A newsletter for members of the School of Agriculture and Environmental Sciences Alumni Society

SAES Alumni Society Gets Rolling -
Awards Scholarship to Two SAES Students

Two students in the School of Agriculture and Environmental Sciences have been awarded scholarships totaling $2,500 from the newly organized and chartered SAES Alumni Society. Lance Derrell Blackwell, a Landscape Architecture major from Florida, was awarded a $1,500 scholarship. Kristin Cummings King, an Animal Sciences major from Greensboro, received $1,000.

“This is part of our mission,” said James Kearney, 65, chairman of the Alumni Society Steering Committee. “We want to involve SAES alumni in the kind of activities and events that support the school. Giving scholarships is a major objective for us. But this is only the beginning. I advise people to look and listen for all the good work that the Alumni Society will be doing.”

Blackwell is a Who’s Who recipient coming to A&T with a 3.1 grade point average. King, a N.C. Scholar, served as treasurer of the National Honor Society and had a 3.7 grade point average.

“We are excited to have the Alumni Society and we are glad they are putting their money in scholarships,” said SAES Dean Alton Thompson.

“Having scholarship money helps the school recruit and retain top students. And when those students graduate they go on to some of the best jobs and are in positions to give back to those that helped them. This creates a cycle of giving and support that is so necessary for the growth and development of SAES.”

Since the Alumni Society was formed in November, 2001, they have worked tirelessly to establish an organization that will provide enormous benefits to the students, School, the University and to the alumni. As well, SAES has the distinction of being the only school on campus with an organized Alumni Society.

“This, along with all the things we are doing in SAES shows what we are truly on the move,” Thompson said.

In addition to the scholarship, the Society has developed, with the assistance of staff within the school, a marketing plan, a preliminary draft of the organizational constitution and bylaws, conducted outreach sessions in communities around the state and conducted a recognition program for recent graduates of the school.

We have also initiated our charter membership drive of the Alumni Society and are proud to include 90 members, including 24 lifetime members.
The SAES Alumni Society of the School of Agriculture at North Carolina A&T State University has been hitting the road to spread the news about the recently established organization.

Meetings were held in Durham, NC (April) and Weldon, NC (May). The reception in Durham was held at the North Carolina Mutual Life Insurance Company and was attended by nearly 15 people including alumni and university staff.

The reception in Weldon was held at Ralph’s Barbeque and was attended by nearly 30 people including alumni and university staff. Over 25 alumni attended this event.

Dr. Thompson, Dean of the School of Agriculture and Environmental Science spoke candidly with the attendees about the needs of the school and the reason he desires to establish the SAES Alumni Society. He spoke of the diverse needs of the students and the support that the school needed for the alumni. He outlined the strategic vision that has been developed by the School of Agriculture and how important it was for the alumni to continue to provide support.

Jim Kearney, ‘65, chairperson of the Steering Committee, hosted each of the receptions and outlined the vision that he has for the SAES Alumni Society which included encouraging members to join the organization as lifetime members. Kearney encouraged those in attendance to become ambassadors for the Society and to help spread the word about what the organization hopes to accomplish.

Watch your mailbox for a meeting in your hometown.

SAES Alumni Society Spreading the Word