



XAVIER

UNIVERSITY of LOUISIANA

National Alumni Association

May 9, 2020

**NATIONAL ALUMNI
OFFICERS 2019-2020**

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Greetings Alumni, Dr. Verret, Faculty, staff and friends:

Our May 2020 Board of Governors meeting finds us in unprecedented times for our country, the world and of course for Xavier. Covid-19 has forced all of us to make both minor and major adjustments in our lives. Most of our students were able to return home and complete the spring semester via on-line learning. A small percentage of students who had to remain on campus housing were provided support and services by the school. Our faculty allowed students a pass/fail option on spring classes and many of the local in-person alumni chapters fundraising events were cancelled. Our Xavier family is strong and we will survive and overcome this pandemic and we will continue to contribute to the promotion of a more just and humane society.

The NAA established a set of goals and objectives for 2019-20 that I will update you on.

- We wanted to strengthen communications between the Administration and Alumni:
 - *The 2019 Alumni conference in Chicago was the 1st step in strengthening the lines of communications between the Administration and the alumni. It was a great beginning to be followed up by the leadership conference in Houston scheduled for next month in June which of course had to be cancelled.*
 - *However, Dr. Verret and I continue to engage in a scheduled monthly call and on as needed basis to discuss and address matters that concern the school and alumni.*
 - *Social Media- We continue to amplify the content and volume of activity on our various social media platforms.*
- Create and Enhance Alumni/Student Mentoring opportunities:
 - *We have and will continue to encourage Alumni to reach out to the Office of Career Services. The OCS has implemented a platform called "Handshake" that connects Alumni and*

students with Internship opportunities. For alumni who have asked how they can help during this crisis- here is one way to make a difference.

- YMTF
 - *The Youth Motivational Task Force has been an ongoing presence on Xavier's campus for many years. It allows Corporate America, alumni and students to engage and discuss how to prepare for life after college and what that reality looks like. **The NAA wants to work closely with OCS to garner more student engagement. We felt that overall student participation was down this year. This is an excellent program that the Alumni supports and wants to see continue to flourish.***
- Homecoming Challenge
 - *The 2019 Homecoming marked the first year for the HC Challenge where we ask Alumni to connect with students, in their old dorm rooms, from their home towns, Greek organizations or random students and bless them with cash, gifts cards, groceries, old stories and hopefully a little wisdom. **This turned out to be a great way to engage with students. We plan to continue the practice at HC this year with even more alumni participation.***
- Promote and increase participation in local Alumni Chapters, Affinity Groups and other networking platforms.
 - *Although we have many chapters that are robust and thriving, I believe that we can and should do better to help smaller chapters grow. We need more alums active in their local chapters. Great things are being accomplished by a few in many of our chapters. Xavierites, when you return home and there is a local chapter nearby, I strongly encourage you to give of your time, talent and treasure! Chapters all across the country raise money for Xavier Students, help families navigate the admissions and financial aid processes, and mentor and advise students. They can also Party with a Purpose!*
 - *Affinity Groups-(A group formed around shared interests or common goals) i.e. Lawyers, Greek Organizations, pharmacists, etc. We hope to expand the concept of Affinity groups and yet another way to engage with our alumni.*
 - *Our 2nd VP, Chakita Holmes and the Alumni office have worked tirelessly to help several chapters re-activate or form new Chapters. More details will come in her report.*

- The NAA also established a set of Strategic Objectives and a Value Statement. We emphasize the following:
 - *Assist the University's goals to recruit, admit and retain more African American men (Strategic Objective)*
 - *Xavier University of Louisiana must always be a Historically Black College and University (HBCU) in both Tradition and practice. (Value)*

- Lastly, we are just a few days removed from GLX Day 2020 and our first ever “Wearexavier” spirit week. Our local chapters had several virtual fete’s or celebrations. We had a fashion show, a mentoring workshop, a trivia contest and HH on Instagram with a DJ. Let’s not forget Mannie Fresh on GLX Tuesday! You, the alumni of Xavier University of La raised over half a million dollars in one day. Over 2500 of us donated! Since Xavierites are overachievers, I fully expect our dollar totals and the amount of donors to break records next year!

In closing, the Executive Team of the National Alumni Association looks forward to our continued representation of you, the great Alumni of Xavier University of Louisiana. We are your voice and you will be heard!

Randall McHenry ‘86
President, XULA National Alumni Association

