

Arthur Winston Operator Honored as Tuskegee Parent of the Year

By DANIELLE GROSSMAN

(Oct. 24, 2002) At a ceremony in front of more than 2,000 Tuskegee University students and their families, Oct. 13, MTA's Duane Bonner was recognized as 2002 Parent of the Year.

A finishing touch to Tuskegee's Parents Weekend in Tuskegee, Ala., the ceremony honored Bonner — an Arthur Winston Division 5 operator — who was chosen out of 208 applicants.

"I'm overwhelmed," says Bonner, a single father. "I was a proud parent to walk across the stage. They treated me really good. I was excited."

Bonner was surprised to find out he had been accepted, especially since he had just canceled his flight reservations to attend Parents' Weekend so he could save the money. But, an excited phone call from his daughter, Dana, a 21-year-old English major at Tuskegee, informed him he had won.

Bonner decided to apply for Parent of the Year because he believes he is a good parent.

"I'm struggling to get her through school; I pay \$14,000 a year," Bonner says. "I drove her to school personally. I thought this is something I deserve."

Bonner, who has two other children (one a UCLA graduate and the youngest a community college student), wants his children to have a better life than he has had. He believes that being Parent of the Year is achieved by standing behind your child.

"Help them achieve their dream just like it's your own," Bonner says.

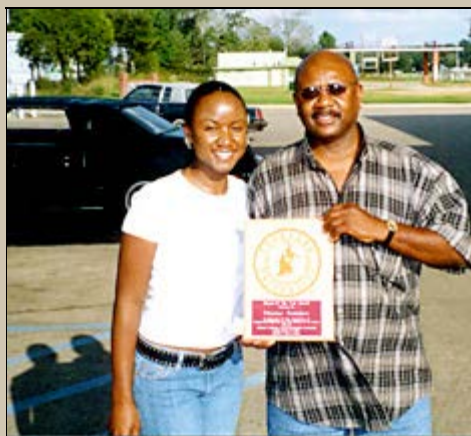
Being a good parent also involves listening to your child and what they have to say, he says.

"I sacrifice a lot of my own personal needs," Bonner says, "to help Dana financially and emotionally."

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Arthur Winston Division Bus Operator Duane Bonner, displays his Tuskegee University Parent of the Year 2002 plaque.



Daughter Dana is an English major at Tuskegee University.

