

THE AFRICAN AMERICAN ALUMNI COUNCIL
PRESENTS

A NIGHT UNDER THE STARS

PAVING THE WAY

SATURDAY, MARCH 9, 2024
6 P.M. | MAGNOLIA BALLROOM



AFRICAN AMERICAN
ALUMNI COUNCIL

A NIGHT UNDER THE STARS PROGRAM

University WelcomeCathy Cox, J.D.
President

Prayer.....Pastor Julius Trawick, '09

DINNER

Opening Remarks.....Debra White Minor, '88
President, AAAC

Master of Ceremony.....Nadirah Mayweather, '08, '10
Director, Alumni Relations

Student Scholarship Highlights.....Dr. Kwanza Gardner, '97
Vice President, AAAC

Musical SelectionShaquille Wright

AAAC Award PresentationKeepers of the Promise
Dr. Runee B. Sallad

Musical Selection.....Antonio Roberson

AAAC Award PresentationTrailblazer Dove
Sabrina Ellis-Friday, '99
Robert Fuller, '79, '99
Rep. W. Mack Jackson, Jr., '79

Closing RemarksSeth Walker
Vice President of University Advancement

2023 RECIPIENT

KEEPERS OF THE PROMISE

This is a special award given to recognize alums or friends of the university for their outstanding commitment to creating educational and social opportunities for others through personal sacrifice and overcoming challenging obstacles.

Dr. Runee B. Sallad

Dr. Runee Bryant Sallad, a Washington County native, excelled academically, graduating with honors from Washington County High School in 1989. Her educational journey advanced at Georgia College & State University, where she obtained a Bachelor of Science in Early Childhood Education, followed by a Master's Degree from Fort Valley State University, a Specialist Degree from Troy State University, and a Doctorate in Educational Leadership from Argosy University in 2006.

With 30 years in education, Runee's career transitioned from a three-year, 4th-grade teacher to an administrator, showcasing a passion for working with middle and high school students. Her impactful roles at Baldwin High School, Blandy Hills Elementary School, and Johnson County Middle and High School marked her dedication to fostering collaborative teaching environments.

In 2011, Runee enthusiastically took on the role of Director at Georgia College Early College, providing essential support to primarily first-generation college students as they work towards obtaining both their high school diploma and college

credits. She guides students in achieving their aspirations and goals, with many successfully earning associate degrees before graduating from high school. Married to Dr. David Sallad, a guidance counselor at Baldwin High School, she is a proud mother to Davanion Sallad, her bonus-son who serves as a Juvenile Probation Officer with the Georgia Department of Juvenile Justice, Dylan Sallad, a United States Army Second Lieutenant and Tuskegee University alum, and Dyson Sallad, mechanical engineering major, currently serving as the Freshman Class President at Tuskegee University.



2023 RECIPIENT

TRAILBLAZER DOVE

This is a special award given to a minority alum for outstanding achievement in bridging the gap between the community and university.

Sabrina Ellis-Friday

Sabrina Ellis-Friday graduated from Mercer University with a bachelor's degree in 1997 and received a Master of Public Administration from Georgia College & State University in August 1999.

At the beginning of her career, Ellis-Friday initially considered joining the military; however, wanting to serve her community first, she started a career in law enforcement with the Macon Police Dept. During Ellis-Friday's tenure with the Macon Police Department, she was promoted to Sergeant and was assigned to units that investigated Child Abuse and Domestic Violence Cases.

While serving with the Macon Police Department, Ellis-Friday was also tasked with handling the daily duties of a Public Information Officer. She was the first female and the first African American to serve in that position.

Ellis-Friday was later assigned to the role of Executive Director of Macon Regional Crime Stopper. She was also the first female and the first African American appointed to that position.

Ellis-Friday would eventually be persuaded away from the Macon Police Department to join the Montezuma Police Department to serve as the Chief of Police. It should be noted that Ellis-Friday was the first female and the first African American to serve as Chief of Police for Montezuma.

Ellis-Friday would eventually leave local police law enforcement to start a career in federal law enforcement serving as a Special Agent with the Naval Criminal Investigative Service (NCIS). Ellis-Friday traveled around the world protecting the security interests of the United States and its allies in places such as Aruba, Egypt, the Bahamas, Cuba, and Singapore, to name a few.

During her tenure as an NCIS Special Agent, Ellis-Friday was awarded the Secretary of Defense Medal for Global War on Terrorism, NCIS Expeditionary Civilian Service Award,

and the Joint Achievement Award. Since retiring from public service, Ellis-Friday serves as the co-owner of Friday Management Group to help homeless veterans.

Most recently, Ellis-Friday has started a non-profit called Mother's Nest. The mission is to aid mothers and children whose significant others are incarcerated. The mission of the non-profit is to help mothers, especially young mothers, become the very best version of themselves and to make sure their children have some of their basic needs met. Her passion grew for helping these individuals while she was investigating Domestic Violence and Child Abuse cases with the Macon Police Department.

The Mayor of Macon-Bibb County recently acknowledged the work of Mother's Nest, and Ellis-Friday has appeared on various talk shows to promote this worthy effort.



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Robert Fuller

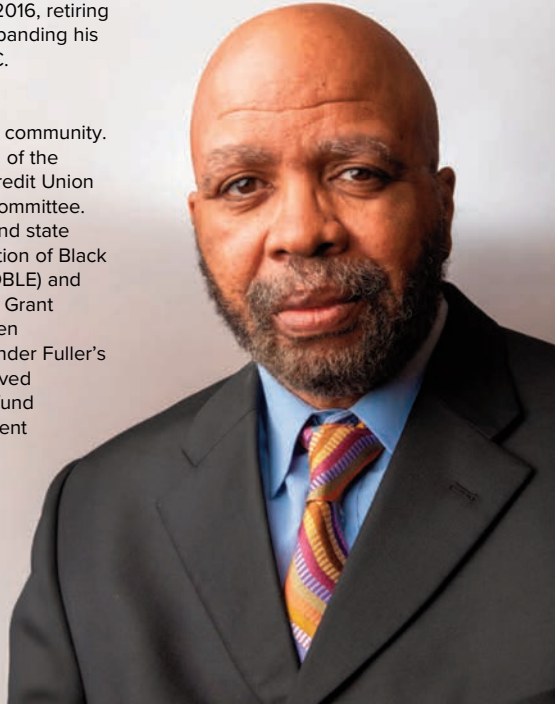
Robert Fuller graduated from Georgia College & State University in 1979 having earned a bachelor's degree in business with a concentration in business management and again in 1999 after obtaining a master's degree in public administration.

Robert started his career with the Macon Police Department. During his 26-year career with MPD, he rose to the rank of Captain after being assigned to departments such as major crimes, auto thefts, property crimes, and crimes against person.

Following his retirement from the Macon Police Department, Robert worked with the Georgia Peace Officer Standards and Training Council (POST) as a Compliance Investigator between 2005 and 2016, retiring once again to concentrate on expanding his own company, MPD Security, INC.

Robert plays an active role in the Milledgeville and Middle Georgia community. He currently serves on the Board of the Macon-Bibb County Employee Credit Union where he chairs the Personnel Committee. He is a member of the national and state chapter of the National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives (NOBLE) and serves as the Vice President and Grant Administrator of the 100 Black Men Milledgeville-Oconee Chapter. Under Fuller's leadership, the chapter has received numerous grants and awards to fund student scholarships and implement financial literacy programs in partnership with Wells Fargo, among other organizations. The Chapter conducts online financial literacy sessions throughout the year for youth between the ages of 11 and 19.

Within the Georgia College Community, Robert currently serves on the GCSU Alumni Association Board of Directors as Chair of the Scholarship Committee and is committed to supporting the scholarship efforts of the AAAC so that we can assist students who may have financial challenges or obstacles standing in the way of earning a post K-12 education. The Robert Fuller Endowment was created to provide scholarships to minority youths who aspire to work in the public sector.



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Rep. W. Mack Jackson, Jr.

State Representative Mack Jackson was born and raised in Sandersville, Washington County, Georgia. He is married to Valarie Jackson, and together, they have two sons, Michael and Daryl. He attended Albany State College for two years and later graduated from Georgia College and State University with a degree in Political Science. He was employed with the State of Georgia for 34 years and retired in March 2006

from the Department of Corrections as a probation officer III. He is a part owner of BenchMark Partners, LLC in Sandersville. He is also the pastor of St. James Christian Fellowship, Inc. He was elected to the Georgia House of Representatives on November 4, 2008.



2023 RECIPIENTS

STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP HIGHLIGHTS



Christiana Hughes
Dr. Helen Hill Annual
Scholarship Recipient



Faith Beamon
Promise Keepers Annual
Scholarship Recipient



Kalin Cobb
AAAC Annual
Scholarship Recipient



Your philanthropic support is essential to creating a more diverse Georgia College & State University community. Please use the QR code or visit <https://alumni.gcsu.edu/AAAC24> to support the AAAC Annual Scholarship. Thank you!



ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

GEORGIA COLLEGE & STATE UNIVERSITY