 2013 Homecoming

Mark your calendar for the 2013 Homecoming celebration with the kickoff tentatively scheduled to take place Sunday, September 29. Festivities will conclude with the Alumni Gold Gala Saturday, October 5, 2013.

### Freshmen Orientation

Thursday, June 27, 2013  
Harris-Stowe State University  
William L. Clay Sr. Early Childhood Development/  
Parenting Education Center (ECDC)  
9 a.m.-2:30 p.m.

### Move-in Day

First-year students move into Bosley Residence Hall  
Wednesday, August 21.  
Upperclassmen move into Gillespie Residence Hall  
Saturday, August 24.

### Fall 2013 Semester

Accelerated classes begin: August 16  
Saturday classes begin: August 24  
Weekday classes begin: August 26

### Rites of Passage Ceremony

Friday, August 23  
Harris-Stowe State University  
Dr. Henry Givens Jr. Administration Building (HGA)  
Main Auditorium  
11:30 a.m.

To submit an article for the *Alumni Messenger* please email Courtney Z. McCall at [McCallC@hssu.edu](mailto:McCallC@hssu.edu).

### Harris-Stowe State University Board of Regents

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