

BLACK COLLEGE  
SPORTS™



Bethune-Cookman logo

**ET TU, B-CU?:** Bethune-Cookman's name and perhaps others added to institutions pondering leaving the MEAC.

## SHAKY FOOTING

**NEW HOOPS COACHES FOR NC A&T MEN, VIRGINIA UNION WOMEN; FALL CANCELLATIONS ROLLING IN**

## UNDER THE BANNER

WHAT'S GOING ON IN AND AROUND BLACK COLLEGE SPORTS



BCSP Photo

**IT'S OFFICIAL:** At an outdoor press conference Tuesday on campus, North Carolina A&T Athletics Director Earl M. Hilton III (r.) congratulates Will Jones (l.) after announcing him as the new leader of the men's basketball program. Jones had served as acting head coach since December.

### JONES TO LEAD NC A&T MEN'S HOOPS:

**EAST GREENSBORO** – North Carolina A&T Director of Athletics **Earl M. Hilton III** announced last Thursday that the school has removed the interim tag from head men's basketball coach **Will Jones** title and named him the Aggies' permanent head coach.

The public announcement was made Tuesday outside Corbett Sports Arena, the Aggies' basketball stadium. Hilton said Tuesday Jones inked a four-year deal that will run through the 2023-24 hoops season.

Jones took over the program as the acting head coach on Dec. 24, 2019 when fourth-year head coach **Jay Joyner** was suspended. The Aggies were 3-10 at that point of the season. Employing an up-tempo style of play, Jones completed the season going 14-5 overall including a 12-4 conference record and second-place finish in the **Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference** (MEAC).

The team's performance under his guidance earned Jones the league's coach of the year award. Three Aggies were named to the all-conference team including landing two on the first team for the first time in 32 years. The Aggies also claimed a first-round MEAC tournament win over **Howard** under Jones before the COVID-19 pandemic halted the tournament and the season. Joyner's resignation was announced last week.

Jones will be the Aggies 11th head men's basketball coach of the NCAA modern era that started in 1952. Both Jones and Joyner played for former N. C. A&T Head Coach **Cy Alexander** when he led the program at MEAC rival **South Carolina State**.

"I first want to thank Chancellor **Harold L. Martin, Sr.**, the board of trustees and Mr. Earl Hilton for this opportunity," said Jones in the press release. "I also want to thank the incredible fan base at N.C. A&T for their support of the men's basketball program.

"I have always prayed for the chance to lead at the best institution. North Carolina A&T is the best, largest and most progressive (historically black college or university) in the world. I think God has answered my prayers. I'm excited and ready to lead our program back into national prominence."

At the press conference, Hilton said A&T officials waited so long to make the decision to make sure they "got it right." He said he sought to make sure the athletes were winning and "having fun" playing for Jones. "We'll always be a program who's main focus is on the athletes," Hilton said.

### TERRY TO LEAD VUU WOMEN'S HOOPS:

**Virginia Union University's** Department of Intercollegiate Athletics and Community Wellness has named **Tierra Terry** as the ninth head coach in the history of the VUU Women's Basketball Program,

Terry comes to Virginia Union after spending the past three seasons as an assistant coach for the women's basketball program at The College of William and Mary. She replaces **Ann-Marie Gilbert**.

Prior to William & Mary, Terry was a recruiting coordinator at Western Carolina. She began her coaching career at her alma mater, **Winston-Salem State University**.

A four-year member of the Winston-Salem State women's basketball team, Terry earned her bachelor's degree in psychology, while earning a minor in sociology in 2008. She went on to earn her master's in psychology with a specialization in counseling from the University of West Florida in 2011.



Terry

# MEAC in trouble? Others moving?

By **LUT WILLIAMS**

BCSP Editor

Are we witnessing the brick-by-brick dismantling of the **Mid Eastern Athletic Conference**?

One week after conference member **Florida A&M University** announced that it will leave after this year to join the **Southwestern Athletic Conference** and just four months after **North Carolina A&T State University** announced that it will move next season to the Big South Conference, another current MEAC member is reportedly contemplating a move.

And there may be more.

**HBCU Gameday** reported that the board of trustees of current MEAC member **Bethune-Cookman University** held an emergency meeting last Thursday to consider a move to either the **Southwestern Athletic Conference** (SWAC) or the Atlantic Sun Conference.

Following that story, B-CU's Athletics Director **Lynn W. Thompson** issued the following statement Tuesday to **HBCU Gameday's Vaughn Wilson**.

"Bethune-Cookman University has enjoyed a great partnership with the MEAC for forty years. However, like many other institutions across the nation, we are presently engaged in an analysis to assess all options available to us regarding athletic conference affiliation.

"Toward this end, we will continue to follow the directive of our Board and institutional leadership to ensure our alignment with an athletic conference that best meets the long-term needs of Bethune-Cookman University."

Sounds like trouble to me.

Additionally, according to public records of MEAC member **Delaware State University's** Board of Trustees agendas and minutes, that school's Athletics Sub-Committee under the direction of Board member **Dr. Debbie Harrington** has been giving updates since a

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Bethune-Cookman Athletics Director  
**Lynn W. Thompson**

January 2020 meeting and presented at its March 2020 meeting a report on 'conference affiliation benchmarkings.'

Attempts to reach DelState athletic officials Tuesday were unsuccessful.

Florida A&M's decision came two weeks before the MEAC's notification deadline of July 1 for teams leaving the conference. A decision after July 1 subjects a school to as much as a \$250,000 financial penalty and potential scheduling conflicts.

If B-CU is to make a move, it will likely come before the July 1 deadline.

The departure of FAMU also leaves Bethune-Cookman as the lone member of the MEAC in the Sunshine State. With **Savannah State University** now gone, the closest MEAC opponent for B-CU is **South Carolina State University**, five hours away in Orangeburg, S.C. Trips to schools like **Morgan State University** and **Coppin State University** in Baltimore, and DelState in Dover, Delaware are all north of 800 miles.

FAMU's decision to leave the MEAC and join the SWAC has also perhaps influenced BCU. Both moved into the MEAC in 1979 after a long history in the **Southern Intercollegiate Athletic Conference** (SIAC).

In joining the SWAC however, B-CU would in fact have to cover a longer distance that it would now in the MEAC. SWAC members **Texas Southern University** and **Prairie View A&M University** in the Houston area are more than 900 miles from B-CU's home in Daytona Beach, Florida as is **Arkansas-Pine Bluff** in Pine Bluff, Arkansas.

MEAC Commissioner **Dr. Dennis Thomas** told the BCSP last week that the conference's objective and strategy now was to keep "a core group of institutions to insure that we do not lose our (NCAA) Div. I status."

That number, according to Thomas, was seven member-institutions playing football and basketball that have played in the league for eight consecutive years and fielding the other requisite number of Div. I sports teams.

The conference, after the departures of N. C. A&T and FAMU, will have seven such schools – **Morgan State**, **Delaware State**, **Howard University**, **Norfolk State University**, **North Carolina Central University**, **South Carolina State** and **Bethune-Cookman** – but would fall below that threshold if it loses either B-CU or DelState. Coppin State and the **University of Maryland-Eastern Shore** are MEAC members that do not field football teams.

## BCSP Notes

### Prairie View A&M names Donald Reed Director of Athletics

In a letter addressed to the Prairie View A&M Campus Community, school President **Dr. Ruth Simmons** announced the appointment of **Dr. Donald Reed**, senior associate athletics director at the University of Buffalo as the next Director of Athletics.



Reed

Reed has a wide range of experiences in strategic planning, budget management, policy-making and athletics leadership. In addition, he has in-depth knowledge of NCAA Academic Progress Rate (APR) and Federal Graduation Rate (FGR) guidelines and best practices. In that regard, at Buffalo, he has achieved a record 13 consecutive semesters of 97% of teams achieving a GPA above 3.0.

Reed is also actively involved in the NCAA Legislative review process. He holds a Ph.D in Educational Management and Development from New Mexico State University, a Master of Science degree in Education and Sport Administration from the University of North Texas, and a B.B.A in Marketing from the University of North Texas. He has previously served as Associate Athletic Director at Iowa State and Managing Director of Developmental Programs at Arizona State University. Having also served as adjunct faculty at Buffalo and Iowa State University, he is well aware of the academic challenges that athletes can face.

As Athletics Director, Reed will report to the president and serve as a member of the president's Executive Leadership Team. He will be responsible for overseeing the strategic planning, fiscal affairs, staffing, fundraising and promotions, athletics facilities, intercollegiate athletics regulatory compliance, and general operations, along with the overall culture and management of the athletics department.

He will also provide strategic leadership, direction, and oversight for the 18-sport National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) Division I FCS intercollegiate athletics program, supervise a full and part-time staff, and manage a \$17 million operating budget. Reed will work closely with multiple internal and external constituencies to advance PVAMU's strategic objectives and goals, representing the university to the NCAA and the **Southwestern Athletic Conference** (SWAC).

Reed becomes Prairie View's third AD since 2018. The position became vacant when **Ashley Robinson** left to become Director of Athletics at **Jackson State**. Robinson was succeeded by long-time administrator **Fred Washington** who was named interim AD in October 2018. Ten months later, Washington resigned.

Following Fred Washington's resignation in August 2019, PVAMU alumna and Associate Athletic Director **Alicia Pete** stepped in as interim athletics director and has led the department for the past eleven months.

### Longtime Shaw Athletics Director Al Carter to step down

**RALEIGH, N.C.** – **Dr. Alfonza L. Carter**, the driving force and a pioneer in **Shaw University's** athletic program, has announced he will

retire at the end of July after 40 years of service including more than two decades as the Director of Athletics.

"I am proud and honored to have served Shaw University for 40 years," said Carter. "Each position was one I truly loved and served with pride and gladness supporting students, faculty, staff, and administration."

Carter first arrived at Shaw as an assistant basketball coach in 1980 and since has worn a plethora of hats during his time at the university.

After serving five seasons as the head women's basketball coach and a combined 73-50 overall record and a **Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association** (CIAA) Southern Division title, Carter moved to the men's side in 1987. During his four seasons at the helm, the Bears earned its first 20-win season in nearly two decades. Additionally, Carter also served as the head tennis coach for several years.

Perhaps Carter's greatest role at Shaw has been at the director of athletics. He changed the culture of Shaw athletics leading its programs to unprecedented success. Under his leadership, the Bears and Lady Bears had become one of the most powerful programs in the CIAA while also making a rise to national prominence.

Carter made great hires in program administration including the reinstatement of football after nearly three decades. During his tenure as Director of Athletics, the men's basketball program has gone to the NCAA Elite Eight, and the women's basketball program won the Division II national championship in 2012. The men's and women's tennis teams have won over 10 CIAA championships. In 2010 alone, the Bears and Lady Bears brought home championship trophies in football, men's and women's basketball, and tennis. In the first ten years of the 21st century, the Shaw athletic program was the only one in the CIAA to have at least one championship in each year.

In 2012, Carter was named the Vice President for Administrative Services at Shaw prior to his second tenure as athletic director in 2015 where Shaw claimed six CIAA championships, division titles and NCAA appearances. Carter was inducted into the Shaw Athletic Hall of Fame in 2014 and presented with the Doctor of Humane Letters in 2011 from the university. He has represented Shaw numerous times at both the conference and national level, serving as President of the CIAA. In 2006 he received the **Jeanette A. Lee Athletic Achievement Award** presented by the CIAA Commissioner for outstanding administration and achievement for an athletic program.

He was inducted into the CIAA Hall of Fame in 2013.

The All-American basketball player born in Martinsville, VA, is a 1973 graduate of **North Carolina A&T State University**, where he played varsity basketball and served as an assistant basketball coach. He had a stellar collegiate career and is a member of NC A&T Hall of Fame. After graduation Carter served as head freshman basketball coach and physical education instructor for Fairfax County Public Schools. He then returned to his alma mater and became assistant men's basketball coach and instructor of health and physical education prior to his 40-year tenure at Shaw.

## Fall cancellations

### Southern Heritage Classic

The 31st *Southern Heritage Classic* (SHC) has been canceled.

The game between **Tennessee State** and **Jackson State** was scheduled for Sept. 12.

The decision to cancel all events was made after SHC's management reviewed a copy of the Shelby County Health Department's Health Directive No. 6 detailing emergency management relief efforts put in place to address COVID-19, specifically those regarding recreational or athletic activities.

The cancellation is the second in three years in the annual contest between TSU and JSU. The 2018 matchup was called due to inclement weather.

### WSSU season opener

**PEMBROKE, NC** – **Winston-Salem State's** football opener against UNC-Pembroke has been cancelled but not due to the Coronavirus.

The decision to cancel the game was made in accordance with the Mountain East Conference's (MEC) Return to Competition Plan.

The plan includes the elimination of non-conference play for MEC teams due to the one-year NCAA mandated reduction of maximum contests in all Division II sports which, for the MEC, includes the elimination of non-conference play for football, men's and women's soccer, volleyball, and men's and women's basketball, based on their membership of football playing institutions and conference schedule.

UNC Pembroke joined the Mountain East as an associate member in August of 2018.

### No GHOE for NC A&T

**North Carolina A&T** announced on Thursday that it will not have homecoming festivities this fall as the state and the nation continue to battle the COVID-19 epidemic. The school's official homecoming festivities were set to take place Oct. 25-Nov. 1.

The game itself, however, is set to go on. A&T will still play **South Carolina State** on October 31, albeit with reduced fan capacity and pending state regulations.