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NCCU Alumni Raise \$2.2 Million During 2019 Homecoming Celebration

North Carolina Central University (NCCU) received a record number of alumni gifts during the 2019 Ultimate Homecoming Experience, held Nov. 3-9, 2019.

More than 7,000 alumni who graduated in years ending in '4 and '9 celebrated their class reunions during Homecoming and demonstrated support with contributions that totaled more than \$2.2 million.

"NCCU alumni came and contributed to their alma mater in an astounding way, with several classes, including our youngest alumni, having surpassed their giving goals," said Harriet F. Davis, Ph.D., vice chancellor for University Advancement. "The university is grateful to our Eagles who continuously answer the call to give as part of our 'Every Eagle. Every Year.' annual giving campaign."

Homecoming festivities were hosted by NCCU's Division of University Advancement and Office of Alumni Relations and included a sold-out NCCU alumni concert by R&B group Maze Featuring Frankie Beverly.

"North Carolina Central University alumni consistently demonstrate their support of student success by investing in the university," said Johnson O. Akinleye, Ph.D., NCCU Chancellor. "This year, our millennial alumni in the class of 2014 demonstrated in a great way that young people recognize the importance of philanthropy and in giving back. The gifts we received are critical in helping prepare the next generation of market-ready scholars."

Celebrating their five-year class reunion, young alumni from the Class of 2014 exceeded their original fundraising goal by 10 times, resulting in a \$53,822 gift to the university.

Substantial gifts from young alumni are a great indicator for future fundraising success, ensuring that NCCU thrives for generations to come, Davis adds.

The Class of 1969, whose 107 members were inducted into the Society of Golden Eagles, raised \$463,626. Three class members contributed gifts totaling in \$250,000 to the university.

Included in the group are NCCU Board of Trustees vice chairman Michael P. Johnson and his wife, Libby Johnson, corporate consulting leader Esther Silver-Parker, and business owner Helen Haskett Latten.

Overall, the Society of Golden Eagles, comprised of alumni graduating 50 years ago or more, contributed \$871,921.

In addition, the following reunion classes made large contributions to NCCU:

- Class of 1974: (\$448,796)
- Class of 1979: (\$111,313)
- Class of 1984: (\$100,971)
- Class of 1994: (\$172,498)

Former members of the Alpha Lambda Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Inc., the NCCU chapter, also provided a \$113,369 donation to its endowed student scholarship. The alumnae group joined other alumni members of National Pan-Hellenic Council organizations in donating a total of \$457,163 to the university.

Federal charges link New Jersey man to synagogue vandalism

CAMDEN, N.J. (AP) - A New Jersey man faces allegations he conspired to carry out spray paint vandalism attacks two months ago against synagogues in Michigan and Wisconsin.

The Philadelphia Inquirer reported 18-year-old Richard Tobin allegedly recruited people on a neo-Nazi social network.

Court records indicate Tobin told investigators he considered suicide attacks and once sat with a machete in the parking lot of a New Jersey mall, considering an attack on black shoppers.

An email message for his public defender wasn't returned.

The paper says the synagogues that were vandalized with swastikas and other images on Sept. 21-22 were in Hancock, Michigan, and Racine, Wisconsin.

Last-minute audible: Kaepernick back to school for workout

By Paul Newberry
RIVERDALE, Ga. (AP)

- Colin Kaepernick's saga took another surreal turn Nov. 16 - a last-minute audible to nix an NFL-arranged workout and a quick dash 60 miles to the other side of metro Atlanta, where the exiled quarterback staged his own impromptu passing display on a high school field in dwindling light as hundreds of fans cheered him on from behind a chain-link fence.

Kaepernick threw passes for about 40 minutes at Charles Drew High School and spent nearly that long signing autographs for a crowd that steadily grew as word spread that a quarterback who led the San Francisco 49ers to the Super Bowl and sparked a wave of protests and divisive debate by kneeling during the national anthem was in the neighborhood.

Kaepernick declared again that he's ready to play in the NFL.

If someone will just give him a chance.

"I've been ready for three years," he said. "I've been denied for three years. We all know why. I came out here today and showed it in front of everybody. We have nothing to hide. We're waiting for the 32 owners, the 32 teams, (Commissioner) Roger Goodell, all of them to stop running, stop running from the truth, stop running from the people."

In a move no one saw coming, the league that Kaepernick claims blackballed him called Tuesday with a take-it-or-leave-it offer to hold an extraordinary workout at the Atlanta Falcons' training complex in the sprawling suburbs north of the city.

All 32 teams were invited. Former NFL head coaches Hue Jackson and Joe Philbin were set to run the drills. The league said 25 teams were sending scouts and representatives - many of whom had already arrived at the Falcons' indoor training facility in Flowery Branch when word came that Kaepernick wasn't going to take part.

Instead, he decided to hold a workout open to the media, unlike the session at the Falcons' facility, at a high school stadium just south of Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport.

Sixty miles away.

With barely more than an hour to spare, the media that had been herded into a gated-off area in the parking lot and told that was



Dance was part of the celebration of Baha'i anniversary. See photos and story on page 13.

as close as they would get to Kaepernick's workout hustled to their vehicles to set off for a high school most had never heard of.

But only eight of the original 25 team representatives followed along to the new location, including Philadelphia Eagles vice president of football operations Andrew Berry. It appeared the New York Jets, Kansas City and Washington also had scouts in attendance.

They stood along the sideline, jotting into their notepads as Kaepernick tossed passes to four free-agent receivers.

"Our biggest thing with everything today was to make sure we had transparency in what went on," Kaepernick said. "We weren't getting that elsewhere, so we came out here."

Kaepernick, who worked out in a tank top and shorts, has clearly kept himself in good shape during his near three-year layoff. His passes had plenty of zip on them, though he was a bit off target with a few of his deep throws. It was not the sort of session that would likely sway a team one way or the other.

That didn't appear to be the point.

Kaepernick has insisted all along that everyone knows he is good enough to play in the NFL. He claims this is all about his decision to kneel as a way of protesting police brutality and racial injustice, which led to a contentious national debate that stretched all the way to the White House. President Trump called on NFL owners to fire any player who failed to stand during the national anthem.

"We're ready to go anywhere," said Kaepernick, who at age 32 should be in the prime of his career. "Ready to talk to any team, interview with any team at any time. I've been ready, I'm staying ready, I will continue to be ready."

Kaepernick did not take questions from at least 50 media members who scrambled to get to Riverdale to cover his workout.

The quarterback's representatives announced the change less than an hour before the start of the originally scheduled workout, saying the NFL refused their request that journalists be allowed to watch and videotape the session in Flowery Branch.



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