

For newsletter information, questions or submissions, contact Sylvia Hicks at (804)561-0535. Email RGAA at: RussellGroveNews@aol.com

Next RGAA Meeting:
May 13th at 7:00 p.m., at the Russell Grove Museum, 8701 Otterburn Road, Suite 103

NEWSLETTER FOR MEMBERS OF THE RUSSELL GROVE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION. MAY, 2013.

Russell Grove News

RGAA To Increase Scholarship

With a renewed focus on the organization's primary purpose, providing scholarships for qualifying graduates, RGAA has increased the number of scholarship awards and the dollar amount for each scholarship. This year, four (4) \$1,500 scholarships will be available to qualifying graduates attending a 2- or 4- year college. Two (2) \$1,500 scholarships will also be available for qualifying graduates attending an accredited vocational school. The 2013 college scholarships will be awarded at ACHS Class Night.

Four (4) \$500 book scholarships, two more than last year, will be

available for college students currently enrolled in an accredited institution of higher learning. The deadline for book scholarships is June 1st. The application should include a brief letter, expressing the applicant's association with RGAA, written by a family member affiliated with Russell Grove.

For book scholarship applications, contact Mrs. Elaine Beard, Scholarship Committee chairperson, (obeard620@comcast.net). The completed application must be legible, typed or printed in ink. The applicant must have completed two semesters of post high school education and will be enrolled in school

for the 2013 fall semester.

The applicant must have achieved a cumulative GPA of 2.0 or better. The completed application must accompany a copy of grades for the last semester completed. The applicant must be "affiliated" with a former student, graduate, faculty or staff member or employee of Russell Grove School. "Affiliation" is meant to include family relationship or RGAA membership.



RGAA Scholarship Recipient Accepts Job at FSU

Derrick Coles, a 2004 RGAA scholarship recipient and graduate of ACHS, has been hired to fill the Director of Sports Compliance position at Florida State University (FSU) in Tallahassee. FSU is a National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) Division 1 school which competes in the Atlantic Coastal Conference (ACC). The state university enrolls over 41,000 students.

In this position, Derrick will lead a three-person staff to ensure that all the rules and regulations of the NCAA are followed. He will interact with athletic directors, coaches, student athletes, and other sports related

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RGAA Reunion 2013 Plans Underway

RGAA 2013 Annual Reunion will be held **August 30-31** at the Holiday Inn—Koger Center in Richmond. The Reunion Committee is finalizing plans for a very exciting event. **Friday afternoon** (August 30th), we will host a Meet-n-Greet for RGAA members and one guest. **Saturday evening**, we will have a program, banquet and entertainment. A block of rooms have been reserved under the name of Russell Grove Alumni Association at a rate of \$92. Registration fee is \$45 per person. Registration forms will be mailed in May or request a registration form at (russellgrovenews@aol.com). Rally your classmates so that your class can have a reserved table.

Joyce Perkinson, RG '64, Recognized as Teacher of the Month



"I love teaching because of the lives I impact on a daily basis. It gives me a sense of fulfillment seeing the progress students make both academically and socially as they prepare for their next endeavors," expressed Joyce.

She is an active RGAA member and serves on the Reunion Committee. She is the daughter of the late William and Geneva Richardson McGhee, RG '37. Joyce is married to Wilbur "Dickie" Perkinson, RG '61. They have two children and one granddaughter.

In April, Prince Georges County Public Schools named **Joyce McGhee Perkinson** as the Teacher of the Month. The Maryland school division has over 200 schools.

Joyce has been an educator for more than 40 years (District of Columbia Public Schools and the last ten years with PGCS). Currently, Joyce teaches Business Education at Suitland High School.

Accomplishments:

Academy Design Team
National Honor Society Sponsor
Business Department Chairperson

50th Reunion for Russell Grove Class of 1963

Members of the Class of 1963 will celebrate their 50th year anniversary at the Holiday Inn—Koger Center on June 15, 2013. For more details, contact Ben Barley at 804-561-6292 or 804-314-0671 or Marie Mickie at 804-513-7054 or 804-323-6401. Classmates who attended but did not graduate are encouraged to come as well. The class also plans to participate in RGAA's 26th Annual Reunion in September.

60 Years, a Great Time to Celebrate for RG Class of 1953

The Russell Grove Class of 1953 will gather with 16 of its members and their guest on June 22nd at Topeka's Restaurant on Midlothian Turnpike to share past experiences and have lunch. For more information, contact B. Laverne Johnson at 561-2099 or Angeline Wingo at 561-2003. Lunch will begin at 1:00 p.m.

Coles at FSU *continued from front page*

stakeholders to keep FSU's 19 sports programs on point. There's some travel involved in the job, especially to conferences and sports events.

Derrick is passionate about his craft and has to constantly review the regulations and understand all sports. His communications and interpersonal skill set go a long way in making ensuring success in this position. Derrick prides himself in working well with others and gaining the trust of coaches and players alike. "It's like the good cop, bad cop. I have to make sure, for example, that student athletes spent a certain amount of time studying or that coaches don't have face-to-face meetings or campus visits with students during what we call dead time," explained Derrick. "Writing up violations, reports and conducting investigations is par for the course."

You may recall that when Derrick spoke at the 2011 Reunion, he expressed that, in addition to how our financial support helped him earn his degree, he was very grateful for the community support, knowing that people cared about him. Derrick believes in giving back and wants to continue to find ways to support and encourage other young people, especially Amelia natives and those associated with the RGAA. "It's not where you come from but that you use the skills and gifts you have to keep pursuing your dreams. Ask questions, reach back and give back," he says.

He still finds time to mentor several ACMS students and has helped other high school students transition to college. His advice to young folk is to stay the course, be patient and have faith. Derrick says, "Let God take over and direct your path." He added that students should also be willing to volunteer, which is a good way to gain experience and build your resume. He says that several of his volunteer experiences opened doors for him and helped build his network of mentors. "Preparation," Derrick added, "is also important in moving to the next level."

Derrick held sports compliance positions at both Hampton and Norfolk State Universities. He graduated from VUU in 2007 with a B.S. in marketing and received his Masters in Sports Management in 2009 from VSU. Derrick is the son of B. Marlene Gordon, ACHS '71. Derrick, now 28, and his finance, Danielle have a 2 year – old son, Derrick Jr., who already loves football and basketball.

RGAA Make \$300 Donation for School Supplies

The principal of Amelia County Middle School, Shirley Chalkley Booker, RG '66, was able to supply much needed pens, paper and related supplies to students throughout this school year, thanks the RGAA donation.



RGAA Sponsors Trip for 40 Youth to Reginald F. Lewis Museum

In a continued effort to increase awareness of African American leaders, RGAA will sponsor a bus trip to the Reginald F. Lewis Museum of African American History and Culture in Baltimore, Maryland on Saturday, June 15th. The museum seeks to realize its mission by collecting, preserving, interpreting, documenting and exhibiting the rich contributions of African American Marylanders from the state's earliest history to the present and the future.

RGAA hopes that the stories of black people such as Lewis will be an inspiration and encourage our youth to achieve their potential.

Students eligible for the trip should be grades in 7-11. Students interested in going on the trip are required to pay a \$12 fee, which will include museum admission and Associate membership to RGAA. We are excited to attract this age group and look forward to integrating them into future mentoring and educational program. For more information, contact Sylvia Hicks (561-0535) or email RussellGroveNews@aol.com. Deadline for the trip registration is June 5th.

Reginald Lewis, a Wall Street lawyer and financier, was one of the nation's richest businessmen and a prominent corporate takeover dealer. He attended Virginia State University on a foot-

ball scholarship and majored in economics. He graduated on the Dean's List despite having a rough first year academically and losing his scholarship due to an injury. After that, he worked in a bowling alley and as a photographer's assistant to help pay his expenses. In his senior year, the Rockefeller Foundation funded a program at Harvard Law School to select a few black students to attend summer school at Harvard to introduce them to legal studies. At the end of the program, Lewis was invited to attend Harvard Law School—the only person in the 148-year history of Harvard Law to be admitted before applying to the school. With \$50 in his pocket, Lewis began a promising semester at Harvard and discovered his future career direction in a course on securities law. After graduation and a desire to "do the deals myself" he established the TLC Group L.P. in 1983. His first major deal involved the \$22.5-million leveraged buyout of the McCall Pattern Company. Lewis nursed the struggling company back to health and sold it for \$90 million. In 1987, Lewis purchased the international division of Beatrice Foods, with holdings in 31 countries. At \$985 million, the deal was the largest leveraged buyout at the time of overseas assets by an American company. Lewis died at age 50 in 1993.

Older Than Dirt!!

Someone asked the other day, *'What was your favorite fast food when you were growing up?'* 'We didn't have fast food when I was growing up,' I informed him. 'All the food was slow.' *'C'mon, seriously. Where did you eat?'* 'It was a place called 'at home,' I explained! 'Mom cooked every day and when Dad got home from work, we sat down together at the dining room table, and if I didn't like what she put on my plate, I was allowed to sit there until I did like it.'

Some parents NEVER owned their own house, wore Levis, set foot on a golf course, traveled out of the country or had a credit card.

My parents never drove me to school. I had a bicycle that weighed probably 50 pounds, and only had one speed, (slow).

We didn't have a television in our house until I was 10. It was, of course, black and white, and the station went off the air at 11, after playing the national anthem and a poem about God.

I never had a telephone in my room. The only phone was on a party line. Before you could dial, you had to listen and make sure some people you didn't know weren't already using the line.

RGAA FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Balance July 1, 2012		\$ 18,702
Donations thru 3/31/13	\$ 150	
Membership	\$ 2,010	
RGAA Scholarships	\$ 13,500	
Booker Scholarship	\$ 410	
2012 Banquet Registration	\$ 8,665	
Misc income	\$ 196	
Income		<u>\$ 24,931</u>
Total Income		43,633

Expenses:

Administrative	\$ 1,297	
2012 RGAA Scholarships (3)	\$ 3,000	
RGAA Book scholarship (2)	\$ 1,000	
Booker Scholarship	\$ 500	
2012 Reunion expenses	\$ 10,370	
Liability Insurance	\$ 330	
ACMS Donation	\$ 300	
2013 Reunion expenses	\$ 450	

17,247

Balance 3/31/2013 **\$26,386.00**



Fallen Falcons



Linwood Branch RG '63	Floyd Woodson RG '62
Betty Lou Truhart RG '63	Annie Harris Tyler RG' 61
Mary Bell Wade RG '37	Carolyn Spurlock RG '59



Greetings from the President

Dear RGAA Members and Friends,

Recently, the membership had a discussion centered around **changing the name of the organization**. Some members recalled that the initial plan was to name the organization, the Russell Grove Association. Additionally, “alumni” in the name has caused some confusion and misunderstanding, especially regarding membership eligibility. The eligibility for membership includes not only graduates of RG but students who attended (non graduates of RG or ACHS graduates); RG faculty, staff and employees. It is expected that by removing “alumni” from the organization’s name, it will better reflect the organization’s membership. The organization currently has 125 paid members.

We are excited to share news about the increase in scholarship awards and to be cultivating relationships with our schools to better prepare our kids for college and careers. As we build this program, we look forward to your involvement as mentors. See you at the Reunion!

Henry J. Featherston, Jr.

Russell Grove Reunion 2012 Highlights

The 25th Russell Grove Alumni Association annual reunion had a record attendance of over 200 alumni, faculty, staff and guest. Our registration showed alumni represented graduating classes from 1945 to 1969, with two exceptions (1948 and 1946). Kudos to the classes with 10 or more members, including the Class of 1967, 1966, 1965, 1964 and 1961. RG ‘66 and RG ‘67 tied with fourteen members each present. Eleven Amelia County High School graduates represented the classes from Class of 1970 through Class of 1974.

Donations from the classes and members totaled over \$4,500. RG ‘51 led the way in giving with \$1,522 which included a \$1,000 donation from class member Herman Ross. RG ‘65 donated \$475 which included a donation of \$400 from Ronald Johnson. The children of Bessie Brown and Willie Foster Wingo donated \$600, allocating \$200 to the Classes of 1945, 1947 and 1949. Former RG teacher, Belle Atkins, continues her longstanding support with a \$500 donation.

All donations, large or small, make it possible for us to continue to support activities for our youth, give scholarships and fulfill the goals and objectives of the association.

We received 92 surveys from the reunion. Sixty-two (62) survey respondents want a reunion every year and 83 want it to be held at a hotel or restaurant. Fifty-seven (57) respondents indicated they would be interested in a Cruise. Other suggested locations include Amelia, anywhere other than Amelia and the Spirit of Norfolk.

Reunion 2012 Donations By Class

Class Year	Donation	Class Year	Donation	Class Year	Donation
1940	\$ 30	1952	\$ 152	1963	\$ 80
1941	\$185	1953	\$400	1964	\$155
1945	\$200	1954	\$125	1965	\$475
1947	\$200	1956	\$125	1965	\$475
1948	\$110	1957	\$144	1967	\$130
1949	\$200	1960	\$232	1969	\$220
1950	\$ 20	1961	\$275	1970	\$ 85
1951	\$1,522	1962	\$215		

RGAA Purpose Statement

Russell Grove Alumni Association was organized in 1984 to promote the public welfare through the preservation of the spirit and pride of the alumni of the former Russell Grove Schools, to cooperate with the Amelia County School Board and other organizations in matters of mutual interest and advantage to public education; to provide scholarships for qualifying graduates of Amelia County Public Schools and to promote cordial and friendly relations among members and the public.



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