By Elvis Graves

The membership roster continues to expand and we now have 36 individuals who have joined as Lifetime Members and have contributed $500 for the lifetime membership fee. We really appreciate this commitment and show of support for what we are doing and encourage many more of you to consider joining as Lifetime members. We have developed a special plaque to include the names of all Lifetime members which will be prominently displayed in Webb Hall.

The Society awarded two scholarships to deserving students who have excelled academically. The students were recognized at the SAES awards banquet that was supported by the Alumni Society. The organization has decided that it will give $4,000 worth of scholarships for this academic year. We hope that all alumni will recognize the value of these scholarships to the outstanding students and will pledge their support.

“This is one of the most important things we can do,” said Dr. Harold Mazyck.

“What better way to showcase the academic excellence of the students than to support scholarships”.

In addition to recognizing the scholarship recipients, the Society awarded certificates to this year’s SAES graduates that will allow them a free one-year membership in the organization. The certificates were presented by Kearney with the hope that the recent graduates will be encouraged to support the organization in the future. The Alumni Society provided financial support to several SAES programs during the past year including the Career Expo held in March 2003 and the Student Awards banquet which was held on April 17.

We still have plans to do more including hosting our 2"" annual meeting in October. We will be providing more information on this in the near future. Stay tuned!
Edwards Family Committed to SAES Alumni Society

In the local community of Pleasant Hill, N.C., one family is committed to making sure that the School of Agriculture and Environmental Sciences at North Carolina A&T State University continues its rich tradition of nurturing students to achieve. In February 2002 the SAES Alumni Society Steering Committee met with alumni in the Roanoke Rapids/Weldon, N.C. area to discuss the newly established Alumni Society and the desire to promote the organization’s goals and objectives. Before the meeting was over 13 members had signed on as members.

The family of Rudolph Edwards stood out because five members of this family joined the Society that evening and have since become very active members of this organization.

The family consists of Rudolph (father), Zelia (mother), Kelvin (son), Shewanda (daughter-in-law), and Coletta (daughter). Kelvin currently is a member of the Society’s Executive Council and serves as the Parliamentarian for the organization. Coletta also is active in the organization and serves as the chairperson of the Student Alumni committee.

“It is remarkable that an entire family is involved in this way. They recognize the benefits of supporting an organization like ours and have shown this through their actions and financial contributions.”

This according to Dean Alton Thompson is the reason that the Society has been successful to this point.

“There are many individuals, husband and wives, that have joined this organization but we are excited when an entire family recognizes the value and contributions that an organization such as the Alumni Society can add to the success of the School,” Thompson said.

Kelvin is currently completing his dissertation for the PhD in Agricultural Education at North Carolina State University. He expects to complete the requirements for this degree this Fall. Coletta has recently completed the requirements for the MS degree in Agricultural Education at North Carolina A&T State University and is currently working for.

Hodges Alumni Society Support Continues His Long List of Accomplishments

When it comes to supporting the goals and objectives of the Alumni Society Carl Hodges ’54, stands out among the leaders. Although Hodges was already a Lifetime “charter” Member of the newly formed Society he has recently chosen to continue his financial support by donating an additional $500 to be applied towards scholarships that the organization has pledged to support.

“It is through the generous efforts of alumni like Mr. Hodges that we are able to support scholarships for deserving students,” said SAES Alumni Society President James Kearney.

The Society will support up to $4,000 this academic year with monies going to students in many of the departments within SAES.

Hodges lives in Durham County and is retired from the North Carolina Cooperative Extension Service. He is recognized as the first African-American Extension Director in North Carolina. He led this position in Durham County. He continues to be a leader and his support for the organization is appreciated.