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Partners of NEAM Technology Solutions. L-R: Nicholas Perez, Blaise Dampier, Andrew Anglin, Elikem Des-Amekudi (CEO)

Student Entrepreneurs Win Big!

Shaw University student entrepreneurs achieved remarkable success in the Main Street Entrepreneurship Accelerator program, offered by Wake Tech Community College and available to Shaw University students through a partnership with the Shaw University Innovation and Entrepreneurship Center, winning first and second place in the program's business plan pitch competition. The Accelerator required students to pitch their businesses in a rigorous elimination round process with the final competition occurring on May 3.

NEAM Technology Solutions, a development company that aims to provide outstanding value to people and entities through software, secured the first-place prize of \$25,000. Led by Shaw University alumni Elikem Des-Amekudi (CEO) and

Andrew Anglin, and current students Blaise Dampier and Nicholas Perez, the company used their winnings to further develop a mobile app designed to enhance educational success. Dampier represented the group in the business pitch competition.

Devin Versteegen, a Shaw University student and owner of DT Media & Rentals, claimed the second-place prize of \$7,500. His business offers photography, cinematography, and equipment rental services. His winnings enabled him to expand his equipment inventory and network within his industry.

Five Shaw University students successfully completed the Entrepreneurship for Skilled Trades and Professionals course in partnership with Wake Tech Community College. This course paved the way for participation in the Main Street Entrepreneurship Accelerator program, where students competed for a



combined grant of \$42,500 to fund their business ideas.

Dr. T. Nichole Phillips, Director of the Innovation and Entrepreneurship Center at Shaw University, housed within the School of Business and Professional Studies, stated, "This program provides an excellent platform for our students to refine their entrepreneurial skills and compete for essential funding. These achievements reflect their dedication, and I look forward to witnessing their continued entrepreneurial growth."

The Power of WE

SBPS: Synergistic Body of Professionals Succeeding. That's who WE are!



You may be wondering what the secret of this high-performing team is? It's fairly simple. We value and care about each other and are aligned in purpose—providing quality education, mentorship, and leadership development for our students.

As dean, I am delighted that the web of positivity that connects our students, faculty, staff, alumni and other external partners is growing stronger with time. This is not accidental; neither is it a matter of coincidence. Our approach is intentional, arising from a culture designed to model, expect, and reward excellence. In essence we have co-created a strong and effective ecosystem reflected in student success.

Resources are tight, but community, collaboration and the network of support are resulting in amazing outcomes. Be sure to check out highlights of the last six months in this issue of *Accolades*.

In SBPS, we know and show that the collective power of those who work towards a common purpose far exceeds what could be accomplished individually. In short: **relationships truly matter.**

—Dr. Lynette Wood



The semiannual newsletter of the Shaw University School of Business & Professional Studies, presenting news and features illustrating the advancement of the mission and vision of the School.

Business Major Field Test Scores Soar

The Pursuit of Excellence Is Paying Off!

Student performance on the Major Field Test (MFT) in Business has improved significantly this year. In April 2023, of the 17 students who completed the standardized test, four scored at the 99th percentile. The mean score for Shaw University students from the 2023 cohort was by far the highest since the institution first utilized the test in 2011. Also of note, 57% of students from the nationwide comparison group scored below the mean score of Shaw University students. The comparison group consisted of 16,732 examinees (seniors) from 274 domestic institutions that completed the MFT during the period of September 2021 through June 2022.

4

BUSINESS SENIORS SCORED AT THE

99TH

PERCENTILE

“Congratulations to the seniors, Dr. Wood, Dr. Onuorah and the other members of the business faculty for raising the academic standards and profile of this program!!!”

—Dr. Renata Dusenbury, Vice President for Academic Affairs

FACULTY REFLECTION

Prof. Matthew Gargano Shares His SBPS Perspective



I am honored, humbled, and grateful to be part of the School of Business and Professional Studies (SBPS) under the transformational leadership of our Dean, Dr. Lynette Wood,

toward the greater purpose of equipping and fortifying our students for graduation and beyond. SBPS energizes me!

We truly are a family, there for our students and each other in so many ways.

I love stepping foot on campus, as I am filled with excitement and an expectation of the positive and synergistic way the day will unfold. Rich and meaningful student and collegial interactions within our group help reinforce, build upon, and further frame the strong culture of excellence and experiential learning within the teaching and learning environment. For me, the SBPS stands as a remnant exemplar and reminder of the power of working together to achieve the remarkable with and for the greater good of those who come through our doors.

FACULTY BULLETIN BOARD

Nunez Featured on Wallet Hub

Dr. Karen Nunez shared her expertise on WalletHub to help consumers make informed decisions about their finances. Nunez presented the value of no-credit check credit cards for building credit worthiness.

Dobson's Manuscript Published

Dr. Micah Dobson's manuscript entitled "Creating and Implementing Diverse Physical Education Curriculum Programs for Undergraduate Physical Education Teaching Majors" was published in the *Journal of Physical Activity Research*.

Bookert Earns Ph.D. in Computer Science

On May 13, 2023, Dr. Nyteisha Bookert successfully defended her dissertation entitled, "Privacy Threat and Vulnerability Analysis of the Internet of Medical Things: A Study from Privacy Policy Perspectives." She completed her Ph.D. in Computer Science at the North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University. Dr. Bookert serves as an assistant professor of Computer Science and program coordinator for Cyber Operations.

Yan Receives Faculty Fellowship

Dr. Tingzhuang Yan, assistant professor of Computer Science, has been awarded a Red Hat Faculty Fellowship for 2023-24. Yan has served as a Shaw U faculty member since 2011.



Professor Burney Honored

Cassandra Burney, assistant professor of Accounting, was the recipient of the Shaw University 2022-2023 Excellence in Academic Teaching Award. She is a committed, conscientious, and caring faculty member who teaches a variety of accounting courses and also coordinates our IRS Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program (VITA).



Award Named for Dr. Wood

In Spring 2023, tech leader GitHub's All In for Students program created an award in honor of Dean Wood. The **Dr. Lynette Wood All In Spirit Award** is presented to a student in the All In program who embodies the determination, strength, and resiliency of Dr. Wood and has the commitment to help make others around them better. The student also receives a \$500 monetary award.

Our Full-Time Team Expands



Mrs. Patsy O'Neal Andrade

*Program Assistant
Center for Cybersecurity Education and Research*

Before coming to Shaw University, Mrs. O'Neal Andrade spent 7 years in healthcare. During the COVID-19 pandemic, she decided to make a career change to focus her skills in a more impactful direction. Coming to Shaw University has allowed her to use her professional skills to help students build their futures. She enjoys spending her free time with her two children and husband. ▼



Dr. Nyteisha Bookert ▲

*Assistant Professor
Computer Science*

Dr. Bookert brings her professional experience, positive attitude, effective communication, and strategic planning skills to advance the Department of Computer Science. A native of Columbia, South Carolina, she earned her undergraduate degree at South Carolina State and went on to complete her master's and doctoral degrees at North Carolina A&T State University. Her areas of expertise include privacy and cybersecurity.

NEW PART-TIME FACULTY

Sybil Stewart, Business Administration

Honda STEAM Grant Boosts Child Development Center

In Spring 2023, Honda awarded a \$25,000 STEAM grant to the Shaw University Center for Early Childhood Education, Development and Research. The funds provided resources for the Center to obtain custom STEAM-focused wall murals, take a field trip to the Museum of Life and Science in Durham, NC, create a raised garden bed for classrooms to grow fresh produce to taste, and purchase iPads to stimulate science and math exploration.

Nine culturally relevant custom-designed murals were installed over the summer. When the Center reopened, the response was, in a word, “WOW!!” Fascinated by the compelling images, the children gravitate to the STEAM scenes throughout the hallway every day. They love to display their knowledge by naming the objects that are depicted on the walls. Parents, staff, visitors, and partners (including the Wake County Public Schools evaluation team) also enthusiastically affirm the impact that the murals have on viewers of all ages.

The remaining grant-funded STEAM projects are on schedule to be completed by Spring 2024. The Center appreciates Honda’s commitment to early childhood development at Shaw University.



We are excited that Honda is investing in the future by enhancing opportunities for our little learners to experience the wonders of Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math.

—Freida Dixon, Director
The Shaw University Center for Early Childhood Education,
Development, and Research



PNC Bank Team Holds Reading Day at CDC

The Regional President of PNC Bank, Jim Hansen, visited the Child Development Center to read to the children and participate in other activities. Hansen stated that coming to see the kids and teachers at the Center was always a great joy!

After a tour, each reader chose a classroom to read to. Every classroom received *Mr. Tiger Goes Wild* and individual activity packets for the students. The teachers were pleasantly surprised to receive a Lakeshore gift box which

included a \$250 gift card.

“All the PNC readers enjoyed their time here so much, and we look forward to our continued partnership!

Our kids had a wonderful time!” said Freida Dixon, Center director.

The PNC Team

Jim Hansen-Regional President,
Heather Reynolds, Samantha Nelmo,
Nikkia Colts, Eric Walker, Reynolds Craver,
Karyn Ostrom, Tameka Reed.



Jim Hansen connects with eager learners.



James Williams

George Griffin, Jr.

Dr. TaVshea Smith

Shamaine Anderson

Desiree Smith

Faith Covington

Aspire Cohort 2 Celebrates Strong Finish

On Tuesday, May 9, the Shaw University Innovation and Entrepreneurship Center celebrated the culmination of the second cohort from the Aspire Entrepreneurship Certification Program, a 16-week program providing targeted training specific to the needs of early-stage African American entrepreneurs. With the support of Wells Fargo, seven entrepreneurs successfully completed the program: Shamaine D. Anderson, D. Faith Covington, George L. Griffin Jr., Desiree Smith, TaVshea Smith, Andrea Taylor-Williams, and James Williams.

Through a comprehensive curriculum, participants gained essential entrepreneurial skills, fostering innovation and resilience. Armed with newfound knowledge and a strong network, we look forward to supporting the growth of their entrepreneurial endeavors as they are poised to make lasting positive contributions to their communities.



(above) Modesta Williams shares remarks on behalf of Aspire sponsor Wells Fargo. (below) Dr. Nichole Phillips and Dean Wood join some of the Aspire team members.

Cohort 1 Participants Recognized



Two members of Aspire Cohort 1 attended the celebration and received recognition: (top) Annette Brown and (above) Dr. Cheryl Kirk-Duggan



Sterling Porter
Facilitator

Alan Younger
Facilitator

Dr. Nichole Phillips
Director

Dr. Joy Lough
Evaluator

Dr. Lynette Wood
SBPS Dean

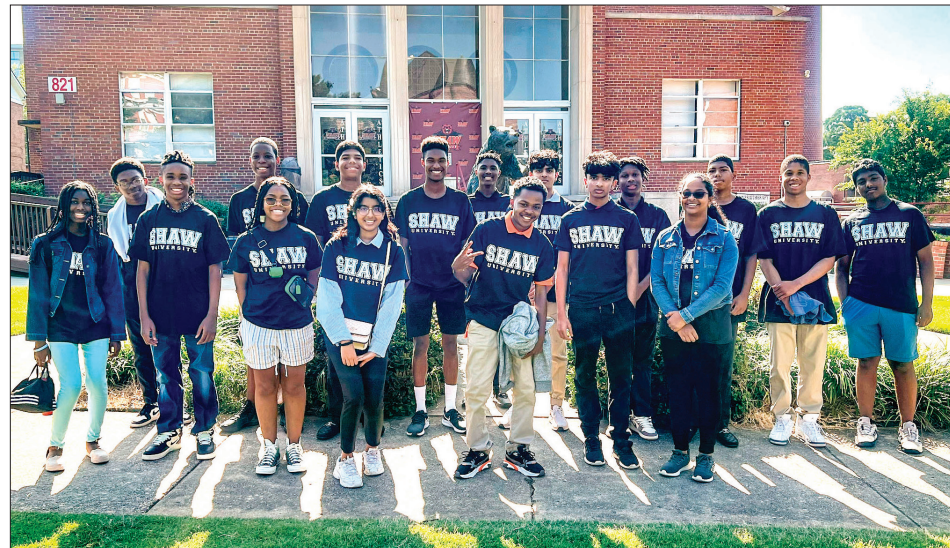
Dr. Larry Woods
Evaluator

Intern Feedback

My experience as a summer SAS intern was amazing! I loved the people I worked with. They were very helpful and supporting. I not only gained valuable insights from the company but also found that the people it introduced me to played a pivotal role in helping me level up in life. Shaw University prepared me well. Dr. Brown taught me the skills needed to get an internship, while Mrs. Morgan Ray in the Career Center connected me with opportunities to apply these skills.

—Cameron Kelly

Sophomore, Cyber Operations major



Summer High-Tech Immersion Camp Delivers

The Department of Computer Science, in collaboration with the Center for Cybersecurity Education and Research, offered the second annual High-Tech Summer Immersion Program for middle and high school students. The program is designed to introduce and encourage participants to consider a career in tech by exposing them to various topics, such as computer systems, networking, cybersecurity, and programming, through interactive and hands-on activities. This

year, 21 students participated in the week-long camp administered by Dr. James Brown, Dr. Nyteisha Bookert, Mrs. Patsy O'Neal Andrade and three undergraduate students sponsored by the National Transportation and Infrastructure Agency Connecting Minority Communities grant (Rita James, Eduardo Pires Do Prado Valenca, and Christopher Hurd). The camp was funded through an Amazon gift deployed through Cyber.org Project REACH.

SBPS Professional Organizations

Shaw University Department of Computer Science recently was approved to have a National Society of Black Engineers (NSBE) chapter. The prestigious organization prepares black engineers to excel academically and professionally. Shaw U is in Region 2, which includes the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Duke University, NC State University, and North Carolina A&T State University.

Professor Rod Jefferson, advisor, says, "I'm thrilled because this is huge for our students. And guess what? It's only up from here." Student members will be able to participate in events, attend the NSBE convention, access career resources, and much more.

NSBE Officers

President—Maurille Beheton
Vice President—Sania Butler
Secretary—Cameron Kelly
Treasurer—Hailey Purdom
Programs Chair—Jarius Taylor
Senator—Louichard Benjamin
Advisor—Professor Rod Jefferson

Computer Science Department Enrollment Increases

The Department of Computer Science experienced a 43% increase in fall-to-fall enrollment from Fall 2022 to Fall 2023. Though both the Computer Science and Computer Information Systems programs grew, most of the increase is attributable to the Cyber Operations program which jumped from 0 students to 20 students.

43%



Professors Matthew Gargano and Barbara Powell-Jackson traveled to Rock Valley College (RVC) on September 27 for a historic visit and inaugural event to engage RVC students of color in the epic business articulation agreement between Shaw University and RVC in Rockford, Illinois for students to transfer their A.A. degree into Shaw University's B.S. in Business Administration-Management. RVC's first Black president, Dr. Howard Spearman, was so excited about this unprecedented opportunity that he created a team to work with Professor

Gargano and Shaw U business students (Kristian Lyons, Destin McLean, and Noah Terry) to plan the day.

Doors opened onsite at RVC at 9:00 a.m. for a day filled with information and engagement activities, including a real-time class where Professor Gargano taught one of his BUS 204 (Principles of Business) courses from RVC synchronously, allowing RVC students to participate in this class alongside Shaw U students.

Gargano paired a group of his students working on a Black Male Handshake initiative called Black Homophily with RVC

Black male students who attended the last session for the day and expressed interest in transferring to Shaw U.

Black male students will continue the conversation and cultivate the relationship, within an established framework, to help create a smooth transition when these students from the Midwest set foot onto our campus to begin their junior year. President Spearman is so committed to this historic partnership that he is sending a select number of RVC students of color for a campus visit to Shaw University in March 2024.

s Mobilize for 2023-2024

NABA Officers

- President—Imani Norton
- Vice President—Marquita Williams
- Treasurer—Alaya Mack
- Secretary—Aliyana Cooper
- Public Relations Manager—Carmen Kebe
- Advisor—Dr. Karen Nunez

On August 30, NABA kicked-off the academic year by hosting an on-campus Deloitte infosession attended by 31 students. The Big 4 firm discussed career opportunities.

Entrepreneurship Club Officers

- TBD
- Advisor—Dr. T. Nichole Phillips

Shaw Business Society Officers

- President—Ugo Onyeani
- Vice President—Kristian Lyons
- Treasurer—Joerail White
- Secretary—Tamyra Scott
- Student Relations—Kyree McLean
- Media Relations—Destin McLean
- Advisor—Professor Matthew Gargano



(top) Prof. Gargano teaches a Principles of Business class to RVC and ShawU students; (bottom left) RVC coordinating team members—Terrica Huntley (Dean of Students) and Luevinus Muhammad (Director of Student Life and Intercultural Student Services); (bottom right) RVC students happily sporting their new ShawU Business t-shirts along with Profs. Gargano and Powell-Jackson.



This is RVC's first transfer agreement with an HBCU. By opening more pathways for students in our region to complete a four-year degree, RVC continues to demonstrate our commitment to access, diversity, equity, and inclusion. Our students really can start here and go anywhere.

—Dr. Howard J. Spearman *President, Rock Valley College*

Internships

Summer 2023

Marc Brown, Computer Science
Red Hat

Sania Butler, B.S. Computer Science
HP

Paul Charvoz, Bus. Admin.-Management
M&F Bank

Imani Norton, Accounting
PBG Consulting

Florence Wreh, B.S. Cyber Operations
State of NC

See March 2023 Accolades for additional names.

Fall 2023

Alaya Mack, Bus. Admin.-Accounting
State Employees' Credit Union

New Jobs

Olive Barrett ('22) Elementary Education
Pitt County Public Schools

Elliot Dangerfield ('23) Rec. Management
Meadowdale CTC Athletic Department
Dayton, OH

Holley Jones ('23) Bus. Admin.-
Management
A Tax Lady Network

Teyanna Kersey ('23) Elementary Education
Wake County Public School System

Edna McDowell ('23) Teacher Certification
La Petite Academy

Shamar Pearce ('22) Rec. Management
Shaw University



Angela Ramsey ('23) M.S., Early Childhood
Education
Northampton County Schools

Elizabeth Sanders ('23) CIS
Disney

Makayla Sanders ('22) Bus. Admin.-
Management
Shaw University

Kaylonah Stewart ('22) Elementary Education
Wake County Public School System

Shane Thomas ('23) Elementary Education
Wake County Public School System

See March 2023 Accolades for additional names.

A simple game of dodgeball went a long way toward building relational bridges and uniting the hearts of faculty, staff and students. Computer science professor, Rodderick Jefferson, organized an afternoon of athletic thrills and sheer fun. Participants from many age groups hurled bright red dodgeballs across the yard in front of Tupper Hall. Truly, the tournament was a “smashing” success. Faculty will not admit defeat, but students claim victory.

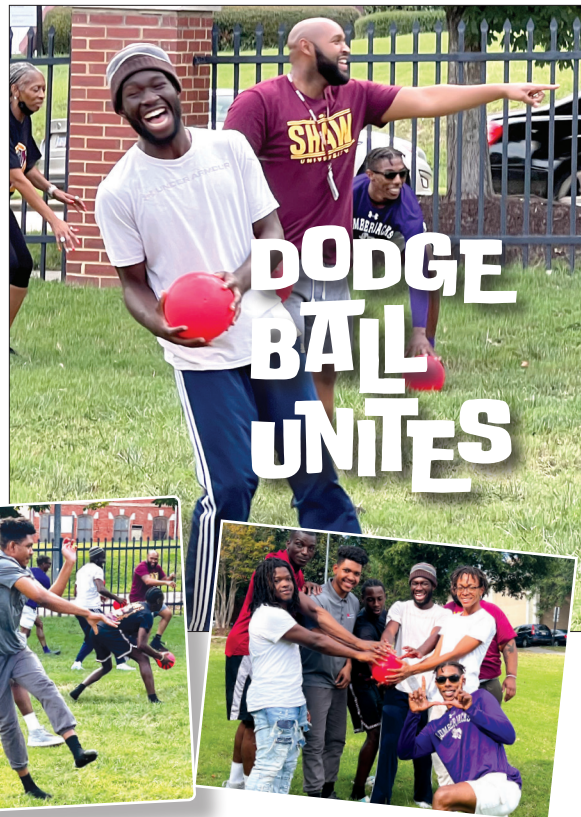
Graduate School

Elikem Des-Amekudi ('23)
North Carolina A & T State University

Eurêka Ndinga ('22)
East Carolina University

Tyrese Perry ('23)
North Carolina Central University

Shane Thomas ('23)
UNC Pembroke



THANK YOU

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Deloitte

BENEFACTOR

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Dr. Lynette Wood

PARTNER

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Martin Marietta Aggregates
CEO Roundtable on Cancer
Red Hat

*Contributions received July 1, 2022-June 30, 2023
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