



FRIENDS OF THE 60'S ★ ALTON BLACK ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

ALUMNI NEWSLETTER

Inside This Issue

- 1 Mission Statement
- 1 Upcoming Events/Activites in A-Town
- 2 Message from the President
- 2 Growing Alton
- 2 Scholarship Scoop
- 3 Alumni Highlights
- 3 Health Corner
- 4 Important Dates/Save the Dates
- 4 Survey Request
- 4 Support Your Organization

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Mission Statement

To reunite colleagues who attended Alton area schools and to utilize their life and career experiences to lead, strengthen, and mobilize the Alton community to prepare our youth for productive adulthood.

Upcoming Events ★ Activities in A-Town

Thursday nights in Alton and Grafton just got a whole lot brighter.

The Great Rivers & Routes Tourism Bureau of Southwest Illinois will launch a weekly series of fireworks events in the two riverfront communities every Thursday night from June 3 to Sept. 9 with the exception of Thursday, July 1. The fireworks show will go off simultaneously in each city at approx. 9 p.m.



JULY EVENTS:

Untold Black Stories in Contemporary Art Exhibition

Jacoby Arts Center, 627 East Broadway, Alton, IL 62002

Fri, Jul 2 - 10AM | Sat, Jul 3 - 10AM | Sun, Jul 4 - 12PM | Wed, Jul 7 - 10AM
 Thur, Jul 8 - 10AM | Fri, Jul 9 - 10AM | Sat, Jul 10 - 10AM | Sun, Jul 11 - 12PM

Join us in celebrating our Untold Black Stories project, and the American Black experience, told through the lens of contemporary art, from all over the country. For more information, visit www.jacobyartscenter.org

Featured Artists: Elena Jenkins, E-B, Jean Smith Mondesir, Najja-Elon Lawson, Lessie Venardo Dixon, Acquietta Williams, Julie Atkinson, Lillian Young, Allena Marie Brazier

Jazzin' in July-Harambee Jazz Brunch | July 10, 2021

Sponsored by the Alton Section of the NCNW

Saturday, July 10 | 10am-1pm | Tickets- \$35 (Advance Purchase Only)
 Please see any NCNW member to purchase your tickets.

SEPTEMBER EVENT:

Alton Black Alumni "BREAK-OUT" PARTY | Sept. 4, 2021

Did you miss socializing with your friends during the pandemic? It's time to return to social openness and normalcy. Get vaccinated and join us for our "Break-out" party on Saturday, Sept. 4, 2021, at Julia's Banquet Center (101 East Gate Plaza, East Alton, IL). Tickets are only \$25 and will go on sell the first week of July. Please check our Facebook page and website for more details. Let's get our party on!

NOVEMBER EVENT:

FOS/ABAA "TRIVIA NIGHT" | Mid November, 2021 (Exact date TBD)

Due to the pandemic, we were unable to host our annual Trivia Night event in 2020. Initial plans are in the works to get back on track with a November event.

2022 EVENTS:

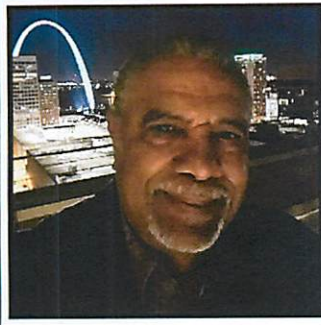
'Early Bird' Registration | Feb 1 - April 30, 2022

Early bird registration opens on February 1, 2022 and goes until April 30th for the 2022 Alton Black Alumni 'ALL CLASS' REUNION.

2022 Alton Black Alumni 'ALL CLASS' REUNION | Sept 2 - 4, 2022

People get ready...we would like to make the 2022 event our biggest & best all class reunion ever!

Message from the President



To say the least, the last 15 months have been trying at times. Events have been canceled, and those being held faced restrictions and limitations. However, with restrictions removed and vaccinations up...some rather simple events we may have taken for granted may now prove to be a special blessing.

FOS/Alton Black Alumni Association plans to do our part in the march to normalcy during the coming months. We look forward "to breaking out" with events that were not possible this past year. On September 4 we will host an evening of dancing and fellowship. This is an opportunity for folks to come together to chat...catch up...and party! In November we plan to bring back our popular Trivia Night event. Stay tuned for additional details.

Get-togethers are special joys that are magnified by what we have endured these past 15 months. Use these opportunities to celebrate unity and healing!

Growing Alton with New Vision!



Photo via riverbend.com

On May 11, 2021, David Goins was sworn in as the *first Black mayor* in the history of Alton, Illinois! David hails from the graduating class of 1978. He has served as the pastor of Morning Star Missionary Baptist Church for 19 years. David retired as a police sergeant after having served with the Alton Police Department for close to 25 years. He has also been a member of the Alton School District Board of Education for the past four years. David's campaign platform goals were to: increase public safety and community engagement; increase economic recovery and reverse the trend of population decline and invest in our youth as well as support the school system. David is married to the Rev. Sheila Goins. They have 3 children and 11 grandchildren.

Scholarship Scoop



"Finals week has been crazy, but it's definitely all worth the work." Aliana shared these words as she prepared to wrap up her 3rd year of studies at Illinois State University. Aliana Kottabi, is very grateful of the renewable scholarship she has received from FOS/Alton Black Alumni Association. Aliana shared that the funds have taken a lot of stress out of funding her needs as she works towards her goal to be a music teacher. Aliana will earn her Bachelor of Music Education (BMED) in May 2022. She also will complete two minor courses of study; Political Science and Peace and Conflict Resolution. Aliana's plan after graduating includes teaching music while pursuing her graduate degree in Education or Music.

Reflecting on her scholarship interview in 2018, it appears Aliana has not forgotten her community. Her heart's desire still lies in the Alton Community. She hopes to start a music studio to teach music for a low cost and open a music school for the community and for those that are not able to take part in a school music program.

FOS/Alton Black Alumni Association wishes Aliana the very best as she sets out to reach her goals. We will continue to support her endeavors.

Aliana Kottabi '22 | Music Education major, Political Science minor, Peace and Conflict Resolution Studies minor, Honors Program
Teacher Assistant at the String Project at Illinois State University | Golden Apple '18 Scholar at Illinois State University

Leo C. Cox Memorial Scholarship applications will be available November 1, 2021. Scholarship applications will be available in the Alton High Guidance office and <https://altonblackalumni.org>.

Alumni Highlights

On May 12, 2021, Alton High School honored some of Alton's finest alumni with the "Distinguished Alumni Award." The following Black alumni recipients are featured below.

Rosa (Thompson) Burton ('70)

Ms. Burton served as a Truant officer for the Alton Public School System for numerous years. She holds a B.A in Social Work.

Dr. Cheryl Killion ('65)

Dr. Cheryl Killion has a Ph.D (Anthropology); M.A. (Anthropology); M.S. (Nursing); and a B.S. (Nursing)

Dr. Killion is currently employed as Associate Professor at the Frances Payne Bolton School of Nursing, Case Western Reserve University, (CWRU) Cleveland, Ohio. She is also a Faculty Associate at the Center for Reducing Health Disparities, CWRU and the Metro-Health System, Cleveland, Ohio. In addition, she was an Associate Professor at Hampton University School of Nursing and Assistant Professor at the University of Michigan, School of Nursing.

Danita Smith ('94)

Danita Smith began her Nursing career as a CNA, followed by being licensed as a LPN. She furthered her career by receiving her BSN. She also has a Master's degree in Business Administration. In 2013 Danita started her own business My Blooming Health, a mobile health unit that serves people by offering clinical and walk-in laboratory work in St. Louis and the Illinois border. In 2014 Danita published her first E-Book ... "6 Great Ways to Keep Yourself Healthy."

Anthony G. Wagner ('60)

Mr. Wagner holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Zoology and a Master's degree in Hospital and Health Care Administration.

Mr. Wagner's professional experience includes: Associate Professor, Louisiana State University, 2021-Present; Vice President Office of Labor Management Partnership, Kaiser Permanente; Executive Administrator, San Francisco Hospital Systems; Executive Administrator San Francisco Community Health Network; Executive Administrator Laguna Honda Hospital; Deputy Associate Director, the Medical Center at UCSF; Assistant Administrator, the Medical Center at UCSF; and Consultant in Dubai, Arab Emirates in Collaboration with Harvard Medical International.

Ruth A. (Bruce) Wilson ('65)

Ms. Wilson has a B.A. in English Literature

Ms. Wilson's professional experience includes: Retired Clerk of Superior and State Courts, Rockdale County Georgia; Lead Consultant, Specialized Training Associates; Executive Director, Partnership for Community Action; Director of Marketing-Operator Services, AT&T, Atlanta; Lecturer, Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria Nigeria West Africa; and Data Center Supervisor, Southwestern Bell, St. Louis, Missouri

Congratulations to all of the awardees! We salute you.



Health Corner Statement

Our Country is beginning to reopen and the population is ready for things to return to normal. The COVID-19 vaccination is an important tool to bring our nation closer to enjoying the activities we have missed during the pandemic.

The Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has released information on their website listing key things to know about the COVID-19 vaccines. The report addresses what you need to know about safety, side effects, how long the vaccine will be effective and answer questions on the new variants of the virus. For more information go to website www.cdc.gov.



*** IMPORTANT DATES ***

September 4, 2021
Alton Black Alumni
BREAK-OUT Party

Mid-November, 2021
FOS/ABAA Trivia Night

Feb 1 - April 30, 2022
2022 Alton Black Alumni
'ALL CLASS' Reunion
Early Bird Registration

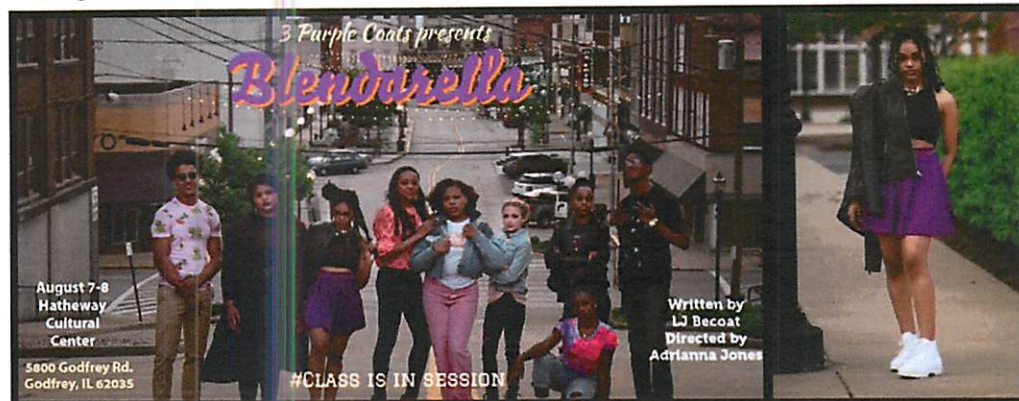
September 2-4, 2022
2022 Alton Black Alumni
'ALL CLASS' REUNION

Save The Date!

Blendarella (Presented by 3 Purple Coats) | August 7 & 8, 2021

Hatheway Cultural Center • Lewis & Clark Community College • 5800 Godfrey Rd., Godfrey, IL 62035
Saturday, August 7 @ 2:30pm & 7:30pm | Sunday, August 8 @ 2:30pm

Get your tickets NOW at Today's Beauty, 1415 Central Ave., Eventbrite or by calling 618-670-2395.



Break Out Event | September 4, 2021

Julia's Banquet Hall • 101 Eastgate Plaza, East Alton, IL 62024



FOS/Alton Black Alumni Association is hosting a "Break Out Event". Let's get back out and enjoy each other's company again! We will have a social gathering celebration at Julia's Banquet Hall. Tickets are only \$25 and will go on sale the first week of July. Please check our Facebook page and website for more details.

Survey Request

Please take just a minute to complete a survey from the FOS/Alton Black Alumni Association. Your feedback is important to us. It is helpful to our event planning process.

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/WBNDWKM>

Please complete the survey by July 23, 2021. Thank you in advance for your support! We appreciate you.

Support Your Organization

This is a **REMINDER** that we need your help through donations to carry out the Mission of this organization. It is through your generous donations during our Donor Campaign that we help deserving graduates with college tuition through renewable scholarships. Additionally, we offer gift cards to underprivileged students in the Alton School District and give financial support to other organizations in the community. **Please help us so that we can help others.**

Donations Options: Check, PayPal or Cash App (\$FOSAB)

Remit checks to: FOS/ABAA Donor Campaign
P.O. Box 1033, Alton, IL 62002

FOS/Alton Black Alumni Association is a 501(c)3 tax exempt organization under IRS section 170(b)(2)(iii) for both federal and state tax purposes. Our federal tax identification number is 81-1244704.



Visit us at www.AltonBlackAlumni.org ★ Contact us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/AltonBlackAlumni