

NATIONAL ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

Spring 2019

Hood Theological Seminary

Special Edition 1, Vol. 1

FROM THE DESK OF THE PRESIDENT

The Journey Continues

The first semester is over and the second semester is beginning. The old has passed away and new expectations are beginning, thus an appropriate segue for this year's theme: "The Journey Continues."

The HTSNAA Executive Board has worked to ensure that alumni representation is present and participating in events/activities at HTS; from College Night Out involving Livingstone College, Catawba College and others, to opening convocation, to the 1885 Society Dinner.

"If I have the belief that I can do it, I shall surely acquire the capacity to do it even if I may not have it at the beginning." –Mahatma Gandhi

While some students are anticipating promotion to the next grade level, other students view graduation as elevation to another level of service within their respective denominations. The current phase has presented opportunities for new challenges and new occasions for encouragement. In Paul's letter to the Galatians 6:9, he writes, *So let us not get tired of doing what is good. At just the right time we will reap a harvest of blessing if we don't give up* (New Living Translation). These Pauline words reflect that attitude and the actions of the HTSNAA.

The Executive Board extends our deepest appreciation for your generous gifts of time and financial resources to support and promote the mission of Hood Theological Seminary. The Executive Board is pleased to announce that the fundraising success of the 1885 Society Dinner has allowed HTSNAA to sponsor two scholarships for \$1,000.00 per student recipient (Master and Doctorate Levels). We were also able to donate \$1,000.00 to the Firm Foundation Covenant Service held on February 6, 2019, in the Aymer Center. We encourage your participation in *The 4th Annual All-Hood Alumni & Friends Symposium* (March 14-15, 2019). Also, the HTSNAA will hold elections for Executive Board officers for the 2019-2021 term. You should have received information relating to the election process from the Office of Alumni Engagement & Annual Giving. Your servant leader is seeking reelection and solicits your vote. In my consultation with President Lattimore, he renewed his previous invitation to a complimentary luncheon to all alumni who are traveling in the Salisbury area. In closing, we hope that all constituents of HTS will represent the highest levels of leadership and integrity, consistent with Christian principles and practices.

The document below is the report of my labors thus far as the HTSNAA President made to the Board of Trustees for your review:

Hood Theological Seminary National Alumni Association (HTSNAA)

(Information supplied by Rev. Dr. Lamont Foster, M.Div. '15, D.Min '18, President, HTSNAA)

I, Reverend Dr. Lamont Freeman Foster, Sr., President of the Hood Theological Seminary National Alumni Association, would like to submit the following report. The Executive Board held four (4) conference calls and one (1) physical meeting on the campus of HTS in preparation for the 1885 Society Dinner annual scholarship fundraiser. On October 5 and 6, 2018, I attended *The Ruben L Speaks Memorial Lecture Series* in which the featured speaker was the distinguished professor and author, **The Reverend Dr. Arun W Jones** from the Candler School of Divinity at Emory University. I organized and co-taught a mental health first aid certification training course on October 15, 2018 for twenty-five Rowan County residents in the Aymer

Center. HTS, in conjunction with Carolina HealthCare System, hosted this mental health training session which gave the participants the know-how you need to identify signs of mental illness and respond to someone experiencing a mental health crisis. On October 19, 2018, myself, along with other HTSNAA Executive Board members attended the opening convocation in the Aymer Center. The Opening Convocation speaker was **The Reverend Dr. Robert C. Scott**, Pastor of St. Paul Baptist Church of Charlotte, NC marking the beginning of the academic year. On November 8, 2018, I went on a student recruiting trip to Johnson C. Smith University located in Charlotte, NC. It was the most enjoyable and productive recruitment endeavor. On November 30, 2018, I attended the Annual Advent Lessons and Christmas Carol Service in the Aymer Center. On January 20, 2019, at 7 p.m., the United Ministerial Alliance of Salisbury/Rowan has extended an invitation to be their MLK, Jr. speaker at the Tower of Power Church located in Salisbury. Lastly, On January 16-18, 2019, I will join a team representing HTS to attend the Lilly Endowment – **Gathering First Fruits: National Summit on the Economics of Ministry** (through In Trust Center for Theological Schools) in Indianapolis, Indiana.

The 1885 Society Scholarship Banquet extravaganza held in the Aymer Center on Friday, November 16, 2018, at 7:00 PM was well-attended. The Reverend Dr. Lamont Foster, '01, '15 & '18 was the Master of Ceremony presiding over the various stages of the program. The theme was "The Journey Continues" with guest speaker **Reverend Dr. Grant Harrison, Jr.**, (Past President of HTSNAA) M.Div. '98 and D.Min. '05. The 1885 Society Banquet is the "Signature Fundraiser" for the Hood Theological Seminary National Alumni Association and all proceeds benefit the HTSNAA Endowment Student Scholarship. The Livingstone College Gospel Choir under the musical direction of **Reverend Christopher Gray** tastefully rendered the music and song to mark this auspicious occasion. The Reverends. Dr. Calvin L. Miller, '92 & '13 and Francis Greene, '18, led the Invocation and reading of Scripture respectively. The opening selection provided by the Livingstone College Gospel Choir (LCGC). Dr. Vergel L. Lattimore gave a welcome, *Hood Theological Seminary, President*. Mamie Hannah, *Hood Theological Seminary M. Div. Student* and Dr. Trevor Eppheimer, *Academic Dean* gave the greetings. The Reverend Dr. Lamont Foster, '15 & '18, *HTSNAA, President*, cited in remembrance the Occasion for the gathering. A second musical selection rendered by LCGC. The blessing of the food by Reverend Dr. Yvonne Tracy, '02.

The exquisite cuisine prepared and served by *Tasty Creation II* and decoration by Dorothy Gill-Smith made the evening that much more enjoyable. The presentation of pins and honorees by Reverend Dr. David McLean, '08 *HTSNAA, Vice-President*, with assistance from Reverends Carolyn Bratton, '12, *HTSNAA Secretary* and Tamica Robinson, '09, *HTSNAA Assistant Secretary* with Excellence in Pastoral Ministry and Community Leadership-Social Witness Awards were given to Reverends Harold O. Robinson and Janet Garner-Mullins respectively. Those pinned into the 1885 Society for 2018 were Reverends Harold O. Robinson, William Turner and Dr. William M. Jordan, III. The Reverend Carolyn Bratton, '12, *HTSNAA, Secretary* presented the speaker followed by the Hymn of Preparation by LCGC. The Reverend Dr. Grant Harrison, Jr., '98 & '05, *HTSNAA Past President*. Dr. Harrison, who is also the Presiding Elder of the Salisbury District of the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church, gave a powerfully stirring and challenging message to those in attendance with "The Journey Continues" and closing with the song from **the Man of La Manche** to a standing ovation. Reverend Dr. Foster gave words of thanks asking all alumni to stand for the faculty and staff to look around the room to view the fruits of their labors in preparing transformative leaders for ministry. Presiding Elder Harrison ended this wonderful evening with a closing prayer.

I would like to recognize and thank the Executive Board of HTSNAA for all of their hard work in the promotion of team-spirit to get the job done. Also, special appreciation extended to our donor/sponsor - Central Carolina Insurance Agency. I want to give additional thanks to John Everett, Director of HTS Office of Institutional Advancement. Thank you to Reverend Dr. Reginald Boyd, Director of Recruitment & Admissions for his invaluable help with the logistics of recruitment, and Mrs. Carmen W. Harper, Director of Alumni Engagement & Annual Giving for her wealth of experience and encouragement. A special thanks to the Chapter Presidents and their representatives and you, the Alumni, friends, and families of our beloved Hood Theological Seminary for your support in making this a very successful event.

The Executive Board worked in unison to make the program a success, and we intend to issue a check for \$2,000.00 in scholarship donations to HTS.

Your Servant Leader,
Rev. Dr. Lamont Foster

