



Winter 2019

# Iowa Black Alumni Association

## Time to Pay IBAA Membership Dues...

Annual membership dues for the Iowa Black Alumni Association (IBAA) are \$50.00 with \$25.00 going to our recently endowed UI foundation account for annual scholarships to worthy minority students. We now have over \$54,000.00 in the endowment. If you want to continue to support the IBAA Endowment send a check to: University of Iowa Foundation P.O. Box 4550 Iowa City, IA 52244 Make checks out to: University of Iowa Foundation/ in memo line write- IBAA Scholarship Fund #30120236. Or go online at: [givetoiowa.org/](http://givetoiowa.org/) go to areas to support/ look for - Iowa Black Alumni Association Fund.

Every other spring (odd years) the IBAA hosts an alumni reunion in Iowa City enabling participants to tour the campus and see everything that has changed, plus hang out with old friends and meet new ones. We co-host an Awards program with African American Studies to honor current students and this year we had our first Club Hawkeye where alumni and current students performed. We've offered workshops on alumni giving, creative writing and technology and a Black and Gold Banquet tops off the weekend on Saturday night.

Every other summer (even years) we hold a Iowa Black Alumni Family Cookout in Chicago, IL at Dan Ryan Woods. We have lots of great food, good music and give away UI swag. We are hoping to increase our numbers to 100+ alumni for both events, so plan to come and hang out with us.

The First Vice President of the IBAA Board, Joey Thurman is the Membership Chair. He is the contact person regarding paying annual dues. He's on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram. His email is [joeysthurman@yahoo.com](mailto:joeysthurman@yahoo.com). You can call or text his cell at 224-628-3849 if you want more information or a brochure sent to you. After receipt of your membership dues a packet will be mailed out to you with a thank you letter, membership card, certificate of membership, a sheet of return self-address labels, receipt, and a lapel pin while they last. To pay your dues you can mail a check to Iowa Black Alumni Association Attn: Joey Thurman 3518 Princeton Avenue Aurora, IL 60504-6181 or go to: <https://www.givetoiowa.org> and under "Areas to Support" select Iowa Black Alumni Association Fund.

The IBAA was founded in 1961 by former athlete McKinley "Deacon" Davis at his home during an informal social gathering in Rockford, Illinois. With your membership we can continue to grow the IBAA foundation. After you have paid your dues please reach out to another Iowa alumni and encourage them to pay their dues too. On behalf of the IBAA Board we thank you for supporting our programs.

**Mark your calendars for the IBAA  
Summer Family Cookout in Chicago, IL on  
Saturday, August 1, 2020**

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## The UI African American Studies Darwin Turner Endowment needs your support

As we get closer to the end of the year it is time to think about tax donations. Please support for the Darwin Turner African American Studies Endowment campaign. The goal is to raise an endowment of \$100,000+ over the next three years. I can't wait to see what class will win the top donation award?

The AAS program needs your help to secure our financial effectiveness. Proceeds from the endowment will be used to fund: AAS major scholarships, Faculty research stipends and conference travel, the AAS seminar series, an annual student awards program, along with other graduate and undergraduate events.

All donations to the University are tax deductible. If you have questions please contact: Venise Berry [venise-berry@uiowa.edu](mailto:venise-berry@uiowa.edu) or (319) 337-7557

Mail donations to: University of Iowa Foundation P.O. Box 4550 Iowa City, IA 52244 Make checks out to: University of Iowa Foundation in memo line/ AAS Darwin Turner Endowment #30219001

Or you can also donate online at: <https://clas.uiowa.edu/afam/about/make-a-gift> or go to the UI African American Studies webpage and look for the makeagift icon.

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### 2019 IBAA Reunion Budget Report:

Registrations	\$8,350.00	Contribution to IBAA Scholarship Endowment
Expenses	\$9,755.08	\$2,700.00
Loss	<u>\$ -962.83</u>	

\*\*\* Based on this negative balance the IBAA Board voted at the September meeting to increase the reunion registration fee from \$150 to \$160. We have set a goal to get a minimum of 100 registrations in 2021. We will also create a souvenir booklet for the Saturday night banquet and explore other money-making options such as a silent auction and/or craft show.

### IBAA Board Member Spotlight



Janice Cousin is the proud mother of six adult children and five grand-children. She is an advocate for education and higher learning and works part-time at Oak Park River Forest High School, where she is a Substitute Teacher, Testing Proctor, Homebound Tutor, and mentor to teenage students. In her spare time, Janice enjoys traveling, sewing, crotcheting, and spending time with her grandchildren and extended family. Born and raised in Fort Madison, Iowa she attended Iowa from 1979-1983 following seven of her parent's ten children. Janice received a BBA in Marketing from the UI College of Business. Janice and her husband of 33 years, Julius, currently live in Oak Park, IL. Janice began her career with Illinois Bell in Chicago, IL. After 27 years of service, Janice accepted an early retirement package from AT&T in 2015.



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## AWARDS, HONORS & ACCOMPLISHMENTS

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Famous opera singer **Simon Estes** was honored by President Bruce Harreld in 2019 with the UI International Impact Award. In 2017 he received a Lifetime Achievement Award from the United Nations.

**Michael Freeman** (BA 1980, MA 1983) contributed chapter 5 “Promoting Engagement and Belonging” to this edited volume *Student Affairs in Urban Serving Institutions: Voices From Senior Leaders* (Routledge 2019)



*The Guide for White women Who Teach Black Boys* by **Eddie Moore Jr.** (Ph.D. 2004)

Moore says, teachers must empower black boys to dream, believe and achieve. Schools that routinely fail Black boys are not extraordinary. In fact, they are all-too ordinary. If we are to succeed in positively shifting outcomes for black boys and young men, we must first change the way school is “done.”



College of Nursing **Dean Emeritus Geraldene Felton** has been selected to receive the University of Iowa’s 2019 Distinguished Alumni Award at the Distinguished Alumni Awards Ceremony on Friday, October 18, 2019, in coordination with the university’s homecoming activities. Dr. Felton, who was also recently bestowed with a Hawkeye Distinguished



**Dr. Paul Colthirst** from 2006 to 2008 completed his residency at the school of Dentistry and Graduate school. He was recently assigned as the Senior Dental office at the Defense Health Agency in Falls Church, VA and also appointed as Consultant to the Army’s Surgeon General for matters on Dental Public Health.

## IBAA Alumni, Friends & Family we’ve lost...



Two Iowa athletes died too soon:

Twenty-four year old **Derrick Mitchell Jr.** died October 4, 2019 in a fatal car accident in St. Louis. Mitchell played Iowa football from 2013-2016. The running back was from St. Louis Missouri. A second Iowa running back **Damon Bullock** also died of a car accident this year in Duncanville, Texas. He played for Iowa from 2011-2014. Bullock was twenty-five years old when he died on March 3, 2019.

**Marlin Kirby** (1987), a graduate of the Iowa’s College of Law & member of the Black Law Students Association passed on July 21st. He received his B.S. at Drake University, where he pledged Alpha Phi Alpha(Alpha Nu Chapter). Services were held at Cage Memorial Chapel in Chicago, Illinois.





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# Iowa Tidbits

## Top African American Administrators Leave Iowa

UI Vice President for Student Life **Melissa Shivers** is leaving Iowa after two-and-a-half years. Shivers has accepted a similar position at Ohio State University. Choosing to become Vice President for Student Life in Columbus, Oh Shivers explained that she was not planning to leave, but after they approached her several times she had to consider the opportunity. During her tenure at Iowa, Shivers focused on making sure that everyone on the Iowa campus felt safe and supported. She demonstrated a deep commitment to improving student life and she believed in community service and civic engagement.

**Tajuan Wilson** served as the Associate Vice President for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion at Iowa for less than two months. Wilson moved to Iowa from The Medical University of South Carolina where he was Executive Director of Student Programs and Diversity. Concerning his brief tenure at Iowa it is not clear what happened, but the UI has completed a separation agreement which allows Wilson to keep his \$224,000 salary for six months while he searches for other employment. In the agreement Wilson waved his rights to take legal action against the university and it is not an admission of liability or wrong doing by the university.

Executive Vice President and Provost Montse Fuentes sent a letter campus-wide saying that the UI remains committed to the implementation of an effective diversity, equity and inclusion action plan.

## Prominent University of Iowa Black Alumni...

**Frederick W. "Duke" Slater** was the University's first African American All-America football player and was named to the Chicago Tribune's All-American football team, 1921. Slater Residence Hall is named after him.

**Homer Harris** became the university's first African American football team captain (a first in Big Ten history) in 1937.

**Elizabeth Catlett**, a notable sculptor and civil rights advocate, was one of the first students to earn an MFA from Iowa in 1940.

Iowa PhD recipient **Jewel Limar Prestage** was the first black woman to receive a doctorate in political science from an American university, specifically the UI in 1954.

**Donald W. Tucker** attended Iowa on a football scholarship. He graduated with a B.A. in sociology and criminology in 1961, and went on to become one of the nation's first black federal narcotics agents. He was also one of the nation's first black Secret Service agents in 1965. He has since written two books: a mystery and a biography.

**Margaret Walker Alexander** is a noted African American poet and activist. She completed her doctoral dissertation at the University of Iowa in 1965. It was later published as a Civil War novel titled *Jubilee*.

**Philip G. Hubbard**, who received a Ph.D. from Iowa in 1954 was the first African American vice president at a Big Ten university when he is promoted to Vice President for Student Services and Dean of Academic Affairs at Iowa in 1966.