



Ainsley E. Owens
Region III Vice-President

Over the past week, I have had the opportunity to reflect on the NCCU Region III Conference. The accommodations were fabulous at the Crowne Plaza Atlanta-Marietta, and we extend to them another warm thanks for their sincerity & gracious hospitality. We had representation from eight of the ten active chapters in Region III, and we also had approx. 60 conference attendees.

The Conference began at 9am with a video presentation of *"Region III 2007 At-A-Glance"*, which was a five minute overview of the events at NCCU over the past twelve months and more specifically, activities within Region III. To help with the future development of this video, I would ask that chapter Presidents submit a max of 20 pictures of chapter activities from April 2008 to Feb. 2009. The February 2009 deadline allows time for pictures to be selected for inclusion in the *"Region III 2008 At-A-Glance"* production. I will provide a copy to each chapter, so that we can show the Video at each Chapter meeting in Region III. In keeping with the spirit of our motto "Truth and Service" I am proud to announce that ALL of our conference materials, etc. were contracted/provided by an alumnus who owns Sadorian Publications. If you have not seen the conference program or video, you are in for a treat!

We were also pleased to have had the opportunity to have Laura Fox, Interim Vice-Chancellor for Institutional Advancement at NCCU, share several very important NCCU updates and also answer questions from conference attendees during the luncheon.

A very special thanks to Interim Athletic Director, Ingrid Wicker-McCree, who brought eight coaches to the Region III Conference. WOW!! Each coach was able to address conference attendees, and from the feedback I continue to receive, everyone was grateful that they took time out of their "recruiting schedule" to fellowship & speak with us.

We also had an excellent panel discussion after the luncheon, which sparked much debate about what the Alumni Association has done or not done to invigorate membership, particularly with Young Alumni. Many in attendance were of the opinion that the NCCU Alumni Assoc. Inc, does not do enough to appeal to Alums to join the Association, while other questioned the benefits of being a member of the NCCU Alumni Association. As an information update, the NCCU Alumni Association, Inc., is in the process of developing/establishing a membership plan which hopefully, will provide answers to those questions and will engage not only young alumni but also other alumni who have been inactive since graduating from NCCU.

We also had fun as several awards were presented to chapters and alumni for their hard work over the past twelve months. The awards, presented by the NCCU Alumni Association Vice-President Tania Butler Davis, were as follows:

Region III Awards:

Alumnus of the Year:

John Barbee, Greensboro Chapter

1st Runner Up Alumnus of the Year:

Dr. Ronald Speight, Columbia, SC Chapter

2nd Runner-Up Alumnus of the Year

D. Alexander Snelling, Atlanta Chapter

Chapter of the Year:

Greensboro Chapter

1st Runner Up Chapter of the Year:

Atlanta Chapter

Host Chapter Award: (most in attendance)

Greensboro Chapter

As we look forward to the 2009 Region III Conference in Charlotte, NC, let's take charge of each of our respective areas and make the NCCU Alumni Association, Inc. a focal point of the COMMUNITY! Remember the goals which each chapter has been charged with formulating: scholarship/fundraising; student recruitment; membership; community outreach; and supporting University functions.

I look forward to continuing any of the discussions which we have had and I'm also making myself available to answer any questions or assist in any way that I am able to. I may be reached by e-mail ainsleyowens@yahoo.com or 336.558.6576.

Thanks again for allowing me to serve as your Region III Vice-President.

In Truth & Service,

Ainsley E. Owens