



SAINT AUGUSTINE'S UNIVERSITY
2022 FOUNDERS' DAY
CONVOCATION

KEYNOTE SPEAKER:

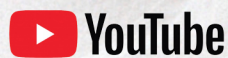
MAGDALENE JOHNSON OBAJI, '81

PRESIDENT AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER OF NIS SOLUTIONS CORP.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 27, 2022 • 11 A.M.



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Saint Augustine's University's mission is to sustain a learning community in which students can prepare academically, socially and spiritually for leadership in a complex, diverse and rapidly changing world.



SAINT AUGUSTINE'S
UNIVERSITY

Transform. Excel. Lead.



STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA.

To all to whom these Presents shall come, Greeting:

WHEREAS, *Thomas Atkinson, A. S. Mason, P. Brinton Smith, P. Blount Melvin, Albert Smiddy, E. M. Stokes, A. P. De Rosset, Richd. H. Smith, M. C. Lee, John Miller, Wm. Kemp, P. C. Patton* of the County of _____ and State aforesaid, in accordance with the law, (as prescribed in sections fourteen and fifteen of chapter twenty-six of the Revised Code,) have made application to be created and constituted a body politic and corporate, to be known as the *Saint Augustine Normal School and Collegiate Institute* for the purpose of *educating teachers for the colored people of the State of North Carolina and elsewhere in the United States*

NOW, THEREFORE, KNOW YE, that I, *Jonathan Worth*, Governor of said State, by virtue of the power and authority in me vested by the Constitution and laws of the State, do issue these, my LETTERS PATENT to the said *Thomas Atkinson, A. S. Mason, P. Brinton Smith, P. Blount Melvin, Albert Smiddy, E. M. Stokes, A. P. De Rosset, Richd. H. Smith, M. C. Lee, John Miller and Wm. Kemp, P. C. Patton* hereby creating and constituting them and their successors a body politic and corporate under the name and style of the *Saint Augustine Normal School and Collegiate Institute* under which name they may have succession and a common seal, sue and be sued, plead and be impleaded, in any Court of Record, or before any Justice of the Peace in this State, contract and be contracted with, acquire, hold and dispose of personal property for the benefit of the said corporation, and such real estate as may be requisite for the convenient transaction of its business, to have power to pass such by-laws and regulations as may be necessary for its government, which may not be inconsistent with the Constitution and laws of the State and of the United States, and to have all other powers usual and necessary to such corporations; for the purposes hereinbefore set forth:

UPON THE CONDITION, however, that the said corporation shall exist only for the term of *thirty* years from the date hereof; and the FURTHER CONDITION that the capital stock of the same shall not exceed the sum of _____

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, HIS EXCELLENCY *Jonathan Worth* our Governor, Captain-General, and Commander-in-Chief, has hereto set his hand, and caused the Great Seal of the State to be affixed.

Done at the City of Raleigh, this the *19th* day of *July* in the year of our Lord, one thousand eight hundred and sixty *seven*, and in the *twenty second* of our independence.

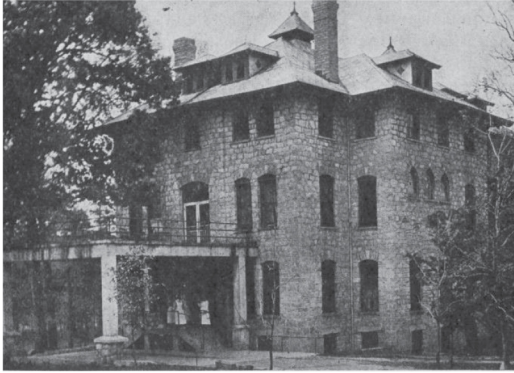
Jonathan Worth

BY THE GOVERNOR:

Wm. H. Bayley

Private Secretary.

HISTORY OF SAINT AUGUSTINE'S UNIVERSITY



Saint Agnes Hospital (Circa 1926).

Saint Augustine's University was chartered as a "Normal School and Collegiate Institute" on July 19, 1867, by the Reverend J. Brinton Smith, D.D., secretary of the Freedman's Commission of the Protestant Episcopal Church, and the Right Reverend Thomas Atkinson, D.D., Bishop of the Diocese of North Carolina. Bishop Atkinson became the first president of the Board of Trustees and Dr. Smith was the first principal. The new school opened its doors for instruction on January 13, 1868.

In 1893, the School's name changed from Saint Augustine's Normal School to Saint Augustine's School. In 1919, the name changed to Saint Augustine's Junior College, the first year in which postsecondary instruction was offered. The School became a four-year institution in 1927. In 1928, the institution was renamed Saint Augustine's College. Baccalaureate degrees were first awarded in 1931.

The College further extended its mission by establishing St. Agnes Hospital and Training School for Nurses to provide medical care for and by African Americans. It was the "first" school of nursing in the state of North Carolina for African-American students and served as the only hospital that served African Americans until 1960. One of St. Agnes most famous patients was boxer Jack Johnson. Following an accident that ultimately led to his death in 1946, boxer Jack Johnson was taken to St. Agnes Hospital. Johnson was the first African-American world heavyweight boxing champion.

Another "first" Saint Augustine's University is especially proud of is that the University was the nation's first historically black university to own an on-campus commercial radio station (WAUG-AM Power 750) and television station (WAUG-LD TV 8, Spectrum Channel 1231).

Since the beginning of its existence, Saint Augustine's University has blazed the trails in academics. Alumna Anna Julia Cooper, who was a prominent writer, educator and scholar, became the fourth African-American woman in United States to earn a doctoral degree. Today, Saint Augustine's University is proud of preserving its legacy by continuing to ensure scholars are academically equipped to be the global change agents of tomorrow.

Falcons not only soar in academics but also in athletics. The men's track and field team has experienced the victory of being #1 on numerous occasions. Saint Augustine's University alumnus, legendary former head track and field coach and athletic director, George "Pup" Williams, built a dynasty in track and field and cross country at the University. Since he began coaching in 1976, his track and field programs have won an astounding 39 national championships including the 2014 and 2013 NCAA Division II Men's Indoor Championships and five straight NCAA Division II Men's Outdoor Championships from 2013 to 2017. Williams has also coached 39 Olympians including three gold medalists.

On August 1, 2012, Saint Augustine's College transitioned in name and status to Saint Augustine's University.

Saint Augustine's University has a strong tradition of excellence and a rich legacy that bonds thousands of Saint Augustine's University sons and daughters from across the globe.

PROGRAM

Presiding: Dr. Christine Johnson McPhail, President

InvocationThe Reverend Sallie O. Simpson
Deacon - University Chapel

WelcomeDr. Christine Johnson McPhail

Musical Selection“Lift Every Voice and Sing” Mr. Dessalines Ford
James Weldon Johnson *Choir Director*
Music by J. Rosamond Johnson

Duet:
Ms. Mareyah Washington
Student Trustee

Ms. Elisha Johnson
Sophomore, Psychology

The History of Saint Augustine’s University Ms. Mareyah Washington

Introduction of the Speaker Ms. McKenzie Estep
Miss Saint Augustine’s University

Keynote Address..... Mrs. Magdalene Johnson Obaji, ‘81
President and CEO, NIS Solutions Corp.
Saint Augustine’s University Board of Trustees

Closing Remarks Dr. Carolyn Carter
Vice President for University Advancement, Marketing & Communications

Musical Instrumental SelectionUniversity Hymn..... Mr. Dessalines Ford
William Augustine Perry, ‘1902

Duet:
Ms. Mareyah Washington

Ms. Elisha Johnson

BenedictionThe Reverend Sallie O. Simpson



MAGDALENE JOHNSON OBAJI

Magdalene Johnson Obaji is the President and Chief Executive Officer of NIS Solutions Corp., a Woman owned Information Technology Services and Management Consulting Company headquartered in Sterling, Virginia. She is responsible for the day-to-day management and strategic direction of the company. Prior to NIS, Magdalene was president/Founder of Ifeoma Collection, a 7th Avenue based women's wear company in New York City. Before founding Ifeoma Collection, Magdalene held numerous management positions with Chase Manhattan Bank, American Express International Bank, and Bank of New York Mellon.

In 2012, the Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution elected Magdalene Johnson Obaji to the Board of the National Museum of African Art. In 2019 she was elected Chair of the Board after serving as the Chair of the Advancement Committee from 2014 to 2016 and Co-Vice Chair from 2016 to 2019.

In March of 2021, Magdalene was elected to the board of the Loudoun Hunger Relief, a food pantry organization and a partner agency with the Blue Ridge Area Food Bank and a Feeding America partner.

Magdalene has been elected to serve on the Board of Trustees of her alma mater, Saint Augustine's University, in Raleigh, North Carolina.

Inducted into the Rotary Club of Reston in 2000, Magdalene has held numerous offices, including President in 2005-06 and 2006-07. As president, she formed a partnership among the Monrovia, Fairfax, and Reston Rotary Clubs; and the three clubs adopted projects in Ben Town, Liberia and Jamaica, WI. She served on the Board of District 7610 of Rotary International as World Community Service Chair. Magdalene received the Rotary International District Governor's Citation for Excellent Service for her international work. She is a multiple Paul Harris Fellow and Paul Harris Society member. Magdalene served on the board of ACTNOW DC, a nonprofit charity in the Washington, D.C. metro area. This organization works to help stop child trafficking while helping the rescued children to live normal and decent lives. She is a recipient of The Rev. Dr. Emmanuel W. Johnson, Sr. Humanitarian Award for her work in Africa and the U. S. In 2017 Magdalene received the Stellar Woman Award from the Virginia Women's Business Conference. She is an active member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Incorporated.

Magdalene Johnson Obaji was born in Liberia, West Africa. She holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Management and Administration from Saint Augustine's University in Raleigh, NC, and a professional certificate in Fashion Design from Parsons School of Design in New York City.

She is married to Kingsley Obaji, and they have three children (Delmar, Uchenna and Chioma).

UNIVERSITY HYMN

Words and Music by William Augustine Perry, Class of 1902

God of every Nation, Every Race and Creed;
Lord of every creature, Every budding seed;
Friend of every right and foe of every wrong;
Father, Son, Great Spirit, Listen to our song.

So with thankful hearts, we worship and adore Thee,
Father, Son, Great Spirit,
Holy Trinity.

Ye alumni loyal, who have passed and gone,
Of your Christian lives this day for us was born.
Grant, O God, that we may live as worthily,
Passing onward greater opportunity.

So with thankful hearts, we worship and adore Thee,
Father, Son, Great Spirit,
Holy Trinity.

ALMA MATER

(The Blue and White)

Words and Music by William Augustine Perry, Class of 1902

The dark hue of the violet
The snow white lily's bloom,
Are emblems of the virtues rare
That seal all failure's doom;
That give us courage ever
To dare to do the right;
For Alma Mater dear they stand,
All hail the Blue and White.



