

METRO ALCORNITE

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

<i>New Beginnings</i>	2
<i>Cotton Candidacy</i>	2
<i>New Officers</i>	3
<i>Owens Honored</i>	3
<i>Stamps Appointed</i>	3
<i>Sponsors Corner</i>	4

Special points of interest:

- Annual chapter picnic to be held June 5, 2004, at Mayes Lake (Lefleur's Bluff Park off Lake Terrace) 11:30a.m.—3:30 p.m. under Pavilion 3.
- Alumni weekend to be held May 6-8, 2004. The hotel for alumni weekend is the Hampton Inn in Vicksburg, Mississippi. To make reservations call 601-636-6100. Rooms are available for \$58.00 before April 15, 2004.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

RAMEL L. COTTON, ESQ.

Greetings Alcornites,

It comes with great pleasure as I address you in this inaugural edition of the *Metro Alcornite*. The Metro Jackson Alcorn Alumni Chapter is embarking upon a time of growth, innovation and rekindling of that "Ole Alcorn Spirit."

We are just returning from another marvelous Mid-Winter Conference hosted by the Tupelo, Mississippi chapter. The Metro Jackson chapter was well represented by a host of members, who like always, played a major role in the conference's success and the overall growth of the Association. The Metro Jackson Chapter was recognized and presented with a plaque for "Excellence in Philanthropy" as we were the largest contributing chapter for the year 2003. While this is quite an accomplishment, we must strive to reach new heights in our fundraising efforts. Additionally, our mission must include aggressive recruitment of new members into



Ramel L. Cotton, Esq., Chapter President

the chapter. In this regard, I am issuing a personal challenge for every current member of the Metro Jackson Chapter to recruit at least five new members for 2004. If we are successful with this campaign, we will boost our membership to 750 members. Remember, the Metro Jack-

son Chapter has always, and intends to always, present itself as a leader within the Alcorn National Alumni Association. We lead in contributions. We lead in recruitment of new members. We lead in bringing forth new and innovative ideas to enhance the *Academic Resort at the Reservation!*

MEMBERSHIP AND ALUMNI DUES

The Metro Jackson Alcorn Alumni Chapter solicits your continued support of our chapter and alma mater. We also encourage you to recruit other Alcornites in the metro area that have not yet joined our local alumni chap-

ter. Dues are \$50.00 (\$25.00 local and \$25.00 national) life membership for national only is \$500.00. For persons age 70 & above life membership is free. Our year begins January 1st and goes thru December 30th

of each year. We look forward to seeing each of you this year and working to assist our chapter move forward towards great things in 2004.

NEW BEGINNINGS IN 2004

TAUNYA SMITH

Greetings Fellow Alcornites, We have been blessed to see another year and great things are in store for this chapter in 2004.

It is a time for new beginnings for us in 2004, not to do away with our old traditions, but make new ones. Being one of the largest chapters in the National Association we should strive in 2004 to make ourselves more visible not only among Alcornites, but also in the communities in which we live.

We should resolve to do something measurable in 2004. Resolving to work on several committees is good,

but will we as chapter members commit to the committees we join and make each project successful? Your financial support is greatly appreciated by the chapter but we need YOU the member to actively participate and bring new ideas.

It is our mission as Alcornites to preserve the existence of our alma mater by giving back. If you've ever read the alumni section of the university website it asks the question, "Why Join?" The response was, "If Alcorn has not succeeded in persuading its alumni to give after four years of experience on its campus, after having been subjected

to the whole educational program of the institution, it has failed in its mission. If Alcorn trains its students to "get", but fails to train them to "give," it really has no good reason for existence. It must be the hallmark of the alumni that they are "giving" people. As Alcornites that applies to everything about you-your vocational service, your family, your church activity, and your community relations. Giving should be evidenced also in your relationship with your alma mater, Alcorn. It is teaching people to give- of themselves their efforts, their devotion and their means-that universities like Alcorn really

have their mission."

If all of this is true, then why not unite with us in our efforts to promote our alma mater in the metro area to encourage more area students on why Alcorn would be such a great choice.

We hope to see you in 2004, not just on the roster, but filing the chairs and bringing new ideas to help us realize our new beginning.



COTTON CANDIDATE FOR 1ST VICE-RESIDENT

Ramel Cotton, President of the Metro Jackson Alcorn Alumni Chapter is seeking your support in his candidacy for the office of 1st Vice-President of the Alcorn State University National Alumni Association.

He is a 1997 *magna cum laude* graduate of Alcorn State University, and also received a law degree in 2000 from the University of Florida Levin College of Law as a Virgil Hawkins Scholar.

Recently he and three other partners formed the law firm of Smith Rushing Cotton & Robinson, PLLC.

Mr. Cotton is married to the former Tedasii Turner and they have one daughter Madison.

Some of his alumni activities include: President of the Metro Jackson Alcorn Alumni Chapter, Tom Joyner Foundation Black Tie Gala, committee member; Capital City Classic Board of Directors; Coach

Davey Whitney Roast, committee member; Representative Alyce G. Clarke Roast, committee member; Annual Contributor of the ASU Foundation and many others.

Mr. Cotton seeks your support in becoming the 1st Vice-President of the National Alumni Association in an effort to work in the best interest of Alcorn State University.

Again your support is greatly appreciated.

OFFICERS SWORN IN FOR 2004-2005

During the year end meeting held Thursday, December 4, 2003 at Mikhail's Restaurant the slate of officers were installed by Mississippi Court of Appeals Judge the Honorable Tyree Irving.

The officers who will serve for the 2004-2005 term are:

- Ramel L. Cotton- President
- Charles Christian- Vice-President
- Robbie Price-Recording Secretary
- Maxine Simpson- Corresponding Secretary
- Mitchell Shears- Financial Secretary
- Charlette Harris- Treasurer

- Jackie Jones- Reporter
- Thomas Moman- Chaplain
- Derrick Everett- Historian

The chapter also honored the outgoing officers with a certificate and a small token of appreciation. The outgoing officers who served us so diligently during the 2002-2003 term were:

- Ramel L. Cotton-President
- Alice Lewis-Vice-President
- Vicki Mumford-Recording Secretary
- Karen Matlock- Corresponding Secretary
- Arthetta Owens-Financial Secretary

- Marian Mixon-Treasurer
- Frances Mack-Reporter

OWENS HONORED FOR YEARS OF SERVICE

On December 5, 2003 the Mississippi Development Authority honored it's employees with twenty years or more of service to the State of Mississippi, during it's annual retreat.

Arthetta has been employed with the state of Mississippi for the last twenty-four years. She began her career at Jack-

son State University in 1979, and has currently been with MDA since 1989,

Arthetta is married to John Owens and they have one daughter Camille, who is currently enrolled at Alcorn State University and a member of the Sounds of Dynamite.

The Metro Jackson Alcorn Alumni chapter congratulates

Arthetta on her years of service and wishes her many more.



Arthetta Owens

STAMPS APPOINTED TO SCHOOL BOARD

Delmer Stamps was recently appointed by Mayor Harvey Johnson and confirmed by the Jackson City Council to serve as a member of the board of education for the Jackson Public School District.

Delmer was sworn in March 22, 2004, by Mississippi Supreme Court Judge the Honorable James E. Graves, Jr., and will serve thru March 2009. He is married to Berncill Stamps and they have

three children: DaKeither, DaKendria, and Bernisha, and they have three grandchildren.

The Metro Jackson Alcorn Alumni Chapter congratulates Delmer on his appointment, and wishes him the best in building a better tomorrow for the students of the Jackson Public School District.



Delmer Stamps

**Metro Jackson Alcorn
Alumni Chapter**

Post Office Box 9391
Jackson, Mississippi 39206

E-mail: MetroJsnASU1@aol.com

**Returning to the web
soon !!!!**



Staff

Ramel L. Cotton, Esq.
Chapter President

Taunya Smith
Editor

Editorial Staff
Derrick Everett
Karen Matlock
Marian Mixon
Arthetta Owens
Calola Williams



SMITH RUSHING COTTON & ROBINSON, PLLC is a full service general practice law firm consisting of Attorneys Roy K. Smith, Kelsey L. Rushing, Ramel L. Cotton and Michael E. Robinson. The members of SRCR possess a vast array of experience in several areas of law, as each practiced for several years with the most successful law firms in Mississippi prior to the formation of SRCR. Attorneys Smith and Rushing were formerly associates at Blackmon & Blackmon Law Firm, Attorney Cotton was a former associate at Byrd & Associates Law Firm and Attorney Robinson was a former associate at Ferr Smith & Associates Law Firm. SRCR provides professional legal services in the areas of personal injury, criminal defense, family law and bankruptcy.