



# NAA-SAU Newsletter

## April-May 2021

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National Alumni Association of  
Saint Augustine's University

## NAA-SAU PRIVACYPOLICY

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### **\*\*\*\*\*Succession Planning\*\*\*\*\***

Next year around this time, the NAA-SAU will be carrying out its biennial elections for national officers and it is time for Chapters to start the discussions on potential officers for the organization. The NAA-SAU is a critical stakeholder in the wellness of Saint Augustine's University, and it is imperative that the organization have the best representation available. Please start identifying candidates early, so when the process begins your Chapter will be ready. All officers will be elected/re-elected in 2022 to serve for the 2022-2024 term.

## **Survey Forthcoming**

**We previously emailed a survey to NAA-SAU members to gauge interest/concerns about attending in-person activities for Homecoming 2021. Many expressed concerns about the continued exposure to COVID-19. We plan to send out another survey in May/June to get updates from each member. Thank you for your support.**

### **Highlights of Meeting with Dr. Christine McPhail and NAA-SAU Executive Council\***

On April 20, 2021, the NAA-SAU Executive Council had its first (ZOOM) meeting with new University President, Dr. Christine J. McPhail and it was an excellent meeting. Dr. McPhail expressed her views on the challenges facing Saint Augustine's and how the National Alumni Association might be helpful in addressing some of the challenges. She also presented some goals for her administration that will be important in getting the school back to a position of prominence.

Enrollment, retention, graduation, and fund-raising are some key issues that the University will be addressing, and alumni can provide support. Dr. McPhail was provided several questions before the meeting from the NAA-SAU Chapters. She and other members of the staff did a good job responding to, which was an early demonstration of transparency between the new Administration and the NAA-SAU.

At the conclusion of the discussion with Dr. McPhail, the NAA-SAU President expressed the NAA support for her administration and noted the organization would do as much as it could to provide fund-raising, recruitment, and mentoring support as it could for our alma mater. The National Alumni Association is very much dedicated to improving the sustainability of "St. Aug" and is prioritizing goals to improve retention and graduation rate and greatly appreciates having a President willing to be open and transparent with the alumni.

Below are Bullet Point Highlights of the meeting.

The NAA-SAU executive Council, composed of the NAA-SAU elected and appointed officers, Chapter Presidents, and Regional Coordinators, held a virtual meeting with Dr. McPhail.

Also in attendance were:

- Debra Clark Jones, Vice President, University Advancement & External Affairs;
- Daniel C. Vélez, Vice President Division of Enrollment Management, Student Affairs & Student Services;
- Ann L. Brown, Dean of Students & Student Integrity Division of Enrollment Management, Student Affairs & Student Services;
- Sheryl Ximines, Director, Office of Alumni Affairs and Director of University Events;
- and Benardo Dargan, Special Assistant to the President/Liaison to the Board of Trustees.

Prior to the meeting, Dr. McPhail agreed to receive questions from the Council members to guide her presentation. She began by thanking the Association for the invitation to speak. Below are highlights based on questions received.

- Questions covered:
  - the reinstatement of Coach George Williams;
  - management of SAU real properties;
  - enrollment numbers and student retention;
  - curricula preparation of students for 21st century jobs;
  - the financial health of the University;
  - faculty and staff organizational charts, including recruiting and retention of staff;
  - revitalization of the Music and Education departments;
  - University leadership operating with the utmost transparency;
  - support from, and working with Alumni; and
  - status of campus renovations, MLK Student Union and Tuttle Building, specifically.

Dr. McPhail was able to address the majority of the questions and noted that questions not answered in the meeting might need additional research. She agreed to join us at our May 2021 meeting to continue the discussion.

- Noted in Dr McPhail's answers are the following:
  - At this time, there are no plans to hold a celebration to honor Coach George Williams and Coach Williams has not indicated if he will return to SAU;
  - For the Fall 2021, SAU received over 3,000 applications; there are not as many students living on campus now, as previously were there;
  - SAU is instituting the Plans for *Pathway Student Model*—meet students at their level of competence;
  - SAU will have a strong student engagement office;

- SAU Alumni will be great at mentoring students—SAU will work with Alumni to perfect the Mentoring Program. Ann Brown shared the University’s Plan of Action;
- To better help students navigate the challenges of the curricula, SAU provides a Writing Center and math tutors;
- The SAU curricula will be re-packaged to better prepare students for the 21st century job market;
- SAU’s quality of relationship with feeder high schools is not adequate, improved methods of engagement are being reviewed;
- SAU hopes to provide a Faculty/Staff Organizational Chart by summer, 2021; Faculty criteria to be retooled to attract quality faculty—additional funds are needed;
- SAU is researching ways to bring back the Music Department and Education Department;
- The SAU Board of Trustee will focus on transparency, respect, and communication;
- Under review from SACS; 13 infractions found—in compliance on 12; SAU to submit Finance report, due May 21, 2021; and
- Tuttle (September 2021) MLK (December 2021) on target for completion.

**\*NAA-SAU Executive Council includes [Elected and Appointed Officers](#), [Chapter Presidents](#), and [Regional Coordinators](#).**

## SAU OFFICE OF ALUMNI AFFAIRS

In the meeting with President McPhail, Sheryl Ximines, Director of Alumni Affairs, shared three major announcements. The first, 2021 Reunion, followed by 2021 Homecoming, and the 2022 CIAA. She also introduced the Council members to the Alumni Toolkit, prepared for Chapters and Alumni to use for various outreach activities. Be sure to check with your Chapter president to learn more.

The 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Class and other classes celebrating their reunions will be a part of the University’s *Class Celebrations* on June 19, 2021, during *Alumni Reunion Weekend*.

Class gifts and other donations will be announced during the *Rhapsody in Blue* event on Saturday, June 19, if received by June 11. All fund received after that date and, by June 30, 2021, will be acknowledged for the 2020-21 giving period.

All alumni should have received a flyer listing the *Weekend* events. (Also see image below). The NAA-SAU is currently planning a general meeting for all alumni, covering the information that would normally be presented during the *Commencement Weekend* in May.

The NAA-SAU is still discussing the types of events that alumni might support at the 2021 BWE Homecoming weekend, planned for September 19 – 25, 2021. We will issue a Survey around the beginning of June 2021, to assess interest among alumni in participating in our traditional events. We need to get as many responses as possible to decide to plan for or not homecoming events.

## Alumni Reunion Weekend



The flyer features a top banner with a photo of graduates in blue and white regalia, a central SAU logo with 'ALUMNI REUNION WEEKEND' text, and a blue bar with the event title and dates. Below this, the theme 'Forever the Blue and White' is written in cursive. The flyer is divided into two main columns: '2021 REUNION Classes' on the left and '2021 REUNION Schedule' on the right. The left column lists various reunion classes with their respective years, including a 50th Year Silver Anniversary Class (1996) and a 50th Year Reunion Anniversary Class (1971). The right column details the schedule for Thursday, Friday, and Saturday, including a giving day, a golf tournament, and a masquerade event. At the bottom, there is a 'GIVING' section with contact information and the university's logo and motto.

**ALUMNI REUNION WEEKEND**  
**JUNE 17-JUNE 19, 2021**  
*Forever the Blue and White*

**2021 REUNION Classes**

Emeritus Class (1940-1970)  
 60<sup>th</sup> Year Reunion Class: 1961  
 55<sup>th</sup> Year Reunion Class: 1966

**50<sup>TH</sup> YEAR REUNION ANNIVERSARY CLASS: 1971**

45<sup>th</sup> Year Class: 1976  
 40<sup>th</sup> Year Class: 1981

35<sup>th</sup> Year Class: 1986  
 30<sup>th</sup> Year Class: 1991

**25<sup>TH</sup> YEAR SILVER ANNIVERSARY CLASS: 1996**

**IT'S EASY TO GIVE:**

TEXT GIVE AND THE DONATION AMOUNT TO **919.373.6799** | GIVE ONLINE AT **GIVING.ST-AUG.EDU**

CHECKS (MADE TO SAINT AUGUSTINE'S UNIVERSITY) AND CASH DONATIONS ARE ALSO ACCEPTED.  
**PLEASE GIVE WHAT YOU CAN TO REPRESENT YOUR CLASS**  
 #ReunionWeekend2021 #FalconPride

**2021 REUNION Schedule**

**THURSDAY, JUNE 17**  
 SAU GIVING DAY  
 TEXT GIVE AND THE DONATION AMOUNT TO 919.373.6799, GIVE ONLINE AT GIVING.ST-AUG.EDU

**FRIDAY, JUNE 18**  
 ATHLETIC GOLF TOURNAMENT  
**Heddingham Golf Course**  
 4801 Harbour Towne Drive, Raleigh, NC 27604  
 Cost: **\$75.00** per Player or **\$300.00** per Team  
 Contact: David Bowser 919.516.4250  
 Registration: 12 p.m.  
 Shotgun Start: 1 p.m.

**SATURDAY, JUNE 19**  
 RHAPSODY IN WHITE VIRTUAL MASQUERADE EVENT  
 "A JUNETEENTH CELEBRATION"  
 7 p.m.

 **SAINT AUGUSTINE'S UNIVERSITY**  
*Transform. Excel. Lead.*

# Homecoming 2021

**BWE 2021**  
THE BLUE & WHITE EXPERIENCE

**SAU**

**ALL HAIL**

**BLUE & WHITE**

**SAVE THE DATE**  
**SEPTEMBER 19 - 25, 2021**

WWW.ST-AUG.EDU | 919.516.4000

f /saintaugustinesuniversity i saufalcons

**SAVE THE DATE**  
SAINT AUGUSTINE'S UNIVERSITY HOMECOMING

**ALL HAIL**

**BWE 2021**  
THE BLUE & WHITE EXPERIENCE

**SEPTEMBER 19 - 25, 2021**

**BWE HOMECOMING HOST HOTEL**

Room Rate Per Night: King, \$145, Double, \$145  
Sheraton Raleigh Hotel  
421 South Salisbury Street, Raleigh N.C. 27601  
919.834.9900

# CIAA 2022

**SAINT AUGUSTINE'S UNIVERSITY**  
**CIAA 2022 HOST HOTEL**

THE SAINT AUGUSTINE'S UNIVERSITY ROOM BLOCK HAS BEEN UPDATED AND THE ROOMS HAVE BEEN SECURED AT THE

**BALTIMORE HILTON**  
401 W Pratt St, Baltimore, MD 21201

Standard Room - One King Bed (\$195.00) - Standard Room - Two Double Beds (\$195.00) | February 20, 2022 - February 27, 2022

The following link has been created for SAU. Please use this link to book reservations within SAU's block of reserved rooms.

**Web-link: <https://book.passkey.com/go/CIAA22SAUAL>**

Once you click on the link, please follow the directions below:

- Input the dates of stay to the right
- Choose the number of rooms you would like to book, click "Find"
- Your assigned hotel will show, "Select" this hotel
- "Select" the preferred bed type, click "Next"
- Follow the steps to add the guest's information and to confirm

Access Code: If you or your guests will be calling into the housing bureau to book reservations within your block, please ensure that you have your access code readily available. Your access code is **CIAA22SAUAL**.

**IMPORTANT DEADLINES AND POLICIES:**

**DEADLINE TO ASSIGN ROOMS:**  
Your reservation must be made no later than Tuesday, January 25, 2022. Effective Wednesday, January 26, 2022, rooms within SAU's room block that have not been assigned through a reservation will be released.

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:**  
Once reservations have been completed, you will receive an email acknowledgement for each reservation at the email address provided in the reservation link. Please review the email acknowledgement information for accuracy.

**DEPOSIT & CANCELLATION POLICY:**  
No deposit will be required at the time of booking. A deposit of one night's room and tax will be charged by the hotel as early as, February 1, 2021. The deposit is refundable if the reservation is cancelled more than 3 working days prior to arrival. In addition to the deposit, please see the tiered cancellation policy below. The below cancellation charges will appear on your credit card as Convention Services, Folsom, CA.

- If you cancel a reservation between April 1, 2021 – August 31, 2021 by 11:59pm EST, your credit card will be charged \$50. **\*This will be a flat fee**
- If you cancel a reservation between September 1, 2021 – December 31, 2021 by 11:59pm EST, your credit card will be charged \$125. **\*This will be a flat fee**
- If you cancel a reservation between January 1, 2022 – through to the arrival date of the reservation, your credit card will be charged \$200. **\*This will be a flat fee**

**HOTEL CANCELLATION POLICY:**  
How to make modifications to an existing reservation:  
Go to <https://book.passkey.com/go/ciaa2022>

1. Click "Manage Existing Reservation"
2. Enter the acknowledgment number and corresponding last name as it appears on the reservation
3. Click "Show Reservation"
4. The system will pull up the reservation and on the reservation information click "Modify"
5. You will then be able to change the name, billing address, credit card information, etc.

**SAU Alumni**

**Alumni Toolkit**  
Check with your local chapter for more information.

# Alumni Toolkit

- Flyer Templates
- Brochure Template
- Social media hashtags
- Alumni Chapter Letterhead
- Alumni Chapter Logos
- [Identity Standards and University Style Guide](#)
- [Alumni Demographic Update Form](#)
- [Alumni Spotlight](#)



SAINT AUGUSTINE'S  
UNIVERSITY  
*Transform. Excel. Lead.*

## *2021 Planning: Fundraising, Philanthropy and Recruitment*

Despite the challenging year, Chapters, Regional Coordinators, and NAA-SAU officers have conducted fund-raising activities that were exemplary. Support of our alma mater has been unwavering.

### **Columbia SC**

The Columbia Alumni Chapter of SAU held its Annual Scholarship Fundraiser March 31, 2021. The drawing took place during its March 31<sup>st</sup> ZOOM Meeting.

The winners were selected by a drawing App. The fundraiser was a great success and Chapter members worked hard to sell raffle tickets for three prizes.

The Chapter wishes to thank all who supported this fundraiser.



The following winners are:

- 1<sup>st</sup> Prize – 55- inch LG flat screen Smart TV – Emily Smith
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Prize – HD Web Camera – Shawn Williams
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Prize – Portable Jet Blender – Felix Jackson
- 

### **Raleigh Wake Chapter**

Raleigh Wake would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for supporting the Chapter's fundraiser --- *CommuniTEA*.

The funds raised from this event will support Raleigh Wake's scholarship campaign and will be donated to Saint Augustine's University

With Falcon Love and Pride, Gloria Whitehurst, President

## **NAA-SAU National *Mentor Program***

The NAA-SAU has set a goal of establishing an efficient and effective *Mentor Program* to be in place for the coming 2021-2022 academic year in collaboration with Saint Augustine's Administration. The *Mission and Vision* for the program are in place and an implementation/strategic plan has been drafted with a timeline for program development and rollout.

The program will include training and guidelines for mentors to follow when interacting with SAU students. Profile sheets for mentors will be required as well as background forms for the student mentees, to be a part of the *Mentor Program* database to allow the matching of students and mentors. The University has established a team under Dean Ann Brown to work with the NAA-SAU on this program.

The Mentor Program will initially be rolled out as a pilot with three Chapters, Raleigh/Wake, Greater DMV, and Durham being the focal points for the program. However, interested alumni may be able to serve as a mentor even if you are not in one of these Chapters.

Student needs/requests will be matched with the skillset of the alumni in the program. As we gain experience with the pilot, we will expand into other Chapters where there are

mentors available. A key goal of the NAA-SAU Mentoring Program is to improve the retention and graduation rate of SAU students.

Alumni interested in serving as a Mentor should contact their Chapter President or if you are not in a local Chapter, you can contact Mr. Roland Otey, NAA-SAU Executive Director, to sign up as a Mentor.

## ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT



**Henry (Hank) Delve Debnam** retired in 2019 after 44 years in the health services industry. He served as the Director of the Cumberland County Mental Health Department in Fayetteville, NC. He was the first African American Mental Health Director in North Carolina. Henry earned his Bachelor of Science Degree from Saint Augustine's College (now University) in 1972, and a Masters' Degree in Public Health from the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, NC, in 1974.

He served in other leadership positions at Cape Fear Valley Medical, Stedman-Wade Health Services, Inc., NC Office of Rural Health, the Lumber River Council of Government and the NC Division of Health Services.

He also retired from the military in 2010 after serving 38 combined years in the U.S. Army and the NC Army National Guard. During his military retirement ceremony, he was awarded the prestigious U.S. Army Meritorious Service Medal.

Henry recently rotated off as SAU Board of Trustee Member after serving for four years. During this time, he served on the Athletic, Finance, Student Services/Academic and Strategic Planning committees. He also served as Vice President of the Fayetteville Area

Alumni Association. Among his many awards and recognitions over the years, his most precious was being awarded the NAFEO Award as a distinguished Saint Augustine's University Alumnus in 1997.

Henry is a Life Member of the National Alumni Association. He is married to Alisa Evans Debnam. They have two daughters, Dr. Deidra Ellen Debnam and Diana Nicole Debnam (graduating senior at UNC-CH) They are members of First Baptist Church, Fayetteville, NC where Henry serves as Trustee and member of the Personnel Committee and the Moore Street Board of Directors.

He is a member of Omega Psi Phi.

### **Hampton Roads Alumni Tributes**



**Dr. George W. Brown, Class of 1953, Patriarch of Hampton Roads Alumni Chapter**, is a Life Member and a former President of the National Alumni Association of Saint Augustine's University.

He received the M.S. and Ph. D. degrees in bacteriology from the University of Wisconsin in 1958 and 1970, respectively.

Dr. Brown is a 2015 Hall of Famer Honoree of the Hampton Roads Chapter, a 2019 William Jefferson Jackson Honoree of the Washington, D.C. Metropolitan Alumni Chapter

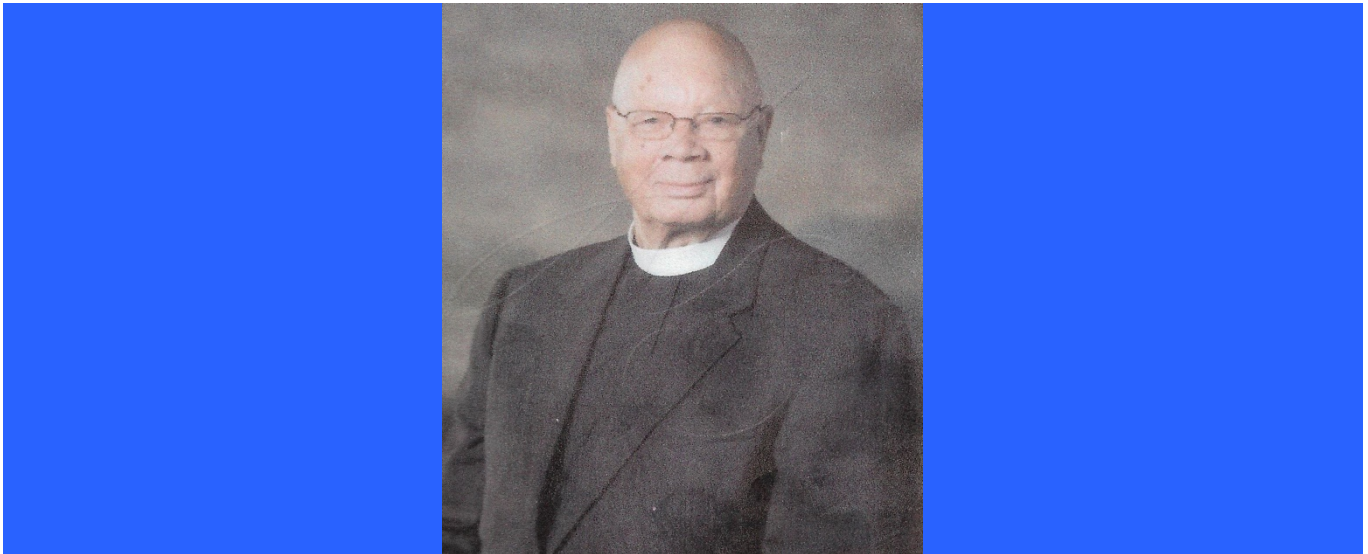
Dr. Brown served in the U.S. Army during the Korean War. He is a member of Chesapeake Bay Foundation Board for the Commonwealth of Virginia Pesticides Control Board. He has served in multiple roles in his greater communities, most notable—Youth Advisor, Presidents and Vice Presidents.

He retired after 14 years as Professor and Head of the Biology Department at Norfolk State University. Dr. Brown served for ten years as Professor of Biology at Kentucky State University, Frankfort, KY.

Dr. Brown's research experience began at Ortho Research Foundation, Raritan, NJ, where he served as its first staff scientist. He served as a Ph.D. scientist at the Proctor & Gamble Co. in Cincinnati, OH.

Dr. Brown is a member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity.

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**Rev. Joseph N. Green, Jr**, Class of 1949, is the 2013 *Hall of Famer Honoree* of Hampton Roads Alumni Chapter of Saint Augustine's University. He is the first African American to earn a Master of Sacred Theology Degree from the University of the South, Sewanee, Tennessee. He has Honorary Doctor of Divinity from Saint Paul's College, Saint Augustine's College (now University) and The Virginia Episcopal Seminary.

Rev. Green was ordained to the Episcopal Ministry in 1953. He is a former Chaplain of Saint Augustine's College. He is Rector Emeritus of Grace Episcopal Church where he served for 30 years; retiring in 1994.

He served as Interim Rector of St James Episcopal and currently serves as interim Rector of Saint Mark Episcopal Church, Suffolk, VA.

Rev. Green served on Diocesan and National Church Executive Councils, the Norfolk School Board for four years; 24 years on the Norfolk City Council---10 years as Vice Mayor.

Rev. Green worked to help establish a Tidewater Community College campus in downtown Norfolk; led efforts to promote TRT/HRT Mass Transit, improve and

promote new housing, three new shopping centers, office building renovations, expansion of two new churches, extensive residential development, restoration and upgrading. He successfully led the Crispus Attucks Cultural Center, Inc. renovations effort and restored the historic Attucks Theater.

He supported and served on boards and organizations, including War on Poverty, March on Washington, Urban Coalition, United Way, NAACP, YMCA, Virginia Law Foundation, Virginia Opera Association, Norfolk Ministers Association, Committee+ Men, Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Chrysler Museum, NCP Credit Union, Elizabeth River Project Board, and Saint Augustine's University.

### **Columbia, SC Chapter Salutes Sara Ford**



**Sarah Ford has served as Treasurer** of the Columbia Chapter since 1983, serving under three Chapter Presidents. She presently holds that position today. Sarah is a very dedicated and efficient Treasurer who keeps our finances in order. According to current president, Dr. Johnelle Sherald, "we do not know what we would do without her! "

Sarah is a native of Charleston, SC, but resides in Columbia, SC. She is a retired High School Math Teacher and Math Coach. She divides her time between the NAA-SAU Alumni Chapter and the Richland County Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. Sarah graduated in 1975 with a BS Degree in Mathematics Education.

While at Saint Augustine's College (now University), she pledged in the Gamma Rho Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. Her sweet personality and outstanding work ethic make it a joy to work with her. Sarah is a Life member of The National

Alumni Association and has volunteered to help the NAA during Homecoming activities and has been willing to assist us whenever she was asked.

Sara Ford, the Columbia Chapter salutes you and thanks you for all you do for the Chapter and the NAA!

## JOB ANNOUNCEMENT

**Duke Health is seeking a Director-Patient Revenue Management, to join our world-class, revenue cycle team.**

### **Career Opportunity**

**Link:** <https://career4.successfactors.com/sfcareer/jobreqcareer?jobId=111812&compAny=dukeuniverP1>

Please email your resume to [Latonia.scott@duke.edu](mailto:Latonia.scott@duke.edu) or click on the link to apply. If you have any questions, please contact Tonia at 919-370-0638.

## **FUND RAISING, FUND RAISING, AND FUND RAISING!**

As Alumni, we must do all we can to raise money for University

scholarships, infrastructure and athletics and to support a dedicated and competent faculty and staff. As part of your *Resolution to Give* to your alma mater, please pledge your support, time, talent and treasure (money) to your alma mater.

This Newsletter represents an opportunity for NAA-SAU Chapters/Members to submit items of interest that they would like to share with all Alumni.

Please submit content to the NAA-SAU Website/Communications

Coordinator ([naasauwsm@gmail.com](mailto:naasauwsm@gmail.com)) for review.