



SANDHILLS FAMILY HERITAGE ASSOCIATION
NEWSLETTER AUGUST 2019

**SPECIAL
EDITION**

A Cherished Memory of High Point University

By Priscilla Burton, SFHA Board Member



A momentous celebration of the first African American student attending High Point University (HPU) was held Tuesday, August 13, 2019. So, you're wondering how this event relates to Sandhills Family Heritage Association. Let me tell you how! That African American student is no other than our Founder and Executive Director, Ammie McRae Jenkins. That's right, our Ammie.

The University contacted Ammie several months ago about their desire to honor her and her bold vision for her life. This was a bold vision because despite the risks, Ammie showed confidence and courage at a young age. Bold because despite having lost her father, and having her family uprooted from their home—Ammie appeared to become more undaunted in her quest to improve her life and future. And so, this was a well-deserved tribute to the courage shown by going to an institution of higher learning at a place—the South—and during a time—the early 1960s-- that opened new doors for others.

The day began very early for the group of friends and relatives accompanying Ammie on this special day. The HPU sent a university bus and driver to take everyone to the campus. The gathering place was Ammie's house and the time was 7:30 a.m. There were numerous family members, from as far away as Texas and Virginia. Friends included church members and SFHA members. There were other well wishers that joined the group at the campus, including a long-time friend from Ammie's computer programming days early in her career.

High Point University Continued

The day at campus began with a welcome from Larry Quinn, Chair of the Department of Marketing and Sales and Director of the Professional Selling Program in the Earl N. Phillips School of Business. Mr. Quinn met the group as the bus arrived and remained as escort through much of the morning.

The first stop was an absolutely lavish buffet breakfast with pastries, fruit, eggs, muffins, various breakfast meats, juice, tea and coffee. Next, Ammie was escorted on stage by Barry Kitley, Vice President for University Relations. The highlight and surprise of the day was the presentation by HPU President, Dr. Nido Qubein, of a honorary degree and bouquet of flowers on stage before the HPU faculty. Off stage left was a gorgeous banner with Ammie's picture from her days at the university. The smile was definitely distinctive, just as it is now.

The group again boarded the bus and proceeded with a tour of several buildings on campus, accompanied by Lyndsey Ayers, Director of Community Partnerships, who answered many questions from the group. The focus on practical learning along with the theories appear to make HPU degrees valued in many professional fields. What a campus!

The last activity of the day was a delicious buffet lunch. Despite all the activities jam packed in one day, the timing on all the activities seemed just right. The fellowship was enjoyable throughout the day. Everyone in the group received a gift of Dr. Qubein's *Daily Motivation* book, HPU blanket and two thermos bottles. Ammie would like to express her thanks to all, both those present and those offering prayers and best wishes from afar.

"Ammie is committed to a life of service to others. What an absolute reward to witness the conferring of an honorary Bachelor of Arts degree on my she-ro." Deanna McRae King

"It was a privilege to have been in the presence of a part of history of High Point University." Liz Adams

Click on links below to see media articles

High Point University Blog

<http://www.highpoint.edu/blog/2019/08/first-african-american-student-to-attend-high-point-college-receives-honorary-degree/>

Fayetteville Observer

<https://www.fayobserver.com/news/20190815/kirby-spring-lake-woman-earns-honorary-degree-57-years-after-breaking-color-barrier>



A Special Thank You From Ammie McRae Jenkins

High Point University

My sincere thanks for High Point University's warm welcome, hospitality, and first-class treatment of me, family and friends on August 13th. I appreciate the honorary Bachelor of Arts degree and the acknowledgement of the Sandhills Family Heritage Association community work. I will always cherish the memory of this remarkable event! To all who made this a memorable experience THANK YOU!

President Nido Qubein, Board of Trustees and Faculty of High Point University
Barry Kitley, Vice President for University Relations
Lyndsey Ayers, Director of Community Partnerships
Larry Quinn, Chair of the Department of Marketing and Sales

Family and Friends

I am truly blessed to have family and friends that have supported me and the Sandhills Family Heritage Association throughout the years. Thanks for sharing this amazing honor with me!

Rev. Vincent Long, Bethel AME Zion Church
Rev. Michelle Long, Evangelist
Larry Dobbins, Mayor of Spring Lake
Janet Brower Penn, SFHA Board Chair
DeValdean Penn, SFHA Volunteer
Priscilla Burton, SFHA Board Treasurer
Pam Marks, SFHA Food Distribution Coordinator
Liz Adams, Sankofa Youth Team Member
Doris Lucas, SFHA Health-Wise Coordinator
Penny Simpson, A Dear Friend
Tamara Simpson, Penny's Daughter
Cassandra Jenkins Bush, Daughter
Kiara Bush, Granddaughter
Josephine McRae Robisch, Sister
James McRae, Nephew
Jackie McRae, Niece
Jeffery McRae, Nephew
Jimmy McRae, Brother
Deanna McRae King, Cousin
Kara Wilson, Cousin
Mariah Williams, Cousin



SFHA COMMUNITY OUTREACH

It was a good day to be at Mendoza Park where many children and parents were the guests of Teens Do Care and the Spring Lake Parks and Recreation Department, who hosted a **Stop the Violence** event. Volunteers from Sandhills Family Heritage Association (SFHA) and the Lillington-Dunn AME Zion District were a significant part of the day's event by providing dozens of book bags and supplies—including notebooks, pencils, pens, crayons, sanitizer wipes and more.

The SFHA – Lillington-Dunn AME Zion District partnership also has produced an **on-going venture** to afford needy families in our communities **non-perishable food**, household supplies and personal toiletries. Families who have a household budget insufficient to meet their needs really benefit from these **give-away events**. Feel free to contact SFHA for additional information about future locations. We look forward to serving the needs of families in the Sandhills.



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Saturday, September 28th. 11am-2pm—Sandhills Annual Heritage Food Tasting
Sandhills Farmers Market
230 Chapel Hill Rd., Spring Lake

Saturday, October 12th. 11am-1pm—College Prep Planning
Spring Lake Library, 101 Laketree Blvd.

THANK YOU!



Sandhills Family Heritage Association

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