

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 25, 2019
SHERATON IMPERIAL HOTEL
RESEARCH TRIANGLE PARK

Light *on the* Hill Society

AWARDS GALA



GENERAL ALUMNI ASSOCIATION



For several years, African American alumni discussed plans to create a scholarship program for African American students interested in attending Carolina. During the 2005 Black Alumni Reunion (BAR), plans for the creation of the Light on the Hill Society Scholarship (LOTH) were announced. Organizers challenged alumni to initially contribute \$1,952 each—representing the 1952 class year of Harvey E. Beech, Carolina's first African American graduate—to become founding members of the scholarship fund.

From Duke Energy's \$20,000 founding member campaign challenge and the generosity of 71 Tar Heels, the fiscal foundation of LOTH was solidified and the first scholars were presented during the 2007 BAR Awards Banquet.

FOUNDING MEMBERS

Sibby Anderson-Thompkins '87
 Teresa C. Artis '83
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 William E. Barksdale, Jr. '88
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 Garland W. Blackwell '78
 Calvin L. Blanton '76
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 Maxine Brown Davis '74
 Dr. Christopher Bullock '89
 Marcilynn A. Burke '91
 Terrence '82 and Terri Burroughs '83
 Dr. Dionne Colbert '86
 Pierre '80 and Rita Cromartie '84
 Donnell Davis '76
 Rick A. Davis '85
 Lois Deloatch '81
 Debbie and Doug Dibbert '70
 Tangula A. Diggs '91
 Candy Lewis Dingle '87
 Dr. Pamela Dockery-Howard '79
 Joretta Durant '77
 Archie W. Ervin '99 (PhD)

Walter '82 and Desdemona Faison '83
 Dr. Beverly Harrington-Falls '82
 Dr. Cassandra Goldston Fitzpatrick '87
 Dr. Ernest Jerome Goodson '76
 Shelia D. Gray '85
 Robyn S. Hadley '85
 Dr. Kelvin '82 and Angela G. Harris '83
 Lori Ann Harris '84
 C. Hawkins '00
 Hugh '82 and Olymphia Holston '83
 Kraig '82 and Marisa Holt '88
 Dr. Eddie Lee Hoover '65
 James C. Jackson '82 (MBA)
 Dr. Yewande J. Johnson '95
 Randy Kane Jones '79
 Elizabeth Kelly '84
 W.H. "Joe" Knight, Jr. '76
 Dr. Pamela Love '83
 Mitzi Trollinger Lumbr '87
 Ken Mack '79
 Aubrey and Andra Martin '81
 Karol V. Mason '79
 Reginald '75 and Rosa McAfee '75
 Santa Maria McKibbins '02 (MPH)
 Lonnie W. Merrick '74

Joy E. Paige '85
 Pamela Denise Parker '90
 Eileen Carlton Parsons '89
 Larry S. Patterson '80
 Sam Perkins '84
 Tanea Pettis '95
 LaRosa Pinnix-Bailey '81
 Tracey B. Powell '80
 Brittany L. Powell '08
 Dr. Anelia P. Rose '93
 Matthew Patrick Shaw '02
 Dr. Janet Southerland '82
 Johnnie Southerland '81
 Barron LeGrant Stroud, Jr. '88
 Reyna S. Walters '99
 Keith and Anita Walton '92
 Al '76 and Amy Mittman White '78
 Petra L. Wiggins '91
 Deborah C. Wilder '75
 Dr. and Mrs. Johnathan D. Williams '82
 Richard "Stick" Williams '75
 Teresa Williams '77
 Dr. Phillip D. Woods III '80
 Laura Anderson Wright '91

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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 Robyn Hadley '85
 Jennell McIntosh '15

The Light on the Hill Society Scholarship effort began during the 2005 Black Alumni Reunion. Organizers challenged alumni to contribute \$1,952 each—representing the 1952 class year of Harvey Beech, Carolina's first African-American graduate—to become founding members of the scholarship fund.

Since 2005, Carolina alumni and friends have annually made tax-deductible gifts to the fund, ranging from a few dollars to several thousand, the largest being \$350,000 from NFL star Julius Peppers '02.

This initiative serves as a tribute to Carolina's African American graduates of the 1950s and 1960s by providing scholarships to current first-year African American students. These talented scholars demonstrate academic excellence, outstanding leadership abilities, community service dedication and have great potential to become involved and informed alumni.

Supported by the UNC General Alumni Association and administered by the Light on the Hill Society Board of Directors, the program has awarded 84 scholarships: 66 Light on the Hill Society Scholars and 18 Julius Peppers scholars.

The following awards are presented each fall at the Light on the Hill Society Scholarship Awards Gala held during the UNC Black Alumni Reunion.

The Harvey E. Beech Outstanding Alumni Award recognizes outstanding black alumni who have been stellar leaders within the University community and or within their local community. This award has two (2) potential categories: Young Alumni (age 40 and under) and Overall Achievement (no class or age requirement).

The James Lassiter, J. Kenneth Lee, Floyd McKissick Sr. and James R. Walker Trailblazer Award recognizes an African American alumnus who paved the way for African Americans during the first 20 years of desegregation at Carolina. The recipient of this award will be an alumnus from the classes of 1952–1972. This award was renamed in 2017 in honor of James Lassiter, J. Kenneth Lee and Floyd McKissick Sr., Carolina's earliest African American students who were trailblazers in the desegregation of the University.

The Hortense K. McClinton Outstanding Faculty/Staff Award honors a faculty or staff member, past or present, who has made outstanding contributions to the Carolina community (nominee does not have to be an alumnus). This award was renamed in 2013 in honor of Hortense K. McClinton, Carolina's first African American professor.

The Harvey E. Beech Outstanding Senior Award recognizes an African American graduating senior who exemplifies a strong academic record, excellent leadership ability, positive community service and volunteer work and a demonstrated desire to strengthen the bond between current students and alumni.

2018

Katrina H. Avery '82 ('91 MD), *Overall Achievement*
Linda Brown Douglas '82, *Outstanding Faculty Staff*
Atrayus O. Goode '07, *Young Alumni*
Walter A. Jackson '67, *Trailblazer*
Sophia C. McFarlane '19, *Outstanding Senior*
Samuel B. Perkins '82, *Overall Achievement*

2017

Andrea J. Barnes '18, *Outstanding Senior*
William M. Chamberlain Sr. '72, *Trailblazer*
Jennifer Y. Cyriaque '98 (PhD), *Outstanding Faculty Staff*
Cassandra D. Caldwell '93, *Overall Achievement*
Kenneth Cox Jr. '99, *Young Alumni*
Bill E. Lawson '75, *Overall Achievement*

2016

Sierra J. Atwater '17, *Outstanding Senior*
Janine "Cookie" Bell '76, *Overall Achievement*
Brian O. Beverly '90, *Overall Achievement*
Joseph N. Cooper '06, *Young Alumni*
Archie W. Ervin '99 (PhD), *Overall Achievement*
Edith A. Hubbard '66, *Trailblazer*
Boateng A. Kubi '17, *Outstanding Senior*

2015

Iris Carlton-LaNey, *Outstanding Faculty Staff*
Warren J. Carson '14, *Overall Achievement*
Warachai E. Faison '95 (MD), *Overall Achievement*
Gerald V. Holmes '85 (MSLS), *Overall Achievement*
Parker A. Martin '16, *Outstanding Senior*
Seronda A. Robinson '07 (PhD), *Young Alumna*

2014

Joseph Brian Blake '15, *Outstanding Senior*
Winston B. Crisp '92 (JD), *Outstanding Faculty Staff*
Walter "Gene" Egerton '76, *Overall Achievement*
Samuel L. Fulwood III '78, *Overall Achievement*
Kraig J. Holt '82, *Overall Achievement*
Letanya A. Love '98, *Young Alumna*

2013

Issack Boru '14, *Outstanding Senior*
Benjamin Boykin II '72, *Overall Achievement*
Wade H. Chestnut III '66, *Trailblazer*
Lisa A. Gillespie '88, *Overall Achievement*
Donnie Hoover '71, *Overall Achievement*
Deborah Stroman '86 (MA), *Outstanding Faculty Staff*

Visit alumni.unc.edu/bar for a complete list of former award recipients.

Induction into any honorary society indicates that an individual has attained a high degree of accomplishment. It is with a debt of gratitude, admiration and love that the 2019 Black Alumni Reunion Planning Committee inducts these members of the class of 1969 into the Golden Rams Society.

Created in 2007, this honorary society was established to honor African American alumni celebrating their 50th class anniversary. We stand in awe of all of our Golden Rams for their courage, imagination and resolve to enter an unfamiliar world, compete and excel during the earliest years of integration at Carolina.

It is because of their patience, strength and commitment to academic excellence that we are all members of the Carolina family. On behalf of Carolina's more than 24,000 African American alumni, the Black Alumni Reunion congratulate the newest members of the Golden Rams Society:

James Earl Barnes '69

Eric Lee Clay '69

Preston Eugene Dobbins '69

Lynous Willard Hall '69 (MD)

Marye Jackson Jeffries '69 (MEd)

George Lawson Liggins '69 (MPH)

Adeoye Yaovi Olukotun '69

William Lawrence Pollard '69

Robert Lee Reddick '69

Adolph Leonard Reed, Jr. '69

Isaac Alphonso Robinson '69 (MSW)

William Thomas Small, Jr. '69

Herbert Holden Thomas '69

LaVerla Peace Vaughn '69

Velma Gibson Watts '69 (MEd)

Joanne Peebles Wilson '69



MISTRESS OF CEREMONY

Tisha Powell, *WTVD News Anchor*

WELCOME

Philip L. McAlpin '75, *Chair, 2019 Black Alumni Reunion Planning Committee*

GREETINGS

Douglas S. Dibbert '70, *President, General Alumni Association*

SCHOLAR RECOGNITION VIDEO

Bernadine A. Cobb '84, *Selection Committee Chair*
Light on the Hill Society Scholarship Board of Directors

SCHOLAR REFLECTIONS

Damion E. Williams '23, *Light on the Hill Society Scholar*

INVOCATION

Joseph C. High '76

DINNER

GOLDEN RAMS INDUCTION, *presented by Carol Woods*

Philip L. McAlpin '75

AWARD PRESENTATIONS: *Trailblazer, Faculty/Staff and Young Alumni Awards*

LIVE AUCTION

AWARD PRESENTATIONS: *Outstanding Alumni Awards*

LIVE AUCTION

SUSTAINING THE LIGHT

Janet H. Southerland '82, *Chair, Light on the Hill Society Board of Directors*

CLOSING REMARKS

Lisa G. Morgan '83, *Chair-Elect, 2019 Black Alumni Reunion Planning Committee*

ALMA MATER

Anita J. Brown-Graham '91 (JD)

BEECH OUTSTANDING ALUMNI AWARD FOR OVERALL ACHIEVEMENT

During her second year in law school at UNC, Anita Brown-Graham '91 (JD) was tapped to lead



Minority Law Day, an effort to introduce prospective students of color to Carolina Law. Soliciting help from the Black Law Students Association was easy, but Brown-Graham also included student groups and faculty from other backgrounds.

"It was important to me that prospective students of color not be given the implicit message that only people of color cared about the diversity of the incoming class," Brown-Graham says. "It was also important for me to say to faculty, 'It is your job to help these prospective students feel embraced by the entire law school.' Many were surprised to be invited to participate; not a single person declined the invitation."

Brown-Graham's efforts yielded the most diverse incoming class in the law school at that time — not surprising to those who know her well.

A married mother of two who graduated from law school in 1991, Brown-Graham has been a mover and a shaker throughout her remarkable career. She was the first African American to be tenured in UNC's School of Government, serving on the faculty from 1994 to 2006 and establishing herself as a national authority on economic and community development issues. In 2007, she became director of the Institute for Emerging Issues at North Carolina State University, where she worked with leaders at the highest levels in business, government and higher education to help them find consensus on issues important to North Carolina's future.

Three years ago, Brown-Graham rejoined the School of Government to lead the launch of the nclMPACT initiative, an effort that expands the school's capacity to work with public officials on complex policy issues. During this second stint at the School of Government, she and her colleagues have already devised programs to support communities working on providing more pathways to economic mobility, reducing poverty, extending employment opportunities and stemming opioid misuse and abuse in communities across the state.

Brown-Graham grew up in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, and earned her bachelor of arts in criminal justice from Louisiana State University. A renaissance woman who has made her mark professionally, she has selflessly supported causes by serving on many boards and organizations, including the Research Triangle Foundation, Z. Smith Reynolds Foundation, N.C. Housing Coalition, the North Carolina Justice Center, Blue Cross Blue Shield of North Carolina Foundation, East Durham Children's Initiative and the Triangle Community Foundation — among others.

From 1998 to 2000, Brown-Graham served as vice president of the North Carolina Association of Black Lawyers. Then-President Asa L. Bell Jr. '87 said she redefined the position and provided unparalleled vision and direction for the association while planning and coordinating excellent Continuing Legal Education programs for the membership.

Her devotion to Carolina is evident: She served as the keynote speaker for Minority Law Day in 2001 and 2002. She was this year's University Day celebration speaker and serves on the search committee to select the next chancellor.

In his nomination, Keith Sutton said Brown-Graham deserves the Harvey E. Beech Outstanding Alumni Award based on her exemplary leadership. "She has been an extraordinary leader in the policy and government arena and has set a visionary course for the future of North Carolina and its citizens," he said.

Brown-Graham is a William C. Friday Fellow, an American Marshall Fellow and an Eisenhower Fellow. The Triangle Business Journal named her a 2014 Woman in Business for her policy leadership and a 2017 CEO of the Year. In 2013 during the Obama Administration, she received the White House's Champion of Change in Civic Engagement award.

Ask about her career successes and Brown-Graham quickly credits her law school days at Carolina.

"Many people leave law school having mostly learned how to fight ably in the world of winners and losers," she says. "I left having mostly learned that effective advocacy includes the skill of working across differences to get things done. I owe the UNC School of Law for the gift of that indispensable discovery."

Nimasheena Niveshia Burns '06

BEECH OUTSTANDING YOUNG ALUMNI AWARD

In only 13 years since graduating from UNC, Nimasheena Niveshia Burns '06 has amassed an awarding-winning public service record in public affairs.

She has worked as an assistant public affairs specialist with the N.C. Governor's Highway Safety Program, as a senior public affairs officer for Durham, as an outreach and public affairs officer in the N.C. Department of Justice's Consumer Protection Division and the Office of the Attorney General and as the director of public affairs and loan marketing for USDA's Farm Service Agency in North Carolina.



Currently, she's director of communications and project management for the N.C. Department of Military and Veterans Affairs.

Burns has served as a guest consumer analyst for various media outlets and has made over 1,000 keynote, presenter and consultative appearances, speaking on issues ranging from cybersecurity and identify theft to Medicare fraud and human trafficking. She has lectured at more than 20 of the state's public and private universities.

Burns is committed to and invested in her community, evidenced through her various nonprofit board appointments including N.C. Women's Empowerment Conference, the N.C. Recidivism Taskforce and Helping All People Excel, or H.A.P.E., for which she was named Board of Directors chair in 2018.

After years of caring for her sister who thrives – not suffers – with Lupus and kidney disease, Burns noticed the prominence of kidney failure in the black community. In 2013, she received an Albert Schweitzer Public Health Fellowship and used the funding to start the Don't Kid Yourself Foundation, which aims for early detection of kidney failure. Burns partnered with UNC Hospitals' Kidney Bus to travel to distressed African American communities in rural southeastern North Carolina to test kidney function and provide access to resources for those needing further treatment.

For over eight years, she served as a member of the Governor's Multi-Discipline Grant Review Team and oversaw grant review for projects, awards and allocations for issues including human trafficking, domestic violence and workforce development.

She was recently re-awarded a \$3 million grant for the North Carolina Defense Industry Diversification Initiative, a project she co-founded and through which she works with some of the state's most vulnerable companies to support diversification of their work and product portfolio.

Dr. Cassandra D. Caldwell met Burns when Burns took her public administration graduate classes at North Carolina Central University.

"She stood out from other graduate students through her leadership, community service, scholarship and passion for public administration," said Caldwell. "As she advanced through her graduate program, I watched her grow into a polished professional and outstanding student leader."

Caldwell, who has invited Burns to speak to her classes, cited her as "an outstanding representative of Carolina through her dedication to a career in public service."

Larry D. Hall, secretary of N.C.'s Department of Military and Veterans Affairs, hired Burns.

"Ms. Burns is quite tenacious and is often sought out by financial institutions, nonprofits and business stakeholders for her work in cybersecurity," Hall said. "She brings to all of her projects energy, enthusiasm and commitment ... and consistently delivers high-quality project development for our agency."

Born in Tar Heel, North Carolina, Burns earned her bachelor's degree in political science and communications from UNC before earning her master's in public affairs, with an emphasis in intergovernmental relations and economic development, from NCCU. She's currently working on a master's degree in cybersecurity from Brown University.

Burns was named to the Triangle Business Journal's 40 under 40 list in 2017 and earned its Woman in Public Policy Award in 2016. Burns also was named the 2016 Wells Fargo/Blue Cross and Blue Shield Young Executive of the Year, and in 2016 she was named Spectacular Magazine's Emerging Leader of the Year.

"I have worked in so many industries, ... and the commonality among them is my unwavering love of public service and of giving back in the neediest of places," Burns said. "The Carolina accomplishment taught me to dream bigger, set bigger goals and broaden my perspective, and I'm just getting started."

William A. Keyes IV '75 ('18 PhD)

BEECH OUTSTANDING ALUMNI AWARD FOR OVERALL ACHIEVEMENT

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. once said, "Life's most persistent and urgent question is, what are you doing for others?" For Dr. William Augustus Keyes '75 ('18 PhD), the answer is a lot, and Carolina has oft been the recipient of his generosity.

A member of the UNC Board of Trustees from 2015 until this year, Keyes served as its secretary and as chairman of the External Relations Committee and vice chairman of the University Affairs Committee. For more than 20 years, he has served on the Board of Advisers for the Hussman School of Journalism and Media, and he also served on the Board of Directors of the Journalism Foundation. Moreover, in 2004 Keyes created and funded an internship program in Washington, D.C., for UNC journalism students.

From 2006 to 2010, he served on UNC's Board of Visitors, and he also has served on the Graduate School Advancement Board. Keyes worked with Terri Houston and the Office of Diversity and Multicultural Affairs to create the Leadership Institute, which served several hundred students from underrepresented populations by providing personal and professional development training and affording them opportunities they might not have otherwise gotten.

Keyes has been tapped for the Order of the Golden Fleece and the Frank Porter Graham Honor Society. He is a Life Member of the General Alumni Association, and in 2014 the Washington, D.C., Black Alumni Carolina Club named him its first "Local Legend."

"In all of his endeavors, Bill goes out of his way to make time for Carolina students — especially black students who are seeking a role model or sympathetic ear to help guide their way on what for some can be a large, impersonal and intimidating campus," said Keyes' close friend Sam Fulwood III '78. "As a trustee, he engages members of the campus' African American communities, such as when he invited the UNC Gospel Choir to perform at his very first meeting as chairman of the trustees' External Relations Committee."

For the last 17 years, Keyes has served some of America's best and brightest African American male college students through the Institute for Responsible Citizenship, which he created. Institute alumni have



become Rhodes, Fulbright and Truman scholars, as well as PhDs, MDs and JDs and have earned graduate degrees in other disciplines.

For his extensive work in education, Keyes was presented the Mac A. Stewart Distinguished Award for

Service by the Todd Bell National Resource Center at The Ohio State University, the Dr. Asa Hilliard Model of Excellence Award from the College Board, the Warrior Award at the International Colloquium on Black Males in Education and several other awards.

As a member of the UNC class of 1975, Keyes studied political science, which led to his desire to work in national politics in Washington, D.C. Last May, he became the only person in the University's 226-year history to earn a PhD (communication studies) at UNC while serving on the Board of Trustees.

"I have known Bill for many years, in fact since our undergraduate years, and in my view he has always been an outstanding member of the University of North Carolina community," said another close friend, Charles Watts '77. "

Keyes' creation and continued development of the Institute for Responsible Citizenship reflects his long-term commitment to community service. His recent expansion of the program to Durham, Greensboro and Charlotte is even more evidence of the depth of that commitment to community service in the state of North Carolina — even as he continues residing in Northern Virginia — and to the success of young African American men."

A native of Washington, North Carolina, Keyes has an intense passion for giving that was instilled in him by his parents. He is generous with his time, talent and resources and often says he will either give away everything he has or use it to bless others, and, as a result, there is nothing he needs that he does not have.

Keyes and his wife, Lola, have a daughter, Lola Elizabeth, and a son, B.J., who is a first-year MBA student in the UNC Kenan-Flagler Business School. They also have two grandsons.



Onegaa J. McGhee

MCCLINTON OUTSTANDING FACULTY/STAFF AWARD

Since joining UNC as an instructional media services manager in the Gillings School of Global Public Health, O.J. McGhee also has served as the women's basketball PA announcer and head coach of the club football team.

"I've been part of the UNC-Chapel Hill campus since 2001 and have had many experiences that have helped me grow personally and professionally," said McGhee, a native of Washington, D.C. "While



it's difficult to select just one significant highlight, I believe my work as chair of the Carolina Black Caucus has become a defining moment in my professional life."

McGhee joined the Steering Committee for the Carolina Black Caucus (CBC)

in 2010 and later became chair with three primary goals: help create a more nurturing environment to advocate for and celebrate Carolina's black workforce; build better relationships with the University's African American students; and serve the campus and Chapel Hill communities.

As CBC chair, McGhee was involved in a variety of initiatives and activities but found his work with Carolina's students among the most rewarding aspect of the position. "They are some of the most impressive and talented students in the nation," McGhee said. "It's been a pleasure mentoring and collaborating with them. However, it's their resolve to remove the Silent Sam statue from the gateway of campus that reminds me of the words of James Baldwin that 'not everything faced can be changed, but nothing can be changed until it is faced.' It's in that spirit that I've continued to not only advocate and speak about removal of these oppressive symbols, but also on other campus issues such as the recruitment and retention of African American faculty, mandatory implicit bias trainings and a centralized exit interview process."

Cecelia Moore, University historian and project manager of the Chancellor's Task Force on UNC-Chapel Hill History, heralds McGhee as an excellent choice for the Hortense K. McClinton Outstanding Faculty Staff Award. "I've worked with Mr. McGhee on

both University and community projects, primarily in his role as chair of the CBC," Moore said. "He's an outstanding and thoughtful advocate for the University and its employees and students."

Moore said McGhee is "truly deserving" of being recognized for everything he does for Carolina."

Chapel Hill native Danita Mason-Hogans, chair of the Chapel Hill Civil Rights Task Force Research Committee, couldn't agree more. She has worked with McGhee on planning two large community events surrounding equity and on recognizing the shared interest between UNC and the Chapel Hill community.

"I've had the fortune to witness, with great admiration, his aptitude for using his gifts as an educator and mentor, as well as his professional acumen, to establish a lasting, trusting relationship with both the students and faculty at UNC as well as the citizens of Chapel Hill," Mason-Hogans said. "He possesses the rare ability to move seamlessly between various and intergenerational groups and organizations."

McGhee, a married father of one, is a graduate of Clark Atlanta University, where he was a student-athlete and worked for the campus cable TV station. After graduating from Clark Atlanta, he returned to D.C. and worked for the Black College Satellite Network, producing a variety of broadcasts around the country before enrolling at Ohio University to pursue a graduate degree in telecommunication management. After earning his master's, he worked at BET and later taught at Morgan State University in Baltimore.

McGhee came to Carolina after working as director of communications at Florida A&M University's College of Engineering Sciences, Technology & Agriculture and also has taught part-time at North Carolina State University. He currently serves as a member of the Inclusive Excellence Council in UNC's Gillings School of Global Public Health and is pursuing a doctoral degree in higher education leadership at UNC-Wilmington.

"As a passionate advocate for equality, I would hope to make a difference in our community," McGhee said. "But, without question, I will forever be grateful for the heartfelt difference the Caucus and our campus made on me."

Otto White Jr. '65 ('67 MSPH)

LASSITER LEE MCKISSICK WALKER TRAILBLAZER AWARD

Otto White '65 ('67 MSPH) enrolled at UNC in 1961, when African American students were scarce at predominantly white colleges and universities across the South and when some people were doing virtually everything they could to keep them out.



After graduating from segregated J.T. Barber High School in his native New Bern, being on UNC's campus couldn't have been easy for

him. Yet White quickly bonded with the small group of African American students at Carolina and began what was to become a lifetime of fighting for equality.

White was arrested several times for protesting to end segregation in Chapel Hill and Durham. Usually his fine was paid by the NAACP, which was very active in those cities. But after one demonstration at the intersection of Franklin and Columbia streets following a Carolina-Wake Forest basketball game, White was taken to the Orange County Jail in Hillsborough, where he spent the night. Before his arraignment the next morning, he was served a cold grilled-cheese sandwich from one of Chapel Hill's segregated restaurants.

Edith A. Hubbard '66, one of the first African American women to graduate from UNC, cited White's longstanding battle to end segregation in public accommodations, his service to his community, his "irreproachable character" and his strong support for the Black Alumni Reunion as reasons why he deserved to be honored with the 2019 Lassiter Lee McKissick Walker Trailblazer Award.

"Character has many meanings, including having the courage to stand by one's convictions even when one has to make sacrifices to hold true to one's values," Hubbard said. "Otto White's determination to take a stand for civil rights during the protests of the 1960s on campus and in the community, without even knowing what the cost to him might be in terms of jail time, fines and negative effects on his academic endeavors, is an example of that kind of irreproachable character."

Fortunately, White's efforts were not in vain, as

eventually segregation in public accommodations ended.

While he was taking on racial injustice, White also was applying himself in the classroom. He graduated with a bachelor of science in chemistry, and two years later he earned a master of science in public health from Carolina. For decades, White enjoyed an accomplished career in government service, the U.S. Atomic Energy Commission, U.S. Department of Labor-OSHA and with Brookhaven National Laboratory, working primarily in New York before retiring.

Even though White has some not-so-good memories from his UNC days, he says his time in Chapel Hill wasn't all negative. "When black students would go into Lenoir Hall for meals, Mrs. Nellie Croker, the meat server in 'line one,' would often look up and, upon noticing the black student, would exchange the piece of meat in her tongs for a larger piece," White said.

Moreover, for about a year White regularly sang bass in the choir at Second Baptist Church on Graham Street, where he enjoyed going to worship.

However, most importantly to him, while living in Chapel Hill White met Gladys Lucille Suggs, to whom he has been married for 52 years. The couple has two children, Tony and Pamela, and one grandchild, Cheriece.

For the last 14 years, White has been a member of Covenant Presbyterian Church in Durham, where he is a Ruling Elder and a member of the Senior Choir, the Praise Choir and the Men's Chorus. He is also a founding member and director of Invest-N-Kids Mentoring Program. He is currently the Sire Archon of Epsilon Gamma Boulé (Chapel Hill) of the Sigma Pi Phi Fraternity, Inc. Jimmy Barnes '69, who has known White since his freshman year at Carolina and who roomed with him one summer, said White was instrumental in his success at UNC and is very deserving of the Trailblazer Award – an honor over which White is humbled.

"Anytime a person receives an award that was initiated from one's peers and compatriots, it is a very humbling and appreciative experience," White said.





Jorren L. Biggs '23

PEPPERS SCHOLAR

Rami Malek described it best when he stated: "Diversity is making people of color extras, and inclusion is giving them speaking roles." While we've seen great strides made in terms of representation in the media industry in the past few years, inclusion in academic spaces has moved at a relatively slower pace. Far too often financial predicaments keep people from attaining post-secondary education, with this lack of access perpetuating systems that seek to uphold long existing power dynamics. The Light on the Hill Society and the scholarships you all provide help to begin leveling the playing field. Furthermore, the LOTH Scholarship enables black students to become the change we wish to see. Being able to have a piece of our financial burden lifted allows us to shift our attention and energy towards lifting as we climb. Perhaps the thing that most excites and humbles me about becoming a LOTH Scholar is the idea that a black prospective student may see me or other members of my scholars class and realize UNC is a home for them, too.



Makell S. Brown '23

LIGHT ON THE HILL SOCIETY SCHOLAR

Thank you, Light on the Hill Society donors. Your generosity and kindness towards the betterment of our future are what makes a difference in the world. Thanks to you all, I will be able to minimize the stress that financial difficulties carry and focus solely on becoming a family medicine physician. Also, because of support from kind-hearted, conscientious individuals like you, the Light on the Hill Society will be able to propel bright, goal-oriented people into success continuously. Again, I thank you immensely—your contributions are truly life-changing!



Taya N. Darby '23

LIGHT ON THE HILL SOCIETY SCHOLAR

As a first-generation college student, I am so honored to have been chosen for the Light on the Hill Scholarship. It means so much to my family and I to know that as I prepare to continue my education at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, the Light on the Hill donors are right there supporting me. This next step in my journey is definitely not an easy one, but this scholarship will be impactful in easing that transition. Your generous donations towards my educational pursuits have made my dream of becoming a physical therapist move forward, closer to reality. This scholarship offers an amazing opportunity for African America students. It highlights their present accomplishments and helps them to achieve goals they may have never known were possible. Such a powerful and influential scholarship deserves backing in order to positively contribute to generations of the best and brightest. I am incredibly blessed to be thought of in such a manner and am excited to be a part of the Light on the Hill scholars.



Reagan N. Fletcher '23

LIGHT ON THE HILL SOCIETY SCHOLAR

I would like to take this opportunity to express my heartfelt appreciation and gratitude for awarding me this honor. Due to your generosity, compassion, and financial support, I will be able to focus more on my studies and interests rather than spending numerous hours working to pay for my education. Being awarded this scholarship will allow me to pursue a more affordable education at my dream institution, The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. As an African American, it was difficult to find a minority scholarship to which I could apply. Without organizations such as the UNC General Alumni Association and funds like the Light on the Hill Society Scholarship, many hardworking, service-driven and brilliant African Americans would go unnoticed. Furthermore, receiving a scholarship from the Light on the Hill Society has lessened the financial burden for many families, including my own. I am truly grateful to be a Light on the Hill Scholar for the academic year of 2019-2020.





Benecia A. Jackson '23

PEPPERS SCHOLAR

To all the donors that made this possible, I say thank you. Your donations are not only a key contributor to helping me in my pursuit of an education, but they speak volumes to the meaning of paying it forward. It gives me as well as other high achieving African Americans an opportunity we might not have been able to take advantage of had it not been for your generosity. The Light on the Hill Society's alumni are just a small representation of the lights that are continuing to shine because of the educational opportunities they were given here at UNC as a result of your support. With every donation given, a new light is given the opportunity to shine, and as you continue to support the Light on the Hill Society, the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill will continue to attract the nation's best and brightest African Americans. Again, I say thank you for giving me an opportunity to shine not just on the Hill but also in society and more importantly in the African American Community.



Melia J. Madyun '23

LIGHT ON THE HILL SOCIETY SCHOLAR

I am greatly appreciative to be a beneficiary of the LOTH scholarship and would like to not only thank the scholarship committee for choosing me as a recipient, but the donors who make it possible for this incredible resource to financially assist African American students of UNC-Chapel Hill. Receiving this scholarship is a true blessing, being that paying for college was a major concern for my family. It will allow me to pursue a higher education in order to prepare myself for my career and personal goals without the financial burdens. I plan to pursue a bachelor's of science in biology as well as a minor in Spanish. I also plan to eventually take on a career in the pediatrics field, while giving back to my community's youth outside of the hospital as well. These goals and dreams are becoming a reality for myself and for many other young black students at UNC through this program because of the support that they receive from their wonderful donors that are making life-changing contributions. Thank you again.



Naomi G. Smith '23

LIGHT ON THE HILL SOCIETY SCHOLAR

I would like to sincerely thank you all for investing in the future of black excellence. Your donation will go far in allowing bright young scholars like myself to study and reach their full academic potential at The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Often regarded as the nation's first public university, UNC is a world-renowned, highly rated institution with highly competitive admittance, especially among out-of-state students. I worked very diligently in high school to put myself in a position where I could earn admittance into this great university, but that turned out to be only half the battle. The Light on the Hill Society Scholarship offers the support I need to tackle the other half of the battle, financials. It is because of your generous donations to the LOTH Society Scholarship that I am a proud Tar Heel, and I would like to extend my greatest gratitude for your support.



Amya M. White '23

LIGHT ON THE HILL SOCIETY SCHOLAR

Thank you, Light on the Hill Society donors, for your gracious donations that will help me pay for any financial needs that I have during my time at Chapel Hill. The scholarship support from Light on the Hill Society will perpetuate the University's ability to attract some of the nation's best and brightest African American students because it gives more financial aid to deserving students and allows them to further their education without the fear of not being able to afford it. With the help of the Light on the Hill Society donors, I have been able to achieve one of my dreams of being able to attend UNC affordably to further my education.





Damion E. Williams '23

LIGHT ON THE HILL SOCIETY SCHOLAR

I feel as if words cannot truly express your generosity and my thanks for this profound award. I promise that these funds will go towards the expansion of my cultural horizons and knowledge on all things human. I will not simply become a part of today's society, I WILL better it. The field of medicine (or wherever my endeavors may lead) will know the name Damion Elijah Williams.



Hark the Sound

Hark the sound of Tar Heel voices

 Ringing clear and true,

 Singing Carolina's praises

 Shouting N-C-U

Hail to the brightest star of all

 Clear its radiance shine

 Carolina, priceless gem,

 Receive all praises thine

TO OUR LIGHT ON THE HILL SOCIETY DONORS

Our donors' steadfast commitment and generosity have allowed us to present monetary awards to some of the country's best and brightest African-American students.

Words will never be able to express our sincere appreciation for their ongoing support. They are truly the reason for the continued growth and development of the scholarship initiatives. Thank you!

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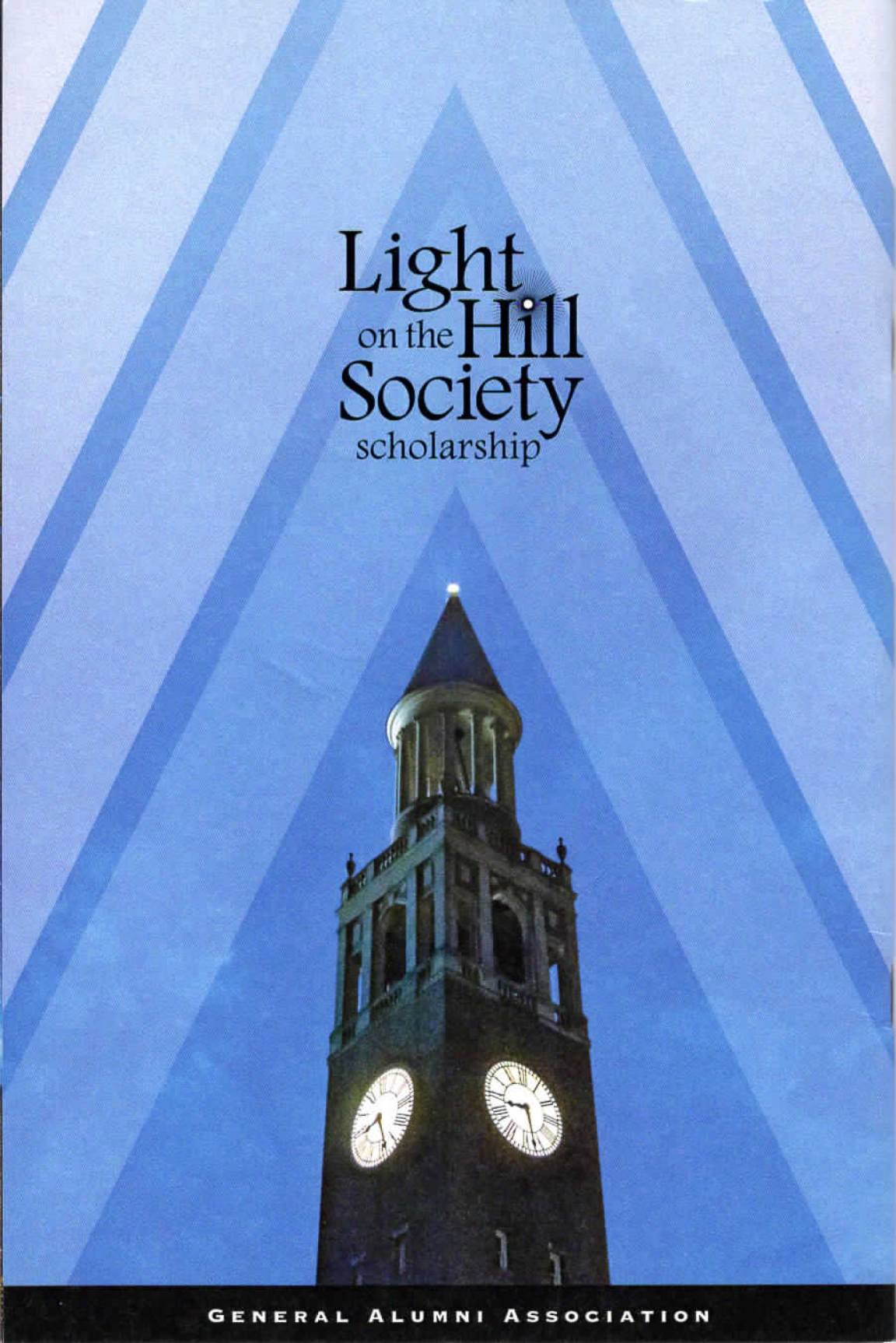
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