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## STATE OF ALABAMA

Greetings:

On behalf of the great State of Alabama, I am proud to welcome you to the 79th Annual McDonald's Magic City Classic presented by Coca-Cola.

This historic game will take place on Saturday April 17 2021 at Legion Field in Birmingham and will mark the 79th meeting between the Alabama State University (ASU) Hornets and the Alabama A&M University Bulldogs. As Governor, I wish both teams well as they display their athletic ability, sportsmanship, and competitive spirit.

I would also like to thank the volunteers, students, alumni, fans, and sponsors for supporting this nationally recognized event. Upon completion of the Classic, many of you will return to your homes. I wish you a safe and pleasant journey and hope that you will come back to Alabama often.

Again, welcome to the 2021 Magic City Classic and best wishes for a safe and memorable experience at this year's game.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kay Ivey". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Kay Ivey  
Governor

KI/pb/dr







# BIRMINGHAM

Celebrating the Magic City Classic  
and the HBCU tradition

Welcome and Enjoy the game.





In the spirit of tradition, competition and love for our Historically Black Colleges and Universities, we proudly welcome Alabama A&M University and Alabama State University – and you – to the 79th Magic City Classic.

This year's Classic might be a departure from those in the past, but the spirit that has fueled this event for decades remains strong.

We honor the student athletes who will showcase their athletic prowess on the field and we celebrate the legacy of excellence of these two great universities.

We're excited to once again see Alabama State and A&M's rivalry renewed at historic Legion Field and we're just as excited to experience this time-honored tradition with you.

A handwritten signature in white ink that reads "R. Woodfin".

Randall L. Woodfin  
Mayor, City of Birmingham



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# ALABAMA AGRICULTURAL AND MECHANICAL UNIVERSITY

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1875

*April 17, 2021*

*Welcome, Loyal Students, Alumni and Friends!*

*You are cordially invited to participate in this delayed yet exciting gridiron experience, as many enthusiastic and long-time Bulldog fans from around the country cheer our Mighty Bulldogs on to victory.*

*Despite the many challenges presented by a global pandemic, we are eternally grateful for the steadfast efforts of our energetic volunteers, as well as the true Normalites who have contributed to the success of this football competition between the Maroon & White Alabama A&M University Bulldogs and the Hornets of Alabama State University. Indeed, the spirit of "The Hill" remains a growing source of pride that will forever inspire future generations.*



*The continuance of this legendary event is an indication that it will forever remain a permanent symbol of athleticism, sportsmanship and the noble HBCU tradition for many years to come. Similarly, the tenacious efforts and expertise of the coaching staffs of both institutions are commendable and once again will be witnessed at Legion Field this spring day.*

*Finally, regardless of the intense competition and even the long interruption by COVID-19, both Bulldogs and Hornets are strongly aware that they are products of sister institutions--forever joined in their victories and their struggles. Additionally, the students, faculty, staff, administration and trustees of historic Alabama A&M University are humbled by the importance of this event to the lives of so many, as well as to the City of Birmingham, Jefferson County and the entirety of the Birmingham vicinity.*

*We wish you many years of continued success in all of your endeavors. May the fulfillment of your dreams continue to be a beacon of hope and joy for all of us.*

*Sincerely,*

*Andrew Hugine Jr.*

Andrew Hugine, Jr., Ph.D.  
President







# Alabama State University

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

P.O. BOX 271, MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA 36101 • (334) 229-4200

April 17, 2021

Greetings:

For the first three years of my tenure as President of Alabama State University, I had the honor of welcoming you to the Magic City Classic events and games that were held in 2017, 2018 and 2019. As we all know, our lives changed drastically in 2020, as did our plans to hold the 79<sup>th</sup> Annual Magic City Classic in the fall of that year.

The global pandemic may have caused us to postpone this long-standing competition between the Hornets of Alabama State University and the Bulldogs of Alabama A&M University, but University leaders and athletic directors on both sides have worked together diligently over the past months to ensure that the game could be held this spring with emphasis on the safety of our players, coaches, staff and fans.

I would like to thank SWAC Commissioner, Dr. Charles McClelland, for his leadership for all of the league's athletics programs during this pivotal time. It has truly been a "team" effort that brought us safely and strategically to this day.

We hope that the continuation of this historic rivalry is one sign of a return to normalcy, not only for our universities, but also for our nation. COVID-19 put so much of our lives on hold, but it could never dampen the irrepressible spirit of Hornet and Bulldog pride that forms the foundation of the Magic City Classic.

This is an exciting day for both universities. We should all be thankful for this opportunity to attend the 79th Magic City Classic, even in the midst of a pandemic. We can also look forward to coming back for another classic in October, the first time that two Magic City Classics will be held in one year.

While we are not able to host all of the familiar events surrounding this game, let's all enjoy the rivalry on the field. And of course, Hornets fans, let's cheer our team on to victory!

With Hornet Pride,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Q. T. Ross, Jr.", with a large, stylized flourish at the end.

Quinton T. Ross, Jr., Ed.D.  
President



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# Alabama A&M University

AAMU Magic City Metro Alumni

Chapter PO Box 13802

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Dear Alumni and Friends:

On behalf of the AAMU Magic City Metro Alumni Chapter of "The Greatest University in the World"--Alabama Agricultural and Mechanical University--we welcome you to the annual Magic City Classic.

From its humble beginnings during the World War II era to the turbulent 1960s to Y2K and entering into the 2020s--our beloved Magic City Classic has evolved into the largest and most anticipated HBCU gridiron rivalries in the nation!

This year, we sorely miss those simpler times of show-stopping fashions, the added attractions of a massive parade, concerts, camping, grills and little family reunions. However, when the smoke dies and all the events are over, we must remember, too, that it is imperative that we give back to BOTH schools to continue their existence.

Again, welcome and enjoy the Magic City Classic!

Sincerely,

*Darlean Macon*  
Darlean Macon







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National Alumni Association  
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Birmingham Alumni Chapter  
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#### Greetings Hornets and Friends:

I am honored to bring you greetings on behalf of the Birmingham Alumni Chapter of the Alabama State University National Alumni Association. We welcome everyone to the 79<sup>th</sup> Magic City Classic.

It has been a year like no other and this 79<sup>th</sup> Classic will be unique. Our health and safety were priorities during the planning phase. The Classic will not look like years past, but it will still be memorable. We pray everyone will stay safe and healthy so we can come back to our world-famous traditions next year.

Although we will not have all the traditional festivities of The Classic, we still have that same Bama State spirit that runs through our veins. Our love and commitment for the university goes far beyond these festivities as we continue to build and support our beloved ASU!

Through all our challenges it is still, "A Great Time To Be A Hornet"!

Let's Go Hornets!!!

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Cynthia Bonner".

Cynthia Bonner  
President







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# Alabama A&M University History

Alabama Agricultural and Mechanical University is a land-grant University. It receives support from the State of Alabama and through federal funds appropriated to assist in carrying on work stipulated by the Morrill Acts of 1862 and 1890. The University is under the control of a board of trustees appointed by the Governor, who serves as ex officio Chairman.

The University was organized in 1875 as the result of a bill passed in



the State Legislature in 1873 and through the continued efforts of its first principal and president, William Hooper Council, an ex-slave. The school opened on May 1, 1875, as the Huntsville Normal School with an appropriation of \$1,000 per year, 61 students, and two teachers.



Industrial education was introduced around 1878. It attracted wide attention, and the school was assisted financially by the Slater and Peabody Funds, along with private contributors. The work in industrial education was so successful that the State Legislature authorized the name to be changed to the "State Normal and Industrial School at Huntsville." The appropriation was increased by the State to \$4,000 per year.

In 1891, the school became the recipient of a part of the Federal Land-Grant Fund provided by an act of Congress, approved August 30, 1890. The purpose of this fund was to further training in agriculture and mechanical arts in the various states at the college level.

The name of the school was changed again to "The State Agricultural and Mechanical College for Negroes," and a new location was provided at Normal, Alabama, where the school would have ample room for the development of its trades and agricultural programs. In 1919, the institution became a junior college, and its name was changed to "The State Agricultural and Mechanical Institute for Negroes."



In 1939, by authority of the State Board of Education, the Institute was permitted to offer work on the senior college level. The first graduation class since 1920 received the bachelor's degree in 1941, and on January 14, 1948, the name was again changed to "Alabama Agricultural and Mechanical College." On June 26, 1969, the Alabama State Board of Education, the governing body of the institution, adopted a resolution changing the name of the institution to "Alabama Agricultural and Mechanical University."

The University received a "Class A" rating by the Southern Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools in August 1946 and became a fully accredited member of the Association in December 1963.

*There have been three principals:*

William Hooper Council, 1875-1887

Peter H. Clark, 1887-1888

William Hooper Council, 1888-1890

*Four interim presidents:*

Carl Harris Marbury, 1987-89

Alan Keyes, 1991-92

Virginia Caples, 1995-96; 2005-2006

Beverly Edmond, 2008-2009



*And, eleven presidents have served the institution:*

William Hooper Council, 1890-1909

Walter S. Buchanan, 1909-1921

Theophilus R. Parker, 1921-1927

Joseph Fanning Drake, 1927-1962

Richard David Morrison, 1962-1984

Douglas Covington, 1984-1987

Carl Harris Marbury, 1987-1991

David Bernard Henson, 1992-1995

John T. Gibson, 1996-2005

Robert R. Jennings, 2006-2008

Andrew Hugine, Jr., 2009-Present







## Alabama State University

Alabama State University is a comprehensive, regional institution offering students from across the nation and around the globe a world-class education. ASU's learning experiences are holistic and are designed to develop intellectual, as well as social, moral, cultural and ethical values. ASU graduates are equipped with the skills, insights, attitudes and practical experiences that will enable them to become well-rounded, contributing citizens, fully qualified to take their places in their chosen professions and in service to humanity.

### YESTERDAY

Alabama State University was founded in 1867 by nine formerly enslaved men. It began as the Lincoln School in Marion, Ala., a private institution for blacks. The Lincoln School was incorporated on July 18, 1867, and opened on November 13, 1867, with 113 students. Since its incorporation and the move to Montgomery in 1887, the school has gone through a number of name changes from Lincoln Normal School, to a junior college designation, to Teachers College at Montgomery (1929), Alabama State College for Negroes (1948) and Alabama State College (1954). In 1969, the State Board of Education approved the name change to Alabama State University.

### TODAY

Alabama State University has experienced tremendous growth since its humble beginnings. Over the past 15 years, that growth has escalated primarily because of the Knight v. the State of Alabama remedial decree, which has helped to transform the University both physically and academically. Multimillion dollar buildings now grace the 395-acre campus. High-demand programs have been established and cutting-edge research is being conducted by ASU faculty and students. With a focus on a global initiative, the campus has a more diverse population while maintaining its proud heritage as one of the nation's leading Historically Black College or Universities (HBCUs). We now offer the Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Science, as well as master's and educational specialist degrees. The University also offers the Ph.D. in microbiology, the Ed.D. and the Ph.D. in Educational Leadership, Policy and Law, the Clinical Doctorate in Physical Therapy and the Master of Science in Prosthetics and Orthotics.

### TOMORROW

ASU has its eye on the future while remaining true to its mission of being a student-centered institution that provides quality programs in undergraduate and graduate instruction, continuing education and research.



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## BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH OF **ANDREW HUGINE, JR., Ph.D.**

Dr. Andrew Hugine, Jr., is the 11th President of Alabama Agricultural and Mechanical University. Prior to his appointment at Alabama A&M University, he served his alma mater, South Carolina State University, as President. Other higher education positions held during his lengthy and productive career (spanning more than three decades) include Director of Special Services Program; Director of University Year for Action Program; Research Fellow; Assistant and Director of Institutional Self-Study; Assistant Vice President for Academic Affairs; Professor of Mathematics; and Interim Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer. Dr. Hugine also served as an instructor of mathematics at Beaufort High School in Beaufort, South Carolina; and as a Graduate Teaching Assistant and Assistant Professor of Institutional Research at Michigan State University.

Hugine earned the B.S. degree in mathematics and the M.Ed. degree in mathematics education from South Carolina State University. The Ph.D. in higher education/institutional research was earned from Michigan State University. Dr. Hugine is the author of three mathematics textbooks and numerous articles and presentations on higher education evaluation and assessment. He has been the recipient of a number of grants aimed at increasing the participation of minorities in the STEM disciplines and increasing students' performance in the STEM disciplines.

Dr. Hugine is an adept higher education administrator who has been successful in transforming institutions of higher education. Immediately upon his appointment as the 11th President of Alabama A&M University, Hugine addressed the University's probationary status with the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges resulting in the removal of the University from SACSCOC's sanction in December 2009; developed a financial plan to address the university's budgetary issues; reorganized the five academic schools into four colleges: College of Agricultural, Life and Natural Sciences; College of Business and Public Affairs; College of Engineering, Technology and Physical Sciences; and the College of Education, Humanities and Behavioral Sciences; established the division and position of Assistant Vice President for Enrollment Management/ Director of Admissions; expanded institutional advancement to provide increased emphasis on marketing and communication; increased funds from external sources by 146%; and hosted the 2010 White House Initiative on Historically Black Colleges and Universities and a National Poultry Conference, jointly sponsored by two United States Cabinet members: U.S. Attorney General Eric Holder and U.S. Department of Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack.

In addition, there have been a number of high-level partnerships. They include signing a Memorandum of Understanding with the Via College of Osteopathic Medicine in partnership with Auburn University; signing a mentor-protégé agreement with NASA/Pratt Whitney Rocketdyne, which was only the third such agreement with an historically black college or university; and signing an MOU with Nanjing Forestry University in China, Universidade Federal De Roraima in Brazil, and several other MOU signings.

During his tenure at South Carolina State University notable among his achievements was the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding with BWXTY-12 of Oakridge Lab which resulted in assignment of high level research executive on loan for three years. Relative to capital improvements, he secured \$33 million for the completion of the science building addition and construction of a new engineering and computer science building. He also secured a \$42 million loan for the construction of a 755-bed apartment style housing complex for students that was later named in his honor. At the time, the loan was the largest non-student aid funding ever provided by the U.S. Department of Education to any institution. He secured, however, a \$96 million funding package at AAMU, a portion of which funded a 580-bed residence facility that opened in 2018. The last funding package from HBCU Capital Access entailed \$70 million to construct the University Event Center (ground breaking was held in 2020) and to continue upgrades.

President Hugine has been recognized for his contributions by several organizations. Other recognitions include serving as Honorary Chair of the Salute to Education during the Centennial Celebration of Omega Psi Phi; honored by the Southern Company and *Essence* Magazine with the Educator Advocate Award at the Evening of Elegance held in conjunction with the Congressional Black Caucus Annual Leadership Conference; and included in the Noteworthynews section of the September 2013 edition of the national publication *Diverse Issues* regarding the improved fiscal health of Alabama A&M University under his leadership. In 2019, he was named Male President of the Year by HBCU Digest.



Dr. Hugine and his wife Abbiegail of more than 40 years have an adult son, Andrew Hugine, III and a daughter-in-law, Karen; an adult daughter, Akilah Hugine-Elmore and a son-in-law, Quincy Elmore; grandsons, Amir and Kal-el; and a granddaughter, Nylah.

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Dr. Quinton T. Ross, Jr., currently serves as the 15<sup>th</sup> President of Alabama State University. Prior to becoming President of his alma mater, he had begun his fourth term in the Alabama State Senate after having been elected to his first term in 2002. While serving in the Senate, Dr. Ross distinguished himself as a true statesman and was one of seven African Americans serving in the Alabama State Senate. In 2015, he was elected as the first African American male Senate Minority Leader and the first Minority Leader elected to a four-year term. During his service, Dr. Ross was an established legislative leader and an unwavering advocate for public education, issues dealing with child safety and the general welfare of all Alabamians. Throughout his legislative tenure, Dr. Ross served on numerous committees, including Bank and Insurance, Confirmation, County and Municipal Government, Transportation and Energy, Military Affairs and the powerful Finance and Taxation Education Committee. He also was Vice-Chair of the Education Youth Affairs Committee.

Born in Mobile, Alabama, and reared in Pontiac, Michigan, Dr. Ross has been a resident of Montgomery, Alabama, for more than two decades. He is a graduate of Alabama State University, where he earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Political Science in 1992, a Master of Arts degree in Education in 1995 and a Doctorate of Education in Educational Leadership, Policy and Law in 2010. Ross lives by his mother's philosophy: "I live simple so that others can simply live."

Dr. Ross is a distinguished career educator with more than 22 years of experience in k-12 public education and higher education. Ross worked in the Montgomery Public School system as a classroom teacher, administrative assistant, assistant principal and a high school Principal, as well as a central office Educational Specialist. He served as the Director of Adult Education at H. Councill Trenholm State Community College. Dr. Ross later became a manager of UniServ Organizing/Staff Consultant to Higher Education for the Alabama Education Association. Ross has made it his mission to be a community advocate for public education and to help young people "grasp the light of knowledge through embracing diversity."

Prior to becoming an educator or being elected to office, Dr. Ross was a Statewide Field Representative for the Alabama Democratic Party and the Alabama

Democratic Conference for a number of years. He has held key positions in numerous political campaigns. Ross served as Co-Chair of the State Advisory Committee for President Barack Obama's first election.



Dr. Ross has received numerous awards and recognitions and has been featured in many publications. He has been honored for his commitment to equity and quality in education. Ross has received The Montgomery Advertiser **King Spirit Award**, K.E.E.P. Production's **Young Legend Award** and the **Daring to Make a Difference Community Service Award**. Ross received the Alabama School Board Association's **Power of One Award** (2009) and recognition by Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., locally, statewide and districtwide as **Citizen of the Year** (2011). Other awards include the Alabama Adult Education Director's Association **2012 Champion Award**, **2015 Citizen of the Year** for the Montgomery Alumni Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta and the **2016 Beloved Community Award** from the Alabama State University Friends of the Theatre. Dr. Ross also was selected by the Business Council of Alabama as a **2017 Business Champion**.

Dr. Ross holds professional memberships in several organizations, such as the National Education Association, National Council of Higher Education, Alabama Education Association, Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., and 100 Black Men, Inc. He is a member of Hutchinson Missionary Baptist Church and its male chorus.

His most notable accomplishment is being a loving husband and father of two sons.





Alabama State University  
National Alumni Association  
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Greetings!!!

On behalf of the Jefferson/Shelby County Metro Chapter of the Alabama State University National Alumni Association, I welcome you to the Spring edition of The *Magic City Classic*!

First, as we're trying to stay safe during a national health pandemic, we are happy that you chose to watch and celebrate one of the longest historic football rivalries. Each year, the Magic City Classic brings us together to support two of the best universities in the state of Alabama. Our annual competition serves as a valuable tool to sharpen each other as we strive to become our best selves. Whether you are on the field or in the stands, we are all here to do what we can to help push our team to victory!

Second, it's never too late or no donation too small as we ask that you support *O' Mother Dear*, her faculty and students by contributing to Jefferson/Shelby Metro Chapter and/or the ASU Foundation programs. Join us in the continuous giving that assists our University to stay viable and *educate* the BEST & BRIGHTEST.

Last, as our dynamic alumni family strives to give back to Alabama State University through our time and talents, we would like you to join us and become a member of our chapter. To visit with us or learn more on how we can help you to connect with ASU, contact me at [president@asujeffersonshelby.org](mailto:president@asujeffersonshelby.org) for more information.

Enjoy the game and as always GO HORNETS!!!!

La-Tanya D. Dunham  
Chapter President  
Class of 1998







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**Student Government Association**

Ralph Lee Student Center

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256/372-5619



April 17, 2021

*Greetings, Alumni and Friends:*

Welcome to the Annual Magic City Classic in the historic city of Birmingham, Alabama. I proudly bring you greetings from Alabama A&M University, the ***greatest*** university on earth--also fondly referred to by equally proud alumni and Normalites as "The Hill."

While we have had a momentary setback because of COVID-19, believe me, the mighty Maroon and White Bulldogs of AAMU are ready and anxious to once again swat into oblivion the black and gold Hornets of Alabama State University. As Student Government Association Executive President, I frequently witness the amazing impact our student athletes make on everyday campus life, as well as their numerous contributions to the community, state, region, and nation.

While AAMU is grateful for the support both schools receive from their students, alumni, faculty and friends, this Classic remains the moment of truth for statewide bragging rights! We also extend a *special* thanks to all the organizers of this fantastic yearly event.

May both universities experience the magic this matchup brings to thousands of supporters. I have no doubt that the mighty Bulldogs will again fight their way into yet another Magic City Classic Championship!

***GO, BULLDOGS!!!***

*Japhe Jelks*

Japhe Jelks, Executive President  
Student Government Association, 2020-21





April 17, 2021



Greetings:

As the 67th President of the Student Government Association, it is my honor to extend greetings to you on behalf of the great students of the greatest university — Alabama State University — on the occasion of the 79th Annual Magic City Classic.

While serving as SGA President during these unprecedented times, I have been working tirelessly in collaboration with the ASU administration to overcome the challenges this pandemic has presented. Despite the drastic changes in the way we interact with each other as a result of COVID-19, I am grateful that we have the opportunity to gather again for one of the most important games of the season, the Magic City Classic.

As this is my final time attending the Magic City Classic as an undergraduate student, I must say that today is bittersweet. On the one hand, I am full of excitement to return to the city of Birmingham to face off against the Bulldogs in another contest for a year's worth of bragging rights; but on the other hand, it saddens me to know that this is my last time experiencing Magic City Classic in this way.

I would like to recognize and thank the city of Birmingham and all of the other sponsors for their continued investment in our HBCUs and the continuation of this special occasion.

While I am sure we are all looking forward to returning to some sense of normality, we must continue to do our part to keep each other safe and healthy. So, please be sure to wear your mask, social distance and follow all other COVID-19 guidelines.

With that being said, let's have a great game. I look forward to cheering the Hornets on to victory!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read 'D. Hammond Jr.'.

David Hammond  
SGA President, 2020-21





A new era for Alabama A&M Athletics began on June 4, 2012 when President Dr. Andrew Hugine Jr. introduced Bryan Hicks as the university's Director of Athletics.

Hicks returned to his alma mater after serving as Missouri State's Associate Athletic Director for Student Development from 2009-2012.

Prior to his arrival in Springfield, Hicks spent 13 years at the University of Louisville as an academic advisor for athletics, compliance coordinator, Associate Director for Academic Services, and the last five years as Assistant Athletic Director for Academics, overseeing the academic responsibility for the university's football program, Papa John Cardinal Stadium computer lab, and other team operations.

Hicks also worked as an assistant coach for men's basketball and multicultural admission coordinator at Warner Pacific College in Portland, Oregon.

The Huntsville native played college basketball and baseball at Tuskegee before returning to his hometown to earn a bachelor's degree in marketing from Alabama A&M in 1992.

In 1996, Hicks earned his master's degree in public administration (MPA) from Portland State.

When Hicks returned to Alabama A&M in 2012 as Director of Athletics, he set the tone early for excellence in all phases of the department's operations.

In his first six months back on "The Hill," Hicks coordinated renovations and upgrades of the football facilities at Louis Crews Stadium and Hobson Field House, along with facility

renovations and upgrades of the men's and women's basketball locker rooms and the men's and women's tennis courts.

In addition, since Hicks' return to Alabama A&M, the university partnered with the City of Huntsville and the Huntsville City Schools Board of Education for the purchase of new artificial field turf for Louis Crews Stadium. This agreement included the usage of Louis Crews Stadium for high school and middle school football games.

Now in his seventh year at Alabama A&M, Hicks continues to work at bringing state-of-the-art facilities to the university's campus.

In 2018, the university completed a marketing, video and display scoreboard project at Louis Crews Stadium. The scoreboard project was a culmination of a year-long fundraising drive through which more than one-million dollars was raised to erect the structure, along with a new digital marquee on Memorial Parkway which will provide advertising opportunities to some 50,000 motorists daily.

Hicks also has worked to enhance the Alabama A&M brand by scheduling FBS programs in football from the Group of 5 conferences. Alabama A&M played Auburn in 2012 and 2016. The Bulldogs also played Georgia Tech in 2013, Vanderbilt in 2017 and Cincinnati in 2018.

Hicks' priorities for Alabama A&M's athletic department are to put the student-athletes first,

be fiscally responsible, maintain

NCAA compliance, win conference championships, and, most



## **ATHLETICS DIRECTOR BRYAN HICKS**

importantly, to exude class in all of those areas.

Hicks completed executive level career development with Collegiate Athletics Leadership Symposium (2011, 2012) and the NCAA Leadership Institute for Ethnic Minority Males (2002). He was Director for the 2012 Missouri Valley Baseball Tournament and sat on the Board of Directors for the Urban League of Portland, Oregon.

Hicks is a member of the National Association of Collegiate Directors of Athletics, Black Coaches and Administrators, National Association of Academic Advisors for Athletics, and Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc.

Hicks and his wife, Kellie, are the parents of three children: Hailey, Sydney and Garrett.





## HEAD COACH



## CONNELL MAYNOR

Alabama A&M University's Director of Athletics, Bryan Hicks, announced the hiring of Connell Maynor as the head football coach on January 16, 2018.

Maynor brings an extensive resume to Alabama A&M, with more than two decades of experience, both as a coach and as a player in the intercollegiate and professional ranks. He has been part of 10 championship teams, six as a player and four as a coach.

Maynor comes to "The Hill" after spending four seasons as the head football coach at Hampton University. While at HU, Maynor led the Pirates to a 20-25 record. He guided the Pirates to two winning seasons, including a 6-5 record and a 5-3 mark in the Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference this past season.

Prior to his stint at HU, he posted a 45-6 overall record and a 29-2 mark in the CIAA as head coach at Winston-Salem State University from 2010-2013. After inheriting a program that went 1-10, he led the Rams to three straight CIAA championships; three straight appearances in the NCAA Division II playoffs; two Super Region One titles; an NCAA Semifinal appearance in 2011; and an NCAA Division II National Championship appearance and runner-up title.

The Rams also captured the 2011 and 2012 HBCU National Football Championships.

Maynor was named CIAA Coach of the Year in 2011 and 2012, Boxtorow HBCU Coach of the Year, Pigskin Club of Washington, D.C. CIAA Coach of the Year, Black College Sports Page BAAD Team Coach of the Year, and Don Hansen Football Gazette Super Region One Coach of the Year.

He was also named the 2011 Sheridan Broadcasting National HBCU Coach of the Year.

Prior to his time at WSSU, Maynor spent 10 seasons at Fayetteville State University as both the quarterbacks coach and offensive coordinator. He helped lead Fayetteville State to four CIAA title game appearances and three CIAA championships (2002, 2003, and 2009).

In addition to his collegiate coaching responsibilities, Maynor is a veteran of 12 years in the Arena Football League (AFL) and is a four-time AFL World Champion having led the Tampa Bay Storm to the 1993 and 1994 World Championships in addition to quarterbacking the Orlando Predators to the 1998 and 2000 World Championship titles. Maynor was named the Arena Bowl Most Valuable Player in 2000.

He served as the Offensive Coordinator for the AFL's Philadelphia Soul from 2006-2008 and helped lead the Soul to the 2008 Arena Bowl XXII World Championship. Under his leadership the Soul ranked first in scoring offense (62 ppg), touchdowns (132), touchdown passes (102) and red zone efficiency (85 percent) in 2008 en route to an Arena Bowl title.

As a college athlete, Maynor played at WSSU and North Carolina A&T State. He was the starting quarterback for WSSU's 1987 CIAA championship football team and was named to the All-CIAA team as a freshman.

He helped led the Aggies to the 1991 MEAC Championship and was named First-Team All-MEAC while also being named the MEAC Offensive Player of the Year.

"I am really excited about the hiring of Coach Maynor. He is a proven winner and excellent coach, but more importantly, he is a great developer of young men," Hicks said. "I would like to thank Dr. Andrew Hugine Jr., Dr. Daniel Wims, the search committee and the Board of Trustees for their continued support of Alabama A&M Athletics."

Maynor received a Bachelor of Arts in Recreation Administration from North Carolina A&T State in 1995.





# 2021 SPRING BULLDOGS ROSTER

#	NAME	CL.	POS.	HT	WT	HOMETOWN
1	Cameron Smith	So.	QB	6-4	190	Fort Lauderdale, Fla. / American Heritage HS
2	Brian Jenkins Jr.	Jr.	WR	5-8	160	Daytona Beach, Fla. / Mainland HS
3	Tyrone Bell	Sr.	QB	6-3	205	Grovetown, Ga. / Savannah State Univ.
4	Aqeel Glass	Sr.	QB	6-5	215	St. Louis, Mo. / Lutheran North HS
5	AJ Harris	Jr.	DB	6-0	180	Madison, Ala. / Univ. of Mississippi
6	Odieu Hilaire	So.	WR	6-0	160	Belle Glade, Fla. / Glades Central HS
7	Antonio Robinson	So.	RB	5-11	180	Decatur, Ala. / Austin HS
8	Zabrian Moore	Sr.	WR	6-3	185	Tuscaloosa, Ala. / Paul Bryant HS
10	Amari Holloway	R-Sr.	CB	6-2	175	Pinson, Ala. / Clay-Chalkville HS
11	Wakefield Keion	Jr.	WR	5-10	175	/
12	Terrell Gardner	Jr.	WR	5-8	160	Birmingham, Ala. / Ramsay HS
13	Justin Cannon	So.	S	6-2	180	Cottondale, Ala. / Paul Bryant HS
14	Dejuan Hughes	Fr.	S	6-2	190	Crawfordville, Fla. / Wakula HS
15	Dami Adekunjo	Sr.	CB	6-0	180	Clinton, Md. /
16	Xaiver Lankford	Fr.	QB	6-2	195	/
17	Tralik Cofield	Sr.	S	5-11	185	/
18	Kobe White	R-Fr.	WR	6-4	190	Santa Monica, Calif. / Santa Monica HS
19	Spencer Corey	R-Jr.	K	6-2	165	New Palestine, Ind. / New Palestine HS
20	Armoni Holloway	Sr.	LB	6-2	175	Pinson, Ala. / Clay-Chalkville HS
21	Justin Mitchell	Sr.	WR	6-3	210	Birmingham, AL / Ramsay HS
23	Gary Quarles	Jr.	RB	5-6	165	Cottondale, Ala. / Paul Bryant HS
24	Caleb Riley	Jr.	CB	5-10	175	Lawrenceville, Ga. / Brookwood HS
25	Ja'Marian Green	Jr.	CB	6-1	180	Belle Glade, Fla. / Glades Central HS
26	Joseph Narcisse	Fr.	CB	6-1	190	Miami, Fla. / Booker T. Washington HS
27	Kenechukwu Eziumum	Fr.	CB	6-1	175	/
28	Ryan Morrow	Fr.	RB	6-0	203	Maplesville, Ala. / Maplesville HS
29	Trenton McGhee	Sr.	S	6-0	205	Jacksonville, Fla. / Florida International Univ.
30	Quantarius Daniel	So.	RB	5-6	145	/
31	Jonathan Struggs	R-So.	S	5-9	180	Montgomery, Ala. / Jefferson Davis HS
32	Dylan Blackburn	Fr.	RB	6-1	208	Madison, Ala. / James Clemens HS
34	Troy Lendvay	Fr.	K	6-2	180	/
35	Khalil Griffin	Fr.	S	6-0	190	Harvest, Ala. / Sparkman HS
36	Quantravis Kelly	R-Sr.	LB	6-1	215	Montgomery, Ala. / Lee HS
37	Harry Crump J	r.	CB	6-1	185	Huntsville, Ala. / Mae Jemison HS
38	Collin Malone	Fr.	RB	5-11	175	Madison, Ala. / James Clemens HS
39	Davon Bradshaw	Fr.	CB	5-11	160	/
40	Michael Makins	Jr.	LB	6-0	225	Atlanta, Ga. / Coastal Carolina Univ.
41	Richard Calloway	Jr.	LB	5-11	210	Orlando, Fla. / Jones HS
42	Evan McGhee	Jr.	LB	6-1	225	Jacksonville, Fla. / Savannah State Univ.
43	Jordan Cumberbatch	Fr.	S	6-0	180	/
44	Eli Jackson	Jr.	DT	6-1	300	Muskegon, Mich. / Muskegon HS
45	Denzel Davis	Sr.	S	5-10	190	Eutaw, Ala. / Greene County HS
46	Osman Savage	Fr.	LB	6-2	230	PG County, Md. / Univ. of Michigan
47	Demarco Gibson	So.	S	6-0	175	Waycross, Ga / Ware County HS
48	JaBraun McNeal	So.	S	6-2	200	Gadsden, Ala. / Gadsden City HS
49	Woodrow Washington	So.	TE	5-11	225	Northport, Ala. / Tuscaloosa County HS





# 2021 SPRING BULLDOGS ROSTER

#	NAME	POS	CL	HT	WT	HOMETOWN
51	Xavier Billingsley	So.	LB	6-2	205	Phenix City, Ala. / Central-Phenix HS
52	Jonathan Williams	So.	OL	6-2	270	Mobile, Ala. / B.C. Rain HS
53	Tyler Tolbert	So.	LB	5-11	220	Birmingham, Ala. / Lindsey Wilson College
54	Maurese Smith	Jr.	DL	6-0	313	Hazel Green, Ala. / Univ. of Tennessee
56	Abram Jones	Sr.	LS	5-11	225	Huntsville, Ala. / Columbia HS
57	Marcus Cushnie	Jr.	DE	6-2	220	Broward County, Fla. / Palm Beach Central HS
58	Tyrell Reid	R-Fr.	DT	6-3	245	Charlotte, N.C. / West Mecklenburg HS
59	Wati Huggins	Fr.	DE	6-2	215	Miami, Fla. / Miami Northwestern HS
61	Dexter Fuqua II	Jr.	OL	6-2	285	Tanner, Ala. / Tanner HS
62	Dylan Swanson	Sr.	OL	6-4	300	/
63	Joshua Anderson	R-Fr.	OL	6-2	280	Snellville, Ga. / South Gwinnett HS
64	Cameron Williams	Fr.	OL	6-2	290	Montgomery, Ala. / Park Crossing HS
65	Taylor Sanders	So.	OL	6-1	250	Livingston, Ala. / Demopolis HS
66	Antearius Harrington	R-So.	OL	6-5	290	Jamestown, N.C. / Ragsdale HS
68	Jamal Irby	So.	DE	6-3	230	Mobile, Ala. / Leflore HS
69	Jalen Carter	So.	DT	6-0	280	McCalla, Ala. / McAdory HS
69	Alic Troutman	So.	DL	6-6	250	Orlando, Fla. / West Oaks Academy
70	Silas Little	R-Fr.	OL	6-2	285	Orange Park, Fla. / Orange Park HS
71	Israel Mukwiza	Fr.	OL	6-2	324	Lawrenceville, Ga. / Archer HS
74	Eddie Maxon	Sr.	OL	6-4	300	Shelby Miss. / Jackson State Univ.
75	Nicholas Crumpler	Fr.	OL	6-2	280	/
76	Carson Vinson	Fr.	OL	6-6	305	Cary, N.C. / Panther Creek HS
77	Adrian Barrett	Fr.	OL	6-4	320	Bartow, Fla. / Bartow Senior HS
78	Nevell Brown	Fr.	OL	6-4	280	West Palm Beach, Fla. / Palm Beach Lakes HS
79	Nicholas Glenn	Fr.	OL	6-0	270	/
80	Cameron Young	So.	WR	5-9	175	Daphne, Ala. / Daphne HS
81	Estmane Lucdor	Fr.	WR	5-10	175	Miami, Fla. / Miami Booker T. Washington HS
82	Bradley Caldwell	Fr.	WR	6-4	170	/
83	Jalen Lewis	Fr.	WR	5-8	145	/
84	Tarez Rutledge	R-So.	WR	6-2	190	Birmingham, Ala. / Ramsey HS
85	Abdul-Fatai Ibrahim	So.	WR	6-1	190	Miramar, Fla. / Miramar HS
86	Jurail Caldwell	R-Fr.	WR	5-11	190	Jacksonville, Fla. / Robert E. Lee HS
87	Anthony Howard	R-Jr.	TE	6-3	230	Birmingham, Ala. / Ramsay HS
88	Bryson Clark	Fr.	TE	6-2	210	Delray Beach, Fla. / Atlantic HS
89	Kendric Johnson	R-Jr.	TE	6-3	235	New Market, Ala. / Buckhorn HS
90	Dreyvione Carter	R-So.	DL	6-4	245	New Market, Ala. / Buckhorn HS
91	Khalil Yelding	Sr.	DT	6-2	315	/
92	Breon Austin	Sr.	DT	6-3	305	Eufaula, Ala. / Eufaula HS
93	Richard McKenzie	Sr.	DE	6-2	215	/
94	Liston Richardson	Fr.	DT	5-10	251	/
95	Hayden Gilford	So.	DE	6-2	220	Loganville, Ga. / Grayson HS
96	Courtney Lee Coleman	Fr.	DT	6-4	255	Madison, Ala. / James Clemens HS
97	Selmar Russell Sr.	DL	5-10	260	Montgomery, Ala. / Alabama Christian Academy	
99	Jalen McGhee Jr.	DL	6-1	270	Atlanta, Ga. / Mays HS	





# SENIORS AND GRADUATE PLAYERS

## SENIORS

#	Player	Pos	Ht	Wt	Yr	Hometown / Previous School / High School
10	Amari Holloway	CB	6-2	175	R-Sr.	Pinson, AL. / Clay-Chalkville HS
36	Quantravis Kelly	LB	6-1	215	R-Sr.	Montgomery, AL. / Lee HS
3	Tyron Bell	QB	6-3	205	Sr.	Grovetown, GA. / Savannah State Univ.
4	Ageel Glass	QB	6-5	215	Sr.	St. Louis, MO. / Lutheran North HS
8	Zabrian Moore	WR	6-3	185	Sr.	Tuscaloosa, AL. / Paul Bryant HS
15	Dami Adekunjo	CB	6-0	180	Sr.	Clinton. MD
17	Tralik Cofield	S	5-11	185	Sr.	
20	Armoni Holloway	LB	6-2	175	Sr.	Pinson, AL. / Clay-Chalkville HS
21	Justin Mitchell	WR	6-3	210	Sr.	Birmingham, AL. / Ramsay HS
29	Trenton McGhee	S	6-0	205	Sr.	Jacksonville, FL. / Florida International Univ.
45	Denzel Davis	S	5-10	190	Sr.	Eutaw, AL. / Greene County HS
66	Abram Jones	LS	5-11	225	Sr.	Huntsville, AL. / Columbia HS
62	Dylan Swanson	OL	6-4	300	Sr.	
74	Eddie Maxon	OL	6-4	300	Sr.	Shelby, MS. / Jackson State Univ.
91	Khalil Yelding	DT	6-2	315	Sr.	
92	Breon Austin	DT	6-3	305	Sr.	Eufaula, AL. / Eufaula HS
93	Richard McKenzie	DE	6-2	215	Sr.	
97	Selmar Russell	DL	5-10	260	Sr.	Montgomery, AL. / Alabama Christian Academy





On October 10, 2018, Jennifer Lynne Williams was elevated to Director of Intercollegiate Athletics at Alabama State University (ASU). Previously, she served as the Interim Athletic Director and Deputy Athletic Director for the Hornets for the 2016-17 and 2017-18 academic years.

Williams brings more than a decade of experience in athletics administration to Alabama State, and has experienced a tremendous amount of success in her first four years in Montgomery. Under her guidance, Alabama State captured its sixth consecutive Southwestern Athletic Conference (SWAC) Commissioner's Cup by winning 10 conference championships. The Hornets' program also captured three regular season conference (or divisional) championships and had two teams finish as conference runners-up and another finish in the top four in postseason tournaments.

Not only did Alabama State shine on the field, but it also did in the classroom. The Hornets were recognized by the SWAC as the recipient of the conference Academic Award, which is given to the athletic program with the most student-athletes with a GPA of 3.0 or higher. Success continued off the field for the Hornets as student-athletes, coaches and staff embraced Williams' motto of "committing to connect," with many serving actively in the community and presenting nationally in their respective areas.

the Seahawk Club at the University of North Carolina-Wilmington (2008-09). She began her career in athletic administration at North Carolina Central University in 2005.

A four-year letterman and two-year captain in women's basketball at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Williams began her professional career as a reporter for the Tar Heel Sports Network and as a production assistant for Fox Sports South. The Detroit, MI, native earned her bachelor's degree as a double major in journalism and African-American history at North Carolina, and a master's degree in athletic administration from North Carolina Central University (NCCU), where she graduated magna cum laude.

In 2018 Williams was appointed to the NCAA Division I Council, where she serves on the Football Oversight Committee as part of her council duties; and is in her fourth year as an Executive Committee Member of the National Association of Athletic Development Directors (NAADD), an organization that enhances the athletics development and fundraising

At ASU, Williams serves on the President's executive leadership team and manages the day-to-day operations of Hornet Athletics. Williams has direct oversight of the Hornet Club, the official fundraising arm of ASU Athletics, and she serves as the sport administrator for football, men's basketball and baseball.

Williams came to Alabama State after spending four years as the Associate Athletic Director for Development and Executive Director of the Aggie Athletic Foundation at North Carolina A&T State University. There, Williams oversaw all giving initiatives for athletics, establishing and implementing aggressive fundraising programs, while overseeing the athletics marketing department. She was also the liaison between IMG Sports Properties and the department of athletics.

During her time in Aggieland, Williams raised more than \$4 million in revenue, while doubling the number of donors to athletics. In 2014, the Aggie Athletic Foundation was recognized as a model booster organization by the Council for Advancement and Support of Education (CASE).

Prior to arriving at NC A&T State University, Williams worked at DePaul University as the Assistant Director of Development for Athletics (2009-12). There, she was responsible for advancing DePaul's athletic fundraising and alumni relationship efforts, increasing annual giving, and producing high-level communication pieces for athletic events and fundraising initiatives.

Williams worked in development and marketing for Women Leaders in College Sports (formerly the National Association of Collegiate Women Athletics Administrators) and volunteered with

profession by providing educational, ethical and networking support.

She also serves on the Women Leaders in College Sports Board of Directors, the NCAA Board of Governors Committee to Promote Cultural Diversity and Equity, the Black AD Alliance, and was recently appointed to the Black Coaches United Board of Directors.

Because of her commitment and service to the industry, Williams was named the 2018 Women Leaders in College Sports Division I (FCS) Administrator of the Year; she was also recognized by her alma mater, North Carolina Central, as a 40 under 40 Class of 2016 honoree, recognizing young NCCU alumni who have made significant contributions in the arts, entertainment, healthcare, sciences, education, law, business, entrepreneurship, philanthropy, public service or government.

Williams currently resides in Montgomery, AL, with her husband, Valdez; daughter, Harper Lynne; and son, Jackson.





**Donald Hill-Eley** is in his sixth season at Alabama State University, and was named the Head Football Coach of the program on December 7 following a stint as the Interim Head Coach.

Eley was named to the Interim role on October 6, 2017 after an 0-5 start to the season, and guided the Hornets to five wins in their final six games including a victory in the Magic City Classic over Alabama A&M and a pair of wins on opponents' homecoming weekends. He also guided the Hornets to four road wins to close the season, all in conference play.

Through two seasons with Alabama State, Eley has posted a 9-8 record, after posting a 4-7 record in his first full season as head coach. He coached the first-ever first round pick in the NFL Draft, Tytus Howard during his time at Alabama State.

In 2019, the Hornets emerged as an offensive threat led by talented junior receiver Michael Jefferson who caught 12 touchdown receptions during the year. The Hornets recorded back-to-back wins for the first time 2017, and under Eley have won back-to-back games against in-state foe Tuskegee - the first time since that happened since 1994-95.

Offensively, Alabama State averaged 14 points per game and scored 20-plus points three times under Eley including a season-high 37 in the Turkey Day Classic against Edward Waters. The Hornets averaged 239.7 yards of total offense, with 142.7 of those coming on the ground under Eley.

He came to Alabama State after a one-year stint as wide receivers coach at Norfolk State, and was responsible tight ends and special teams.

After Eley took over the Hornets, the team finished atop the Southwestern Athletic Conference (SWAC) in both scoring defense and total defense. The Hornets allowed 18.0 points per game and allowed opposing teams 303.5 yards per game of total offense. The defense held opponents to just 155.64 yards through the air.

Offensively, Alabama State averaged 14 points per game and scored 20-plus points three times under Eley including a season-high 37 in the Turkey Day Classic against Edward Waters. The Hornets averaged 239.7 yards of total offense, with 142.7 of those coming on the ground under Eley.

During the 2016 season, Alabama State used four quarterbacks who combined to throw for 1,824 yards, while averaging 165.8 per game. Also the quarterbacks tossed 11 touchdown passes. In 2015, Alabama State used three quarterbacks who combined to throw for 2,104 yards and 14 touchdowns while completing 60 percent of their passes. Alabama State's passing game averaged 191.3 yards per game which was sixth in the SWAC. Their 60.1 percent completion percentage was second and its 7.1 yards per completion was fourth.

## **BEFORE ALABAMA STATE**

The long-time Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference (MEAC) coach spent 13 seasons at Morgan State (2001-13). After his first season as offensive coordinator, Eley spent the final 12 as head coach and was named 2002 MEAC Coach of the year. His 59 wins rank third all-time in Bears' history.

He spent four seasons at Hampton (1997-2000) as offensive coordinator and pro liaison, helping the Pirates win an HBCU National Championship, two MEAC titles, and the 1999 Heritage Bowl.



## **PROFESSIONAL COACHING CAREER**

Eley spent four seasons in professional football in the Canadian Football League, first with the Baltimore Stallions (1994-95) as receivers' coach before two seasons with the Toronto Argonauts as a guest coach (1996-97). Hill was on the staff of three straight Grey Cup championship teams (1995-97) during his time in the CFL.

## **PERSONAL**

After graduating from Virginia Union, he entered the coaching ranks at his alma mater in 1991 before becoming a graduate assistant at Hampton in 1992, where he received his master's in counseling in 1995. He completed his Ph.D. at Morgan State in the past year. Eley is a member of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., and a Prince Hall Mason.

He is married to the former Kelley Butler, and is the father of Ayinde and Jacob.



# ASSISTANT (POSITION) COACHES

## OFFENSE



**Benton Harold**  
Assistant Head Coach  
Tight Ends | Special Teams



**Jim Popp**  
Assistant Head Coach  
Player Personnel



**Joe Blackwell**  
Offensive Coordinator  
Running Backs



**Richard Moncrief**  
Quarterbacks



**Sean Anderson**  
Receivers



**Ashton Green**  
Offensive Line

## DEFENSE



**Travis Pearson**  
Defensive Coordinator  
Safeties



**Tracy Buckhannon**  
Inside Linebackers



**Billy Gresham**  
Outside Linebackers  
Recruiting Coordinator



**Anthony Taylor**  
Defensive Line



**Gary Howard**  
Quality Control Defense



**Amp Campbell**  
Cornerbacks

## OPERATIONS AND MEDIA



**Joe Wright**  
Director of Operations



**Aja Bailey**  
Video Coordinator





## 2021 SPRING HORNETS ROSTER

#	Player	Pos	Ht	Wt	Yr	Hometown / Previous School / High School
1	Jeremiah Hixon	WR	5-11	165	R-So.	Spanish Fort, Ala. / Spanish Fort HS
2	Jacory Merritt	RB	5-11	184	So.	Montgomery, Ala. / Sidney Lanier HS
3	Demosthenes Jones	QB	6-2	195	Jr.	Jackson, Miss. / Hinds CC
3	Alondras Strong	DB	5-11	172	R-So.	Hazel Green, Ala. / UAB
4	Colton Adams	LB	6-2	230	So.	Wetumpka, Ala. / Wetumpka HS
4	Dante Norris	RB	6-0	225	So.	Warrensville, Ohio / Warrensville Heights HS
5	Naytron Culpepper	DB	6-1	198	Jr.	Miami, Fla. / South Florida
6	Irshaad Davis	DB	5-9	182	So.	Opa Locka, Fla. / Carol City HS
6	Keron Jones	WR	5-10	166	R-Fr.	Oxon Hill, Md. / Potomac HS
7	Jacob Frazier	QB	6-0	185	Jr.	Magnolia, Texas / Kilgore JC
8	Bryan West	WR	5-10	140	R-So.	Cleveland Heights, Ohio / Glenville HS
9	Joshua Knight	WR	5-10	181	Jr.	Montgomery, Ala. / Park Crossing HS
10	Keenan Isaac	DB	6-3	187	Jr.	Midfield, Ala. / Midfield HS
10	Aaron Pope	DB	6-0	181	R-Sr.	Cleveland, Ohio / Glenville HS
11	Chris Scott	QB	6-4	192	R-So.	Natchez, Miss. / East Mississippi CC
12	Myles Crawley	QB	6-4	214	Fr.	Tucker, Ga. / Tucker HS
13	Ryan Nettles	QB	6-4	198	R-Fr.	Evergreen, Ala. / Hillcrest HS
14	Joe Owens, Jr.	QB	6-4	191	Fr.	Piedmont, S.C. / Wren HS
14	Grantis Poole	WR	5-9	177	R-Fr.	Hollywood, Fla. / Chaminade-Madonna HS
15	Jahod Booker	WR	5-11	182	R-Jr.	Montgomery, Ala. / Memphis
16	Nicholas Terry	LB	6-4	245	Sr.	Youngstown, Ohio / Fort Union Military Academy
17	Daniel Troutman	DB	6-0	201	R-Jr.	Atlanta, Ga. / Mays HS
18	Abdou Diop	TE	6-3	220	Jr.	Harlem, N.Y. / ASA Brooklyn
19	Michael Jefferson	WR	6-3	195	Jr.	Mobile, Ala. / Murphy HS
20	Ezra Gray	RB	5-9	171	R-Sr.	Lynn Haven, Fla. / Mosley HS
21	Cosmin Diaconu	K	5-9	170	So.	Prattville, Ala. / Troy
22	Robert Rivers	RB	5-11	206	So.	Ocala, Fla. / Mississippi State
23	Darius King	LB	5-11	241	R-Sr.	Phenix City, Ala. / Central HS
24	Joshua Fisher	DB	5-11	159	R-So.	Riverside, Calif. / King HS
25	Rodney Echols	DB	5-10	172	Fr.	Orlando, Fla. / Jones HS
26	Trevor Robinson	DB	6-1	180	Fr.	Montgomery, Ala. / Park Crossing HS
27	James Burgess	DB	6-3	168	Fr.	Center Point, Ala. / Huffman HS
28	Daniel Neal	WR	5-11	172	R-Fr.	Warner Robins, Ga. / Northside Warner Robins HS
29	Eric Felts	DB	5-11	184	So.	Eight Mile, Ala. / Vigor HS
30	Claudio Quintanilla	K/P	5-10	197	R-So.	Atlanta, Ga. / Tri-Cities HS
32	Sean Harper	DB	6-1	208	R-Jr.	Fayette County, Ga. / Tulane
33	Alaine Wint	DB	5-11	161	R-Sr.	Sunrise, Fla. / Piper HS
34	Jared Daniels	RB	5-9	187	R-Jr.	Oglethorpe, Ga. / Georgia Southern
35	Jeffrey Scott	DB	5-10	190	Jr.	Vicksburg, Miss. / Vicksburg HS / Melbourne Central
36	Dontrey Manley	RB	5-10	192	R-So.	Union Springs, Ala. / Bullock County HS
37	Jaquan Foote	LB	6-0	218	R-Fr.	Opelika, Ala. / Austin Peay
38	Xavius Mitchell	DB	5-9	160	R-So.	Lithonia, Ga. / Arabia Mountain HS
39	Aubrey Grace	P/K	6-0	166	Fr.	Montgomery, Ala. / Pike Road HS
40	Devonte Webster	LB	6-1	203	R-So.	Columbus, Ga. / Spencer HS
42	Deanjelo Anderson	LB	6-3	233	Jr.	Prichard, Ala. / UAB
42	Karsten Threatt	LB	6-1	220	Fr.	Midfield, Ala. / Midfield HS
43	Christian McDowell	DB	5-11	163	R-Fr.	Edgewood, Md. / Edgewood HS
44	Devin Chambliss	DL	6-0	241	R-Fr.	Suffolk, Va. / King's Fork HS
45	Cameron Rampersaud	DL	6-4	228	R-Sr.	Kissimmee, Fla. / N.D. State College of Sciences





## 2021 SPRING HORNETS ROSTER

#	Player	Pos	Ht	Wt	Yr	Hometown / Previous School / High School
46	Jake Howard	LB	6-1	214	R-Fr.	Prattville, Ala. / Prattville HS
47	Bryce Webster	DB	6-1	198	R-So.	Columbus, Ga. / Spencer HS
48	Jamaal Gelsey	LB	6-0	230	Fr.	Jacksonville, Fla. / First Coast HS
49	Kevin Olds	LB	6-1	227	R-Fr.	Richmond, Va. / Perrysburg HS
50	Devin Delaine	LB	6-1	209	Fr.	Hampton, Ga. / Dutchtown HS
50	Ja'Marion Johnson	LB	6-0	242	Sr.	St. Louis, Mo. / Fort Scott CC
52	Austin Brundidge	LB	5-11	230	R-Jr.	Birmingham, Ala. / Presbyterian
53	DeMarkus Cunningham	LB	6-2	214	Fr.	Bessemer, Ala. / Bessemer City HS
53	Hunter Hanson	PK	5-9	182	Sr.	Montgomery, Ala. / Alabama Christian Academy
54	Luke Barnes	LS	6-1	214	Sr.	Tempe, Ariz. / Mesa CC
55	Samuel Blackshear	OL	6-1	257	R-Fr.	Montgomery, Ala. / Sidney Lanier HS
56	Dylan Creech	LB	6-0	224	Fr.	Geneva, Ala. / Geneva HS
56	Jeffrey Flowers	LB	6-2	213	R-Fr.	Montgomery, Ala. / Alabama Christian Academy
57	Christian Lee	LB	6-3	235	Fr.	Palm Beach Gardens, Fla. / Dwyer HS
58	Darius Whitehurst	LB	6-0	227	Gr.	Norfolk, Va. / Virginia Union
59	Abraham Adesipe	LB	6-3	198	R-Jr.	Houston, Texas / Alief Taylor HS
60	Josh Anjorin	OL	6-3	294	R-Fr.	Douglasville, Ga. / New Manchester HS
63	Robert Alston	OL	6-3	312	R-Fr.	Linden, Ala. / Linden HS
66	Taurrian Stafford	OL	6-5	366	R-So.	Miami Beach, Fla. / Miami Central HS
67	Trevonte Howard	OL	6-4	354	R-Jr.	Union Springs, Ala. / Bullock County HS
70	Corbin Grant	DL	6-0	290	Fr.	Montgomery, Ala. / Pike Road HS
71	Charlie Maxwell	OL	6-4	275	R-So.	Florence, Ala. / Florence HS
73	Travon Taylor	OL	6-4	287	R-Fr.	Miami, Fla. / Miami Central HS
74	Juwan Hayes	OL	6-2	300	R-Fr.	Columbia, S.C. / Heathwood Hall Episcopal HS
76	Jimmie Jenkins	OL	6-4	271	R-Fr.	Cleveland, Ohio / Glenville HS
77	Randall Smith	DL	6-4	255	Sr.	Panama City, Fla. / Rutherford HS
79	Herbert Parham	OL	5-11	373	R-So.	Edgewood, Md. / Edgewood HS
81	Kisean Johnson	WR	6-2	204	Fr.	Birmingham, Ala. / Ramsay HS
82	Tevin Sharpe	TE	5-10	179	R-So.	Selma, Ala. / UAB
83	Terrance Ellis	TE	6-4	231	R-So.	Stockbridge, Ga. / Woodland HS
84	Wallace Corker	WR	6-4	176	R-Jr.	Stockbridge, Ga. / Woodland HS
85	Dre'lin Potts	WR	6-4	193	So.	Hogansville, Ga. / Callaway HS
87	Kambree Johnson	WR	5-11	164	Fr.	Birmingham, Ala. / Parker HS
88	E'Shawn Mayes	TE	6-3	231	Fr.	Hephzibah, Ga. / Hephzibah HS
89	Di'mon Stewart	WR	6-0	185	R-Fr.	Fort Lauderdale, Fla. / Cardinal Gibbons HS
90	Romello Tarver	DL	6-3	314	So.	Montgomery, Ala. / Park Crossing HS
92	Andrew Ogletree	DL	6-4	285	R-So.	Columbus, Ga. / Carver HS
94	Christian Clark	DL	6-1	363	R-Sr.	Cleveland, Ohio / Glenville HS
95	Janil Brown	DL	6-3	327	Jr.	West Palm Beach, Fla. / Garden City CC
96	J'Lan Carson	DL	5-11	284	R-Sr.	Phenix City, Ala. / Central HS
99	Brandon Gaddy	DL	6-3	320	R-Jr.	Virginia Beach, Va. / Maryland
	Vamir Cadet	RB	5-10	179	Fr.	Hollywood, Fla. / McArthur HS
	Gavin Edwards	DB	6-1	167	Fr.	Alexander City, Ala. / Benjamin Russell HS
	Rashawn Gallaspy	DL	6-3	290	Fr.	Jackson, Miss. / Salmen HS
	DJ Gray	TE	6-4	225	Fr.	Gainesville, Ga. / East Hall HS
	Ta'Ron Greenwood	DB	6-3	167	R-Fr.	Huntsville, Ala. / Mae Jemison HS





## 2021 SPRING HORNETS ROSTER

#	Player	Pos	Ht	Wt	Yr	Hometown / Previous School / High School
	Enrico Harden	DB	5-10	175	Fr.	Forsyth, Ga. / Mary Persons HS
	Awysum Harris	LB	6-4	233	Fr.	Decatur, Ala. / Austin HS
	Samuel Holmes	DB	6-1	153	So.	Alabaster, Ala. / Thompson HS
	Kimar Martin	DB	5-9	178	R-Sr.	Deerfield Beach, Fla. / Deerfield Beach HS
	Marcus Robinson-Jenkins	RB	5-10	189	Fr.	Harrisonburg, Va. / Harrisonburg HS
	Keeundra Salter	OL	6-3	278	Fr.	Montgomery, Ala. / Robert E. Lee HS
	Marquez Spencer	WR	6-0	183	Sr.	Atlanta, Ga. / Coffeyville CC
	Treqwan Thomas	LB	6-1	215	Fr.	Orlando, Fla. / Jones HS
	Malik Washington	LB	6-2	230	Fr.	Kennesaw, Ga / North Cobb HS
	Jaeden Woods-Davis	DB	6-0	185	R-Fr.	Anniston, Ala. / Anniston HS





## 2021 CAPTAINS AND SENIORS

### CAPTAINS

#	Player	Pos	Ht	Wt	Yr	Hometown / Previous School / High School
20	Ezra Gray	RB	5-9	180	Sr.	Lynn Haven, FL. / Mosley HS

### SENIORS

#	Player	Pos	Ht	Wt	Yr	Hometown / Previous School / High School
16	Nicholas Terry	LB	6-4	235	Sr.	Youngstown, OH. / Fort Union Military Academy
20	Ezra Gray	RB	5-9	180	Sr.	Lynn Haven, FL. / Mosley HS
23	Darius King	LB	5-11	222	Sr.	Phenix City, AL. / Central HS
33	Alaine Wint	DB	5-11	170	Sr.	Sunrise, FL. / Piper HS
45	Cameron Rapersaud	DL	6-4	271	Sr.	Kissimmee, FL. / Liberty HS
50	Ja'Marion Johnson	LB	6-0	230	Sr.	St. Louis, MO. / Chaminade College Prep
53	Hunter Hanson	K	5-9	181	Sr.	Montgomery, AL. / Alabama Christian Academy
54	Luke Barnes	LS	6-1	200	Sr.	Tempe, AZ. / Marcos de Niza HS
58	Darius Whitehurst	LB	6-0	225	Gr.	Norfolk, VA. / Bishop Sullivan HS
77	Randall Smith	DL	6-4	280	Sr.	Panama City, FL. / Rutherford HS
94	Christian Clark	DL	6-1	363	Sr.	Cleveland, OH. / Glenville HS
96	J'Lan Carson	DL	5-11	290	Sr.	Phenix City, AL. / Central HS





Rakia Simone Bates is a native of Chicago, Illinois. She is the daughter of Renard Bates and Crystal Goodard. She graduated from Lindblom Math and Science Academy with advanced endorsement and college credits. During her high school years, she served as a member of the drum major and softball teams, and has been a mentor to younger students.

During her tenure on the campus Alabama Agricultural and Mechanical University - “The Hill” - began in August 2017. Rakia is a graduating senior, pursuing a Bachelor’s of Science degree in Elementary Education. She enjoys working with the young and strives to make an impact by serving underserved communities. She plans to become a school teacher and eventually, a principal. She is a merit scholarship recipient and has remained on the university’s Dean’s list and Honor Roll. She is an active member of many organizations. She serves as the journalist of the Delta Delta chapter of Alpha Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated, a member of Phi Beta Lambda Business Fraternity, Incorporated, Ward Modeling Troop Incorporated, and The AAMU Honors Program.

In 2020, Rakia founded her very own scholarship and mentoring program titled, “The Rakia E. Bates Scholarship Program”. Last year, she awarded two Alabama A&M freshmen with a back to school scholarship. She continues to provide ongoing support throughout the school year for students, as a part of her program. Scholarship and success has always been at the forefront of her life.

As Miss Alabama A&M University, she intends to fulfill her platform, “InsideHER” with Honoring for Honoring the Authenticity of Everyone’s True Rawness. The message behind her platform is to implement ways that students can become the best version of themselves by being transparent and maintaining an authentic image while promoting leadership.





Yasmine Whitehurst is a 23-year-old Senior who majors in Interdisciplinary Studies and has three minors in Business, General Education and Physical Education. She hails from Shreveport, Louisiana, where she graduated from C.E. Byrd High School with a 4.3 GPA and ranked number 11 out of 563 students in her class. Whitehurst is an innately dedicated student who always strives to put her best foot forward. In high school, she was heavily involved in academic, service and social clubs. She initiated various community projects and scholarship programs such as the Holly Jolly Christmas Service Day, Beauty and the Brain Scholarship and the Prom Angel Giveaway. After various high school experiences, Whitehurst continued to achieve as she began her collegiate journey.

In 2015, Whitehurst enrolled in Louisiana State University where she developed her passion for fitness and educating others. One year later, she decided to transfer to Southern University in an effort to gain the HBCU experience. She participated in various organizations and activities such as Gold 'N Bluez Dance Team, ELEV8N Dance Troupe and Collegiate 100 Black Women. She also had the pleasure of serving as the 2017 Miss Men's Federation. This is when Whitehurst was able to gain confidence and assurance of the greatness she possessed.

In 2017, Whitehurst decided to step out on faith and transfer to Alabama State University. She was inspired by the Sensational Stingettes and Mighty Marching Hornets Band and desired to join. Only two weeks before auditions, she officially became a member of Hornet Nation. From that moment forward, Whitehurst was able to achieve far more than her expectations. She was selected for the 2017 Stingettes and 2018 Stingette Captain, joined Beta Phi Alpha Dance Honor Society, Radiant Souls Community Service

Organization, Tau Beta Sigma National Honorary Band Sorority and Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated.

Alabama State University has granted Whitehurst with various opportunities to network and build her platform. She has led the Tournament of Roses Parade in Pasadena, CA, served as a Supplemental Instruction Tutor for the Math Lab and has been featured in commercials, dance shows and various university productions.

As Miss Alabama State University, Whitehurst stands on the platform of Elevate the C.U.L.T.U.R.E. where she aims



to uplift the love, pride and passion for ASU. She works to achieve this environment by Connecting, Unifying, Leaping in Faith, Teaching, Uplifting, Representing and Enhancing the Experience for all students and staff. She has already implemented a variety of her initiatives such as the Build-A-Hornet Mentoring Program and Hornet Day of Service.

Even during the pandemic, Whitehurst continues to serve the student body and university through creative programs, events and activities. She plans to achieve and accomplish her goals despite unforeseen circumstances. Whitehurst strives to exceed expectations and to set a high standard for the ASU community. Her career aspirations are to own a dance/fitness center, start a luxury wig collection and spread her light across the world. She knows that with God, all things are possible.





# AAMU MARCHING BAND

The Alabama A&M University (AAMU) Band Program has been in existence since 1890. The progress of the band has been engineered by an outstanding team of musicians and educators. Among them are: **William Grant Still, Sr.**, who was the father of the renowned African-American composer, *William Grant Still, Jr.*, **Professor (W.C.) Handy**, known as the “Father of the Blues”, **Wade Hammonds**, the first Black to be appointed as Chief Musician (Band Master of the United State Army Band), **Thomas Dawson**, **James Wilson**, **Barney Smart Sr.**, **Arthur B. Wesley II**, and **Derrick K. Yates**. The band is currently under the leadership of **Carlton J. Wright**, a 1986 Graduate of AAMU. The assistant director is **Mario Warren**.

The University Bands consist of the Marching “Maroon & White” Band (MMW), the Wind Ensemble, the Symphonic Band, the Jazz Ensemble, the Pep Band, and several other small groups. With an average membership of 230 students, the MMW Band *mainly* performs during the fall football season. Membership is open to all qualified students enrolled at the University, regardless of their major field of study. Ninety-five percent of its members receive band scholarships.

The MMW Band has established a strong sense of pride throughout the student body, faculty, alumni, and the community at large. The band’s impeccable sound, precision, and showmanship prompted the *Birmingham Grid Forecasters* to award the MMW Band with “Band of the Year Honors” for the years 1983, 1986, 1989, 1991, 1993, 1994, 1996, 1997, 1998, and 1999.

On November 27, 1983, the band provided half-time entertainment at the Fulton County Stadium for the *Atlanta Falcons vs. Green Bay Packers* football game, which was televised nationally by CBS.

On January 15, 1990, the MMW Band led the parade for the “March of Celebration” which saluted the **Fifth National Holiday** honoring Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. The parade was televised live by the Turner Broadcasting system (TBS), and was seen by several million viewers.

During the year of 2000, the MMW Band was featured in a documentary film titled “Take the Field.” The Band was also featured on a CD by the R&B group **Lucy Pearl** called “*Dance Tonight*” (the remix #5 “*Lucy Pearl Tells*”). On January 30, 2005, the band made its first of several appearances at the *Honda Battle of Bands* which took place in the former Georgia Dome, in Atlanta, GA.

On January 2, 2006, the MMW Band traveled to Pasadena, CA to participate in the 117<sup>th</sup> **Tournament of Roses Parade**. The University Wind Ensemble and Jazz Ensemble have traveled extensively during the spring semesters; performing in Nashville and Chattanooga, TN; Atlanta and Fayetteville, GA; St. Louis, MO; Pensacola, FL; Mobile, Montgomery, and Birmingham, AL.

Other noted performances include:

- 2013- AAMU vs ASU @ USA, Mobile, Alabama
- 2013- SWAC Battle of the Bands, Houston, Texas
- 2014- Atlanta Honda Battle of the Bands, Atlanta, Georgia
- 2015- Simmons College HBCU Celebration, Louisville, Kentucky
- 2015- Queen City Battle of the Bands, Charlotte, North Carolina
- 2016- Honda Battle of the Bands, Atlanta, Georgia
- 2017- Honda Battle of the Bands, Atlanta, Georgia
- 2018- Honda Battle of the Bands, Atlanta, Georgia
- 2019- Tournament of Roses Parade, Pasadena, California (Percussion Section)
- 2019- The Battle for Birmingham



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# THE MIGHTY MARCHING HORNETS OF ALABAMA STATE UNIVERSITY

Electrifying...Exhilarating...Extraordinary...When the Mighty Marching Hornets take to the field, there just aren't enough adjectives to describe the showmanship of their performances.

From the unique "double time" steps to the melting lean of the legendary drum majors, from the stunning Stingettes to the wildly popular Honey Beez, the Marching Hornets' show time is one that fans, young and old, look forward to with eager anticipation.

The Mighty Marching Hornets tradition dates back to the 1940s and transitioned in 1964 under the leadership of Dr. Thomas E. Lyle. In 2000, James Oliver returned to his alma mater to continue the legacy begun by his mentor, keeping alive the tradition of skilled musicianship coupled with dazzling choreography.

## "BAMA STATE STYLE"

On April 17, 2015, the Lifetime Network premiered "Bama State Style," a weekly television reality show featuring Oliver and the Mighty Marching Hornets. The show gave viewers a behind-the-scenes look at how the grueling hours of practice, the competition and the camaraderie work together to make the Marching Hornets one of the top bands in the country. "Bama State Style" was an instant hit, which was proven by the ratings. The series' premier helped the Lifetime Network jump to a double-digit increase in viewers for the show's time slot; and among total viewers, the premier of "Bama State Style" drove Lifetime Network to rank eighth among cable networks with original programming.

The Mighty Marching Hornets returned to the big screen in 2016 in the movie, "Billy Lynn's Long Halftime Walk," starring Vin Diesel, Joe Alwyn, Steve Martin and Chris Tucker. Most recently, the Marching Hornets were featured on the nationally popular A&E television show, "Ozzy and Jack's World Detour," with mega-star Ozzy Osbourne and his son, Jack. The Osbourne's and their film crew visited the campus and enjoyed a private performance by the band. The band drew a standing ovation from the Osbournes with their renditions of several Black Sabbath songs, including "Iron Man."

The band also has received national attention through its two dance groups. The Honey Beez appeared on "America's Got Talent," "Showtime at the Apollo," the "Steve Harvey" television show and the ESPN show "UNITE." The Stingettes were background dancers with R&B artist Robin Thicke on MTV's 2013 VMA broadcast and appear in the video for Thicke's single, "Give it 2 Me," along with former ASU basketball standout and award-winning rapper, 2 Chainz.

## THE PRICE OF GLORY

Whether they are performing on national television, or before Hornets fans in the ASU Stadium or at Legion Field, with each step, each drill, each turn and each syncopated move, the Mighty Marching Hornets exemplify their motto, "The Price of Glory is High!"



# WJAB

## 90.9 FM

Smooth Jazz & Cool Vocals



WJAB 90.9 FM is a National Public Radio-affiliated college radio station in Huntsville, Alabama. It primarily features jazz, blues, gospel, news and sports to listeners in the northern counties of Alabama and many counties in southern middle Tennessee.

WJAB's signal travels an approximate a 120-mile radius.

The 100,000-watt station is licensed to Alabama A&M University (Normal, Alabama), which is actually located within the city of Huntsville. AAMU's Electronic Media Communications unit operates the station partly as a laboratory for student announcers, producers, and journalists.

After more than a decade of attempts, AAMU first aired on October 2, 1991. Since that time, the station has consistently placed the concerns of its listeners in high regard with programming such as interview shows, more music variety and live broadcasts of AAMU football and men's basketball games.

The station was assigned the WJAB call letters by the Federal Communications Commission on January 23, 1990. Among its affiliations are National Public Radio, The African American Public Radio Consortium, Public Radio International and the American Urban Radio Network.



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WVAS-FM, 90.7, has been the "Voice of Alabama State University" for more than 30 years. The station broadcasts at 80,000 watts 24 hours a day and is the only full-time jazz station in the southern half of Alabama, reaching 17 counties in the south central portion of the state. The station's programming also is heard globally via the worldwide web.

WVAS provides communications majors enrolled at Alabama State University with hands-on, practical broadcast experience in a professional environment. The station has earned numerous awards from the Alabama Broadcasters Association and the Alabama Press Association for its news, commentary, special programming and on-air talent.





VS.



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