Achievers of Today and Tomorrow, Inc.

1999 — 2004
Five Year Review

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Historical Overview

In the Beginning

At the beginning of Fall semester 1999 during the orientation program at Savannah State University (SSU), a group of young men formed a friendship that, unknown to them, would soon lead to a leading campus organization. The young men were from a broad range of areas (Milwaukee, Georgia, Washington, D.C., and South Carolina) but shared a common vigor for academic excellence and public service.

After socializing and discussing their plans for the future these gentlemen clearly identified a common bond among them. Three of them ran for different positions as freshman class officers, another moved into a leading role in the campus gospel choir while the others supported them in their endeavors. During a discussion one late evening regarding their plans for the year, they decided to form an organization that would allow them to put their ideas into action while supporting each others activities, and encouraging all members to do well in their school work.

They immediately developed a constitution, organized some social activities, and in less than one month Achievers of Today and Tomorrow was an active campus organization on Savannah State University’s campus. The organization developed slowly as a social group, sponsoring private activities for its membership and close friend and conducting study halls to ensure all participants maintained a strong academic standing. As the next school year progressed, the members began to branch out and conduct events for the campus and general public. Since August 24, 1999 Achievers of Today and Tomorrow has made major contributions to the SSU campus and the local Savannah community. In 2001 Achievers of Today and Tomorrow became incorporated under the Georgia Secretary of State’s Office.
Serving and Uplifting the Community

Campus Partners
Since its origins, Achievers of Today and Tomorrow, Inc. has worked with other campus organization to help enhance the social atmosphere on campus and provide learning experiences for the student body. Over the past five years Achievers of Today and Tomorrow, Inc. has partnered and/or co-sponsored activities with the following campus organizations:

- Ash Tree Organization
- SSU Chapter of NAACP
- Wesley Community Center
- Peer Counselors
- Queens Coalition
- Student Government Association
- Sophomore Class
- Division of Academic Affairs
- Division of Student Affairs
- Office of Testing
- Junior Class
- Freshman Class
- ΔH Chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha
- AF Chapter of Omega Psi Phi
- TZ Chapter of Phi Beta Sigma
- ΔN Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta
- Sisters Striving for Excellence
- Division of Institutional Advancement
- Office of Admissions
- Center for Student Activities

Community Partners
Achievers of Today and Tomorrow, Inc. has also ventured off the SSU campus into the Savannah and surrounding communities to sponsor mentoring and service projects for a host of schools, programs, and agencies. The organization works tirelessly to develop community relationships that will allow them to support, serve, and/or empower other organizations that share in its objectives such as:

- Ash Tree Organization
- Savannah Inner City Night Shelter
- March of Dimes
- East Broad Elementary
- Butler Elementary
- Heard Elementary
- Beach Institute
- Sickle Cell Parent Advocacy Group of Savannah
- Frank Collins Boys & Girls Club
- May Street Y.M.C.A.
- Wesley Community Center

It is Achievers of Today and Tomorrow, Inc.’s philosophy that success and satisfactions are accomplished through collective community interaction and selfless deeds. The members clearly understand that they will grow and learn more by interacting and serving others.
Our Membership

Regular Membership
Achievers of Today and Tomorrow, Inc. (ATnT) inducts an average of eight new members each semester. Membership is open to all male students enrolled at Savannah State University who are in good standing. All members go through a three week training class in which they learn key professional and leadership skills such as:

- Project Planning/Implementation
- How to Work in Teams
- Roberts Rules of Order/Parliamentary Procedure
- Styles of Leadership
- Dress for Success
- ATnT Structure
- Campus & ATnT History

Miss Achievers of Today and Tomorrow
Each year the organization selects a young lady from the campus population to serve as the ambassador for the organization. Though she serves as MC and hostess for all sponsored events, and queen for coronation; she also sponsors special events and projects and serves as a member of the Executive Committee.

Continued Commitment
Ten members have graduated (70% with honors) from Savannah State University and all have found employment in their field of interest within six months of their graduation date, four members are pursuing masters degree. All the graduate members declared that it was their involvement in Achievers of Today and Tomorrow, Inc. that enhanced their learning experience and provided the additional tools needed to start their lives with a solid foundation. These members still work with the current members through mentoring and career advisement. In the fall, they will return to speak with freshman students to give advise on how to stay on track and provide antidotes of mistakes they made when they were freshmen.
Organization Structure

Flat Hierarchy

Though there are elected and appointed positions within the organizational structure, democracy is the guiding force for all the organization's endeavors. Each member of ATnT is considered to have equal authority and voice, and all proposed sponsored events are voted on at the general meeting or during executive session. All members including the Chairman, the Queen, and the Advisors will serve as a project manager, and all members are responsible for specific tasks throughout the school year.

Officers and Appointments

There are a total of six elected officers defined in the ATnT Constitution:

- Chairman/Chief Executive Officer
- Vic-Chairman/Executive Officer
- Miss Achievers of Today and Tomorrow
- General Secretary/Chief Operations Officer
- Treasure/Chief Financial Officer
- Inspector General
- Secretary of Programs and Services

There are thirteen positions appointed by the Chairman (with the approval of the Executive Committee):

- Membership Director
- Public Affairs Director
- Director of Records/Historian
- SGA Representative
- Chaplain
- Budget Manager
- Funding Manager
- Parliamentarian
- Sergeant of Arms
- Public Service Director
- Training and Development Director
- Program Manager: Top Ten
- Program Manager: Dress For Success

Though it may appear to be a broad distribution of autonomy within the structure of the organization, the design is to encourage each member to take responsibility for every facet of the organization to ensure all objectives are fulfilled.
Special Projects and Programs

Award Winning Service
Since its inception, ATnT has exhibited exceptional service and commitment to the campus and the Savannah community. Annual, the organization averages four major projects each month and the members support their peers in other events scheduled throughout each semester. This dedication of support and service resulted in the organization receiving the Clifford E. Hardwick, III—Campus Organizations of the Year award from the Savannah State University Division of Student Affairs.

Love Week
During the Fall semester of 2001, ATnT generated a program designed to unite the campus by reaching as many student, faculty, and staff as possible and creating various venues for them to interact and exchange ideas and share and learn from their differences. Throughout the week, ATnT sponsored several activities on campus designed to expressed unity and sponsored a local community service project for Savannah State University students.

The Thanks-4-Giving Drive was conducted from 10:30 AM to 6:30 P.M. each day of Love Week. Students and campus employees donated six boxes of canned food, cereal, clothing, coats, and other useful items to be donated to a local charity in the city of Savannah.

An Old School Dance Party in the Freshman Living and Learning Facility allowed new students and upper classmen an opportunity to socialize while listening to music and from the 60', 70', and 80's and display their old school dancing skills and soul-train party lines.
Each year during *Love Week*, the members sponsor *Women’s Appreciation Day* (coordinated by Miss Achievers of Today and Tomorrow), a day to show their appreciations for the women of Savannah State University’s Campus. Throughout the day the members pass out Hershey’s® Kisses and red carnations to students and to all of their female professors. During lunch and dinner, they carry trays for the female students and refill their drinks. That evening, they hold a Women’s Appreciation Social, an event catered towards the young ladies on campus in which the members and men from other campus organizations host a reception, conduct thought provoking conversations, and perform a variety show where the men of SSU display their talents through spoken word, song, and music. The evening culminates with all the men serenading the women as the program ends. ATnT members are taught and encouraged to display respect and honor for womanhood and exhibit chivalry and all the finer characteristics a gentleman at all time.

The hallmark of *Love Week* is *Hug Day*, a day in which all members of the campus community are encourage to display random-acts-of-affection. The members observed that people rarely show how they feel about others or how much they appreciate each other. Hug Day is a day in which every one expresses the up-most respect and gratitude towards each other, find at least one positive affirmation about everyone they interact with and express it openly, and seek out the good in the human condition and celebrate it. In 2004, ATnT will work diligently to make Hug Day a national celebration through a broad distribution of public service announcements and relationships with other colleges and universities.
The Top Ten Tips To The Top™ is a two tier program in which:

1) the members interview politicians, administrators, professionals, entrepreneurs, peers, and others to gain insight on their background and how they have dealt with obstacles in their lives and how they have achieved their greatest accomplishments. The presenter then identifies what s/he believes are the top ten tips necessary to achieving one's goals. The members will, in turn

2) Update a master list of Top Ten tips, develop them into a variety of presentations, and present the tips through lectures and seminars. All members of the organization are required to submit a personal Top Ten list at the beginning of each school year to contribute to the master list.

The Mission:
- To help members network with individuals with knowledge and experience in their field of study
- To help individuals identify leadership characteristics, and develop a leadership personality
- To share acquired information with peers and youth groups to assist them in achieving their goals.
Looking and Feeling Good

Social science has proven what many major companies and professionals have known for quite some time – image is everything. The first impression people conceive of an individual is their appearances; before the first words are spoken or even before eye contact is made. When people dress professionally, others naturally treat them with respect and they have a tendency to behave according to their style of dress. In 2001 ATnT kicked off a campus wide Dress for Success initiative encouraging students to dress in professional attire once a week. When practiced regularly, faculty, staff, and administration will begin to view the student body with a renewed respect. Moreover, students will begin to treat each other with this same renewed respect.

Every Wednesday the Savannah State University student body will dress in professional attire starting the first week of classes. The men dress in slacks, dress shoes, shirt, and tie. The ladies wear dresses, skirts, dress pants and a blouse or pants ensemble with the proper hosiery and shoes. Blazers and suits are optional for both genders.

Throughout each year, ATnT conducts several Dress for Success seminars for different campus organizations and for several of the local schools and community organizations. The organization is dedicated to improve the image, attitudes, and focus of the campus student body, and youth throughout the city.

The Mission:
- To have all students on Savannah State University campus feel comfortable in professional dress.
- To teach the student body appropriate dress for specific occasions.
- To foster respect among students, faculty, staff, and administration.
*Fall 2004 Agenda

**August**
Five Year Anniversary  
Dress For Success Seminar—Savannah Technical College  
Freshman Orientation Program  
Fellowship Outing  
Campus Cook-Out

**September**
Membership Mixer  
Charity Basketball Game

**October**
New Member Training/Orientation  
Fright Night  
Youth Trick or Treat Program

**November**
High School Visitation  
Love Week  
“Holler Session” - Lock-In  
Thanks For Giving Drive  
Valentines Day in November  
Women’s Appreciation  
Hug Day  
What the Students Want Survey  
Top Ten Tips To The Top ™

**December**
Christmas Reception

*Mentoring project will be held at East Broad Street Elementary School every Friday from 12-2pm*
*Spring 2005 Agenda*

**January**
Martin Luther King, Jr. Parade  
Top Ten Tips To The Top ™  
Dress for Success Fashion Show  
Member Retreat

**February**
“Black Like Me” presentations at local elementary schools  
Top Ten Tips To The Top ™  
Resume and Interview Workshop

**March**
Cosmopolitan Party  
Top Ten Tips To The Top ™  
Work Force Competencies Work Shop

**April**
High School Visitation  
Top Ten Tips To The Top ™  
Election of Officer

**May**
Hill Hall Scholarship Gala  
End of the Year Receptions  
Savannah State University Commencement
Achievers of Today and Tomorrow, Inc.

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