

# The Trojan Newsletter

ISSUE #3— JUNE 2021



## 2021 VIRTUAL REUNION!

Greetings, Fellow Alumni:

You know, technology is a magnificent tool that is beneficial the world over when used properly and consistently. We are grateful that despite the COVID-19 pandemic, we are still able to stay connected with our classmates through the use of technology.

Our 2020 Virtual Reunion was a testimony to that. When like minds come together for the good of a project or goal, magnificent things can take place with awesome results. That is what we are contemplating with our 2021 Virtual Reunion—accomplishing “Amazing” things.

This year, our Virtual Reunion would like to highlight the “Amazing People” in your life. Our theme is “**Amazing People with Pattillo Roots—Did You Know?**” Stories of these “Amazing People” will air on July 2-4, 2021, via our Facebook page and YouTube.

We are sure that you have watched people in sports or heard about people in entertainment or business that you would be amazed to find out are connected to someone you knew while attending Pattillo High School. Or, you may have someone who others have admired for years and did not know they were related to you! Now is the time to share good things as we attempt to return to some normalcy after such a long time. This 2021 Virtual Reunion is designed to do just that.

A flyer has been sent to you and posted on our website and Facebook page outlining how you can share in this excitement and showcase your “**Amazing Person.**”

### From the 2021 Virtual Reunion Committee

*Cynthia Dockery (Chair)*

*Ann Adams, Barbara Carter, Lois Hinton, Joanne Jefferson, Jack Mathewson, Feasta Reynolds*

*“Amazing: causing great surprise or wonder; astonishing.”*

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### Editor’s Note

**NEVER EVER  
FORGET, EVEN FOR  
ONE MOMENT, HOW  
TRULY AMAZING  
YOU ARE**

**Continue to be safe!**

*Cynthia Knight Dockery  
Editor-in-Chief  
(Class of '73)*



## REFLECTIONS ON A YEAR GONE BY

*Clint Stephens — Chaplain of the South*  
*Johnny Bryant — Chaplain of the North*

Greetings to all of our W. A. Pattillo Alumni Family

Johnny and I truly hope that everyone is doing well and doing all you can to stay safe. We were asked to do this article for our newsletter entitled "The Year Gone By." In this article, we want to focus on some of the things or events that have taken place over the past year and, of course, the pandemic and how it has effected our lives.

As we look back over the past year there have been a number of things that we could talk about, but we just want to mention a few of them. We know that some things that we might mention are still fresh in your memory box. In the Year Gone By, we have acquired a new president of these great United States of America, President Joe Biden, the 46th President. Also for the first time in the history of this country we have the first female, African-American, Asian-American to be elected as Vice-President. In this election we are so glad to say that voters turned out in record breaking numbers.

We believe this made a huge statement that when we all involve ourselves in the process, anything can happen, change takes place. We all remember what happened on January 6 of this year—the storming of the Capital Building. This was something that has never happened in the history of this country. This year 2021 has been a year for first time events in this country.

There is another event that we think will be with us for a while as well and that is the tragic killing of George Floyd, along with many other killings of black men and black women by police officers. In the midst of all of this it lets us know that racism is still very much alive in this country. It has been said that racism has been called "America's Original Sin." America knows exactly what happened to this black man on May 25, 2020. This event triggered protests across the United States and sparked a long overdue national conversation about systemic racism. We are very thankful that justice did prevail in this matter. Let us continue to pray for the other families that have lost love ones to police violence and pray that justice will continue to prevail.

Finally, we want to look at this pandemic and some of the effects it has had on us as individuals, our organizations, the alumni, and how we have sustained through these rough times. We found that some things that may start out small can end up being something that can reshape the world. Few people noticed when the news emerged that China had begun monitoring this outbreak of a new pneumonia-like virus or even after China reported its first death from this disease. Nearly a year later COVID-19 changed life as we knew it. We had no idea that by the end of 2020, that so many people would lose their lives from this disease. Many of us have known someone that has lost their life from this disease. Some of us may have lost friends or family members. This pandemic has caused the doors of many businesses, churches, schools and organizations to shut down.

As the country implemented the lockdown to try to stop the spread of the virus, the global economy sputtered and poverty rates spiked. We, the alumni, was affected as well. We were not able to gather together in the year of 2020, or 2021, but we are happy to say that we are believing and trusting in GOD for great things to take place in the coming years. We are looking forward to the next time we will be able to come together as a W.A. Pattillo family where we can share with one another, laugh and love on each other. Now just as we mentioned earlier about what happens when WE become involved, things change. Let US continue to do all we can to assure that this GREAT ALUMNI ASSOCIATION continues to thrive. LET US STAY INVOLVED.

Johnny and I would like to leave you with this, our Brothers & Sisters of the alumni, if you have read this article, and we hope you have enjoyed it, remember this—MY BRETHERN, COUNT IT ALL JOY WHEN YOU FALL INTO VARIOUS TRIALS (JAMES 1:2. NKJV).

You are still here! Through it all, we have sustained these rough days simply by the LOVING GRACE OF GOD. We would like to encourage you all to take all the precautionary measures to take care of yourself and your family. Most of all, we want to encourage you to TRUST GOD in the midst of it all. GOD BLESS & STAY SAFE!

## 2022 REUNION

The coronavirus (COVID-19) has affected many aspects of the way we live in the United States and beyond. Some effects have been physical, mental, psychological, emotional, spiritual, financial and economical. And honestly, all of the impacts may be still unknown. However, it has been, and still is, evident that COVID-19 adversely affected farming, manufacturing, shipping, import/export, supplier and producer services in the months following the onset of the coronavirus in the U.S. It caused demand shocks and problems with supply chains, creating shortages in consumer products because demand went up and supply went down. The shortages drove prices up, plant shutdowns, a nationwide shortage of truck drivers, the inability to transport goods from one place to another, the struggle to move consumer goods to retailers fast enough, grocery store shortages, sickness and death of workers, the cost of implementing worker safety protocols and multiple other reasons specifically contributed to price increases. As a result, the financial impact of COVID-19 has made it more expensive for businesses to operate and they are passing those costs on to the consumer.

The alumni association has started the pre-planning process for the 2022 reunion. We have already been informed of increased expenses for reunion events. Since the reunion will cost the association more money, we have no choice but to raise the cost of the tickets for the reunion events. The reunion has been and must remain self-supporting. For our 2022 reunion, our alumni association's Board of Directors recently approved the following prices: the Package (tickets for all 3 events) will be \$100 per person; the individual Meet 'N Greet tickets will be \$30 per person; the individual GALA tickets will be \$50 per person; the individual Scholarship & Memorial Breakfast tickets will be \$30 per person. We are also anticipating increased costs in every aspect of the reunion including but not limited to the GALA, bus transportation, the reunion souvenir booklet, and the shirts and caps.

We are looking forward to seeing YOU at the 2022 reunion! Please join us there! It will be so exciting to be back together again!

**Veronica J. Bradley, Ph.D. — Finance Chair & Director-at-Large**  
**Reverend George T. Cromwell — Director-at-Large**

## CLASS FUNDRAISING PROJECT—\$500

Noble Sons and Daughters Fair,

We, too, are excited about our part in helping our alumni association get back on track in the midst of the pandemic. We've made some strides, but there is still work to do.

We're embarking on a **Class Fundraising Project**. The purpose of this funding will be for general administrative support and maintenance of the association. Financial support is essential for the daily operations and functionality of the association. Your dues and responses to our appeals are used to pay for budgeted items such as office supplies, equipment maintenance, postage, copying and printing, fundraising advancements, etc. which every transaction is fully accounted. *Thank you!* Without this commitment, it makes it difficult to function, and restricts us from meeting our obligations.

Equally important is our scholarship fund. *Scholarships help students turn dreams into reality; they smooth the road along the educational journey and provide a great alternative to borrowing.* Even through the COVID-19 scurry, the awards process for this year has been successfully completed, and our recipients are very inspiring students ready for the next chapter in their lives.

**The Class Fundraising Project is for each class, 1960-1973, to make a donation of \$500.** Classes prior to 1960 may choose to support any class they wish. Should you want a portion of your contribution to go to scholarship, you can so indicate in the memo section of your instrument. Remember to list the class so that the class can get credit.

This challenge is not new to us, but because of its previous success, we're doing it again. Class representatives are ready and will communicate with you further on how your class may, collectively, coordinate your efforts. *"While we are not making this a competitive activity, a little rivalry does make the cheese more binding."*

Again, we're excited. People, in amazement, look at us -- they see our accomplishments, wonder how we do it, and ask the questions....We tell them....

**"WE WENT TO PATTILLO!!!"**

In the Trojan spirit,

**Janette Williams-Pettaway '66 — Nat'l Financial Secretary**  
**Charlotte Strong Privott '66 — Scholarship Committee Chair**

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