New Board Member For African American Museums Assn.

Barber, who began his career at the Black Archives more than 15 years ago, has been involved with AAAM for over a decade. Reaching the ranks from intern to assistant archivist, archivist and then executive director, Barber has developed a deep connection to Miami’s African American history in its preservation, and the preservation of the stories and histories of Black communities nationwide.

As director of the Black Archives, Barber successfully administered a $10 million GOB capital grant fund to expand and re-open the Historic Lyric Theater, which is on the National Register of Historic Places. He has also leveraged federal grants from the Institute of Museums and Library Services along with local and foundation support for the museum’s operations and programming.

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Open Letter To Kaepernick

HENDERSON, Nev. – Rev. William Owens, president of the Coalition of African American Pastors (CAAP), is attempting to bridge the divide over the American flag, sports, and politics. Rev. Owens published an open letter July 29, to activist Colin Kaepernick regarding Kaepernick’s statements on the flag and U.S. history.

Earlier this month – in the wake of Kaepernick’s involvement in Nike’s decision to pull its “Betsy Ross flag” shoe – CAAP launched a petition requesting that Nike end its business relationship with Kaepernick and produce the Betsy Ross shoe for the benefit of veterans groups and organizations that help military families.

Last week, CAAP followed-up by announcing a boycott of Nike. At a press conference, Rev. Owens took issue with Kaepernick’s attempt to erase American history and pointed out that Nike had aligned itself with the activists radical views.

Now, in an effort to help both Kaepernick and Nike understand the impact of their decision, Owens has penned a letter to Kaepernick, explaining why the former athlete’s political stance on the flag sends the wrong message to young people.

“Rather than bringing people together to work for change, it has the potential of tearing us apart, and inspiring young people. It is simply unimaginable that America was never great and begs the question of why it’s worth improving,” Owens wrote.

Owens goes on to praise Kaepernick’s passion, explaining that he has no animosity towards him. Rev. Owens even invites Kaepernick to meet and discuss the issue - an invitation he also extends to Nike CEO Mark Parker.

“Reducing American history to its flaws or looking at it only through the lens of ‘social justice’ is naïve,” Owens went on to Kaepernick. “It erases the contributions of the men and women who worked and sacrificed to make this country great. There is dignity and beauty in our shared history that should not be swept aside.”

Owens went on to urge Kaepernick to pour his energy into helping the African-American community in a less politicized way by supporting projects that would have a practical and measurable effect on the real problems facing Black families.

Owens stated: “I respect Mr. Kaepernick’s passion, but he is not helping African Americans by encouraging a culture of grievance and stoking racial division. This is an ambivalent – the kind that benefits a personal ‘brand’ more than it helps the real people struggling with real problems.”

Owens concluded: “Nike and Mr. Kaepernick need to understand that they are not following the civil rights tradition, which is about erasing barriers and bringing people together. Instead, they are dividing Americans. I hope that Mr. Kaepernick will demonstrate that he’s serious about change by reading this letter and pondering its message. In the meantime, I will continue to boycott all Nike products and call on others to ‘Walk Away from Nike’ until it ceases this political posturing and rejoins Team USA.”

Read the open letter and petition at caapusa.org.
Arizona College Delegates Attend NAACP National Convention

Five Arizona college students traveled to Detroit, Mich., to attend the July 20-24, 110th National NAACP Convention as voting delegates. Three students were from Phoenix College and two from Arizona State University.

Two of the students were elected officers of the Youth and College Division for Region 1: C’haike “Tai” White of Phoenix College as assistant secretary, and Armonce Jackson of Arizona State University to serve on the credentials committee.

Other students attending were: Elizabeth Preyer and Chante Holiday of Phoenix College, and Janie Stevenson of Arizona State University. Advisors accompanying the student delegates were: Dr. Camilla Winzenberg, Phoenix College professor emeritus; and Professor Princess Lucas-Wilson, Arizona State University.

The conference’s theme was “When We Fight, We Win,” and the array of dynamic speakers included keynote workshop presenters echoed the message of the theme throughout the conference events. The noteworthy presentations of NAACP national secretaries were accompanied by speeches of other high profile speakers, such as: Democratic Speaker of the House of Representatives, nine of the leading Democratic candidates for President, and one challenger Republican candidate.

Resolutions on which the students voted pertained to the areas of: civil rights; criminal justice; economic development; education; environmental affairs; health; housing; information technology; internal affairs; immigration/international affairs; and educational and voting rights.

One significant resolution voted on was an emergency resolution presented by Rep. Al Green calling for impeachment of the current United States President, which was overwhelmingly supported by the delegation.

Also, a number of social events were provid- ed for the Youth & College attendees each day. Small, town hall/convention was educational and in- formative regarding current political and social climate issue.

Global Program Reaches Girls For Engineering

 Legendary Debate Coach Gets Lifetime Award

The 100-year old legendary Af- rician-American debate coach Dr. Thomas Freeman has been award- ed the 2019 Lifetime Achievement Award from the National Speech & Debate Association.

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