



TRAILBLAZER FINALISTS

Wilberforce University Alumni Association
WUAA 2023 National Conference
Inaugural Alumni Spotlight Brunch

Biographies



Congratulations to the Inaugural 2023
WUAA National Conference

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT BRUNCH

NOMINEES

Young Alumni Award Nominees: Rev. Dr. Albert Bailey Jr., Bryan Scott-Head, Janelle Hocker, Dr. Shamara Hutchins, Tommy Nichols, Sharde Noland, Selvena Brooks-Powers, NaAsiaha Simon, Sarah Muse, and Donnell Wiggins.

Trailblazer Award Nominees: Donna Allie, Duane J. Brown, Clayton M. Burroughs, Sunta Harris, Dr. Patricia Lyons, David J. Ragland and Monique Robinson.

**PROMINENT
CATEGORIES**

BRUNCH

**LIVE
VOTING**

**YOUNG
ALUMN
AWARDS**

**TRAILBLAZER
AWARDS**

Alumni Spotlight Brunch Committee

Stacey Hunter Withers, Chair

Brandi DeVeaux, Shannon Tunstall, and Jamonae Scarborough.

presenting finalist

DONNA ALLIE '80



Donna Allie launched Team Clean as a means to make ends meet post-graduation from Wilberforce University. She quickly realized that she had a love for the industry and a talent for business after an entrepreneurial fire was sparked with her first commercial contract in 1985 with the Upper Main Line YMCA.

Over the past forty years, she has grown the company to over 500 employees and has maintained a highly reputable, financially stable Philadelphia institution that has provided cleaning and environmental services for a wide variety of regional institutions. Among them have been the Pennsylvania State Capitol Building, Philadelphia City Hall, Wells Fargo Center, National Constitution Center, the Pennsylvania Convention Center, the Kimmel Center, the Barnes Museum, the School District of Philadelphia, Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia, and the home of the Philadelphia Phillies: Citizens Bank Park.

Ms. Allie has won countless awards over the years for both her work with Team Clean and her dedication to the community. They include:

- Philadelphia District Minority Small Business Person of the Year
- Harriet Tubman Trailblazer Award
- City of Philadelphia’s Supply, Service, and Equipment Award
- Main Line Martin Luther King Jr. Association’s Business Leadership Award
- Philadelphia Business Journal’s Women of Distinction Award
- National Freedom Day Community Service Award
- 2022 Chamber of Commerce for Greater Philadelphia’s Paradigm Award
- 2023 Y Honors

These are just a few of the prestigious honors that have been bestowed upon her and the company. Ms. Allie has also contributed many generous donations to Philadelphia-based organizations and charities.

Team Clean continues to grow within the cleaning industry each year thanks to her knowledge, dedication, and investment in her employees and community.

presenting finalist

DUANE J. BROWN '85



Duane J. Brown, son of Raymond Brown Jr. and Mary Ashe Brown. Born in Hollywood, SC with 9 siblings (3 deceased). Married with 3 children and 4 grandchildren.

President of class of 1981 at Baptist Hill High School. After high school, I decided to go into the military but opted out to follow my uncle's (Morris Ashe) footsteps and attended Wilberforce in 1981 where I met some of my greatest friends.

I became a member of the BEPS organization, Centralforce Masonic Lodge 124, Miami Consistory 26, and Amer Shriner Temple 107.

I also became a member of the graduate chapter of Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc. I am currently employed at Independence BlueCross as a Senior Business Analyst.

But my passion is working with our youth. I have been working with at-risk youth for over 15 years teaching them about life and encouraging/inspiring them to pursue higher education at Wilberforce, our school of second chances. Wilberforce isn't just a higher institution for learning, it's my family where I love working behind the scenes to get things accomplished to plant the seeds for at-risk youth to explore the possibilities of becoming a future Bulldog. It's not what you know it's who you know.

presenting finalist

CLAYTON M. BURROUGHS '70



Clayton M. Burroughs grew up in the city of East Cleveland. He attended East Cleveland City Schools and is a proud graduate of Shaw High School. After graduating from Wilberforce University Clayton returned to East Cleveland and became an educator and administrator. After an accomplished 34-year career in the East Cleveland City School System he retired in July 2002.

While attending Wilberforce University to assist with college tuition he worked in the financial aid office under the leadership of Mrs. Ruby Jones who mentored him on Workplace Readiness. Another influencer was Miss. Bernice Blow who taught him how to manage one's finances.

The most influential person during his college years at Wilberforce was Dean Yvonne Taylor who kept him academically focused. At Wilberforce, Clayton was on the Wilberforce Bulldog Basketball team and on the President's, Council providing input on student life and issues.

Clayton 1970 graduated from Wilberforce University with a Bachelor of Science Degree. He received his Master of Education degree in 1978 from Kent State University. He also completed post-graduate work at Kent State University in Administration and Leadership.

Clayton has been recognized for his work in education by the following organizations: IDEA academy of Fellows Distinguished Education Award, Ohio Principal Leadership Academy's Entry Year Program, Excellence In Education Award "Hall of Fame" National Recognition Program, The Department of Education Ursuline College for the preparation of new teachers, North Central Association of College and Schools-continued services to students in Ohio and Nominated as a Distinguished Principal 1995-96 school year by the Ohio Association of Elementary School Administrators. Clayton's personal academic philosophy is building student self-esteem and being an excellent role model.

Semi-retired since 2002 he has been a consultant for the Ohio Department of Education on the State Diagnostic Team, with the Cleveland Metropolitan City School District Institute of Premier Leadership, mentoring teachers to enter administrator positions.

In the city of Twinsburg where he resides, he volunteers at the Twinsburg Hunger Center, Twinsburg City Glen Eagle Golf Course and is an activity coordinator for his Homeowners Association. In addition, Clayton remains active in his fraternity by serving on the Kappa Alpha Psi Scholarship Foundation Board, Chairman of Senior Kappa Alpha Psi Men Cleveland Chapter and is a life member of his fraternity. He vigorously continues to be a role model for youth by mentoring and enriching the lives of young men for excellence and success.

Clayton Burroughs is WUAA National Platinum Life Member.

presenting finalist

SUNTA D. HARRIS '96



Sunta D. Harris is a Social Science Educator and Chair of the Faculty Advisory Council at Dr. Henry A. Wise Jr. High School. She is a leader in teacher mentoring using behavior management, literacy integration, and co-teaching to give educators the common practices to succeed in the classroom. Consistently reaching for opportunities to serve children, Mrs. Harris has worked in the educational field for over 20 years, teaching from elementary to the university level. Mrs. Harris trains on co-teaching in the secondary classroom, implementing literacy in the non-English classroom, and behavior management.

Mrs. Harris has worked with numerous organizations whose missions revolve around educating the whole child emotionally and educationally. Serving first as an admission's counselor at Wilberforce University, she went on to become a Manager of Enrollment Services. As the owner of the Bantu Consulting Firm, she assists high school students with the college and career planning. She has been awarded for her outstanding teaching and her commitment to community service. A nominee for the National LifeChanger of the Year Award, Teacher of the Year Award (Horizons Schools). Mrs. Harris has worked with various programs such as Central State University Upward Bound, Horizons at the Maret School, Peer Forward and Wilberforce University Alumni Association.

- Graduate of Wilberforce University with a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science and a minor in History.
- Master of Education from the Western Governors University in Social Studies Education.
- Administration Licensed from Trinity University (DC)
- Member of the National Council of Social Science
- Member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Inc.
- National LifeChanger of the Year Award nominee three times.
- Prince George's County Educators Association Board Member
- National Education Association Member
- Wilberforce University Alumni Association, Washington, D.C. Chapter.
 - Founding Member of Bulldog Booster Club, sponsoring Wilberforce University
- Member of the National Council of Social Science Educators
- Member of National Council of Urban Education Association

presenting finalist

DR. PATRICIA LYONS '86



Dr. Patricia Lyons shared, but not for "The Force", I would not have had the early footprints to see or be in my life's journey. The impact and implications of having the role as alumnae to the first private Historically Black University is beyond measure! Wilberforce gave me the opportunity to "See what I can Be", and a place to "Be where I could be Seen". This young, Black inquisitive sister from Block 10, of Altgeld Gardens Housing Project, in Chicago, Illinois.... dared to take a trip to an unknown city, in an unknown state, to learn, cultivate and to awaken the spirit of who I am and where I belong.... but more importantly, "what I came to do".

While at the University I was honored to be initiated into Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., Beta Chapter and had the fortunate opportunity to participate in many University activities, clubs and organizations that helped shape my future. In my years since graduating from WU in 1986, life has been my space to demonstrate service to the University I paved by financial means.

As an independent social worker and a Doctor of Public Health, my contributions to WU may never show up in the accounts that many consider a mattering point. My contributions to the University are accounted for in the numerous supported students, encouraged parents, courted social service agencies to hire our graduates and to be at the helm ready to substitute my paid profession for the betterment of my University. To the unanswered calls to lend my expertise and to know the echo's of my voice as I continue to cheer on and hold up my Dear Ole WU.

My deserving of such distinction and honor is factual and purposeful, as is all the nominations received to date. My response to the honor is to be intentional about the fact that I have won, I will continue to win, as will all my fellow alums, and for that I say THANK YOU! My life commitment has been in service. The provision of service beyond a principle of manner or monetary supplement, is how I honor thee! Grateful and Purposeful Always!

Dr. Patricia Lyons is WUAA National Platinum Life Member.

presenting finalist

DR. DAVID J. RAGLAND '97



Dr. David J. Ragland is a writer, scholar, and activist with a focus on racial justice, reparations, and abolition. He is a co-founder and co-executive director for Culture, Organizing and Reparations at the Truth Telling Project and is currently the director of the Grassroots Reparations Campaign.

In the aftermath of Mike Brown Jr.'s murder in Ferguson, Mo., David, Congresswoman Cori Bush, and other activists founded the Truth Telling Project to help community members control their own narrative, document abuses by law enforcement, uplift stories of those who experience police violence and heal from past and ongoing trauma through truth telling. Additionally, he serves as Director of Reparations at Jubilee Justice, an Impact Investment Firm supporting regenerative agriculture throughout the Southeastern seaboard and critical education for traditional wealth holders. Most recently, David is a founding

member in the creation of the Kibilio Community and Farms Collective, a Queer Black-Led Intentional community focused on healing and reparations.

Georgetown University's Advocacy lab included Dr. Ragland's research, which was named among the "most important research on advocacy" in the last forty years. David was recently inducted into Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Collegium of Scholars at Morehouse College. In the past, David served as the Senior Bayard Rustin Fellow at Fellowship of Reconciliation, board member for the Peace and Justice Studies Association and the United Nations representative for the International Peace Research Association.

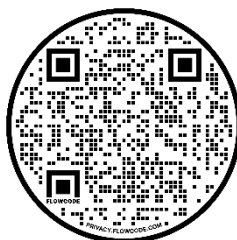
Among his published works, David's peer-reviewed article on Truth-Telling and Decoloniality appeared in a recent issue of the International Journal of Human Rights Education. He has recently completed a series of articles on reparations for Yes! Magazine.

David currently teaches the Building a Culture of Reparations and Transitional Justice through the Grassroots Reparations Campaign and the Truth Telling Project. He has taught in Depth Psychology, Eco-Psychology and Community Liberation at Pacifica Graduate Institute. He has previously taught Educational Theory, Multicultural Education, Education for Peace and Human Rights, Peace and Conflict Studies, Social Movements at Bucknell University, Vassar College, Southern Illinois University at Edwardsville, and Juniata College.

Please tag on all social media posts regarding this event, tags below:

[Virtual Business card.](#)

QR Code For business card:



presenting finalist

MONIQUE S. ROBINSON '00



Monique S. Robinson received a B. A from Wilberforce University; Psychology, M. Ed from Concordia University-Portland; Educational Leadership, and Education Specialists Degree from Northcentral University; Educational Leadership.

While teaching, some of the most memorable projects done by her scholars include the Living Wax Museum, Flat Stanley is traveling...to college at an HBCU and implementing the Performing Arts in lesson delivery. In addition, in 2009, she was honored with the Teacher of the Year award for Imagine Schools, district, and region for her educational contributions.

Monique founded A Better Chance for Youth Futures Inc. in 2017, a nonprofit organization that promotes Historically Black Colleges and Universities; while offering resources, consulting services, and workshops to prepare scholars and families for college.

Monique hosts a weekly television show on Daily Gospel Network, is a motivational speaker, and is an 8-time Best-Selling author as a national and international contributor.

Monique Robinson is WUAA National Subscribing Life Member.