

BGSA News Magazine

08-09 Year in Review



BGSA-UA
Wins
Affiliate
of the
Year



Inside
Recap of BGSA year
Farewell from BGSA President
Letter from BGSA President-Elect

Issue 1
Volume 1
May 1, 2009



Recipes
Word Search
Graduates Spotlight and more...

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Editors Note: I am glad to bring to you BGSA's News Magazine 08-09. BGSA has done so much this year to fulfill the 3 pillars that BGSA stands for, Academic Excellence, Community Service and Fellowship. This issue will review all the fun and success that BGSA has made in 08-09. Enjoy.



Keosha Hooks, Executive Secretary

A LOOK AT THE FUN BGSA EXPERIENCED THIS YEAR

Ask any graduate student on the University of Arizona campus and they will tell you that graduate school is no walk in the park. It is a big task to manage course load, research and personal obligations. BGSA-UIA recognizes the need for balance and the importance of socializing with peers. Discussing the daily stresses of pursuing a professional degree with someone walking in the same path in a relaxed atmosphere makes for a sound mind and much better rounded graduate student. That is why BGSA also stands on the pillar of Fellowship. Besides connecting black graduate students in our general meetings, there is a scheduled social once a month that engages members to relax and "take the load off". Activities in fall 2008 included, a night out at Laffs Comedy Club, a bowling night and a karaoke night.

Members seem to particularly enjoy the karaoke night which was held at Terry and Zeke's bar. It was most amusing to see graduate students perform to a wide range of musical selections including Destiny's Child, Marvin Gaye and the best ever Michael Jackson's "Thriller". Patrons of Terry and Zeke remarked that it was the first time that "Thriller" had ever been performed at the venue. That is what we like to hear, BGSA-UIA making history everywhere we go!

Spring 2009 brought even more exciting ventures for BGSA-UIA to encourage fellowship among its members. As part of BGSA-UIA's sustainability plan for the year, there was a decision to incorporate fundraisers with our socials. It is important that the organization is financially sound in order to better serve its members by

boosting membership benefits and being able to plan events which could be funded by the organization. Hence, we kicked off the spring semester with a welcome back/percentage night at Claim Jumper restaurant. Not only were members able to socialize but the organization benefited financially by receiving 10% of each purchaser's bill. Also, in BGSA's spring 2009 line up for social activities was an ice cream social which came immediately after our February General body meeting. Members enjoyed each others company while enjoying ice cream sundaes with their choice of toppings. This brings us to what some might call the party of the year. In keeping with the executive board's thoughts on a financially sound organization, BGSA-UIA decided to throw a party during black history month to celebrate the young talent that

would be the new generation of leaders. The party was cleverly called "Copyright Potential". This event encouraged originality and uniqueness. The event was held at Neo Lounge. Twin Tower Promotions generously donated all the proceeds from that night to BGSA-UIA. Members truly

enjoyed socializing in an upscale environment with music we can all appreciate. Another truly unique activity which BGSA-UIA participated in this past March was our "Shall We Dance" social which was held at the Arizona Ballroom. BGSA-UIA members took a tango class which was followed by an open dance where we witnessed and partici-



Karaoke social



Dance Social

Socials continued on page 7



Western Regional Conference

The National Black Graduate Student Association held their Western Regional Conference October 3rd-5th, 2008 at the University of Arizona in Tucson, AZ. The conference started off with a well-attended social mixer that brought undergraduates, graduates, faculty and staff members together. In addition, a very informative Presidential address was given by Ms. Nameka Bates. Ms. Bates spoke about the importance of both BGSA and NBGSA membership, the NBGSA executive council, as well as leadership opportunities for members.

Four exciting workshops were planned for the conference. A *Community Awareness- Black Health Disparities* panel discussion was hosted by Dr. Colette Sims (Ph.D, University of Arizona). Students and community members spoke about alarming health statistics within the black community. During the *Financial Wellness* presentation, Tony Finley (CPA and Chief Financial Officer of Long Realty) spoke to audience members about preparing for a healthy financial future. Other workshops included *Marketing yourself Competitively in any Field* by E. LaBrent Chrite (Ph.D, University of Arizona) and *The Post-baccalaureate Experience* by James Pogue (Ph.D, Binghamton University). Also on the schedule of events was a keynote address entitled "Legacy, Our Destiny" given by David Hinds (Ph.D, Arizona State University). "His Dream, His Legacy, Our Destiny" given by David Hinds (Ph.D, Arizona State University).



Conference Mixer

During this amazing event students were given the opportunity to network with potential employers at a Career Fair. Also, a student poster session provided graduate and undergraduate students the opportunity to present research in a supportive environment.

Not only did the 2008 NBGSA Western Regional Conference effectively serve black graduate students but it served the black community at large. Many thanks go to affiliates at the University of Arizona and representatives from NBGSA who put so much hard work and effort towards hosting such a successful event!

By Sanyu Kibuka



Post Baccalaureate Experience Workshop



Martin Luther King Service Project

Ronald McDonald Chef for A Day

COMMUNITY SERVICE

This year BGSA-UA coordinated three community service events. In the fall semester BGSA-UA participated in the "Chef for a Day" service project at the Ronald McDonald house. BGSA prepared bag lunches for families of those seeking treatment at the University of Arizona Cancer Center. This was a great team building service project as we all worked together to prepare a hearty lunches for these families. In the spring semester BGSA held the Martin Luther King Day of Service Care Pack- and Citrus fruit picking for Tucson Food Bank.



Citrus picking

The MLK Day of Service Care Package Collection for the Deng Ater Foundation, and Citrus fruit picking for Tucson Food Bank. The MLK Day of Service Care Package Collection was held at Reid Park and was a huge success. Through the help of USAService.org and the MLK Day of Service websites we were able to publicize our event to the Tucson Community as well as fellow University of Arizona students. While working with members from the Deng Ater Foundation we were able to collect more than \$300.00 in monetary donations and more than 50 school bags filled with school supplies, first aid items, personal hygiene items and toys. These items were to be sent to Sudan for students attending school. The Citrus picking event was also a success. There was a diverse number of participants for this event. We were able to help the Tucson Food Bank collect buckets full of citrus fruits which will be donated to the Tucson community. In the semester to come we hope to continue our spirit of community service and develop many more exciting philanthropic events.

By: Ismail Sillah

NBGS National Conference 2009: And the winner is...

BGSA-UA attends the 21st annual conference for the black graduate students.

The National Black Graduate Students Association (NBGSA) 21st annual conference in Houston Texas draw 100+ graduate students from diverse fields and from across the country. Representing the University of Arizona were Ada, Chandra, Michella, Rowena. The goals of the conference are (1) to connect black graduate students across the country (2) provide an outlet for black graduate students who present and showcase their research.

The conference was also an opportunity for graduate students to become involved in NBGSA by taking an active role on the executive council and other advisory committees. Michella Tucker, masters student in Public Administration was elected as the 2009 NBGSA Vice President of Information Services, Chandra Jennings, masters student in Public Health, was elected as a Judicial Commissioner and

Rowena Campbell, Doctoral candidate in Medical Pharmacology and former NBGSA Western Regional Representative was elected as a Nominations and Elections Commissioner.

BGSA UA has been a member of NBGSA for 2 years. Membership benefits include opportunities to network with other black graduate students across the country. During the 2008-2009 school year Rowena Campbell served as the Western Regional Representative for NBGSA. As the Western Regional Representative, Rowena worked with her counterpart at University of Nevada Las Vegas (UNLV) to host a Regional BGSA conference on the UofA campus in October of 2008.

As an affiliate chapter of NBGSA, BGSA-UA was eligible to be considered for recognition as Chapter Affiliate of the Year. Each year the NBGSA selects an NBGSA affiliate of the year, the winner

Cover Story continued on page 7

exemplifies a model of providing institutional student-initiated support for graduate students of African descent. The awardees are selected based on the quality, diversity and innovative nature of the chapter's academic and social programming and community service work.

Other chapters considered were the BGSA at Emory University, University of Maryland at College Park and University of South Carolina --each dynamic organizations engaging in innovative membership benefits and community programs. On the final evening of the conference the affiliate of the year was announced: BGSA-UA!

We believe that NBGSA recognized the strength of BGSA-UA's commitment to the black graduate student body, the UA community and the Tucson community at large.

BGSA-UA's affiliate chapter membership signifies its commitment to connecting black graduate students at the UofA to students across the country. We urge every BGSA-UA member to visit the NBGSA website at www.nbgca.org and become an individual member. The 22nd annual NBGSA conference will take place at our western neighbor, San Diego, CA. We hope that many of you will make an effort to attend.

By: Michella Tucker

Socials...

participated in all forms of traditional ballroom dances. Members remarked that they were hesitant at first but by the end of the night they all thought that the activity was fun.



AZ Ballroom, Dance Social

BGSA-UA closed out the semester with a golfing activity and our annual end of year bar-b-que. The 2008-2009 BGSA-UA executive board has had a remarkable time planning all of these events and hope that the members have truly enjoyed each of them. In planning the social activities, the executive board focuses on originality and tries to think of things that graduate students would not think of doing on a day to day basis. The executive board wanted to ensure that members were not only fostering new friendships through fellowships but they were embarking on new adventures.

By Rowena Campbell



Fish Escabeche

- 4 whole fish or 4 slices fish fillet
- 3 cups water
- 1 tsp salt
- 1 tsp oregano
- 1 ½ onions sliced
- 1 cup vinegar
- 1 jalapeño pepper
- 1 tsp black pepper



Method

1. In saucepan, add water and vinegar to taste then season with salt and pepper.
2. Add carrots and oregano and simmer until carrots are tender.
3. Add fish and onion and continue to cook until fish is tender.

Serve with corn tortilla

Submitted by Michelle Tucker



Serre with Fufu

- 2 snapper fish or fish of your choice
- 3 cups fresh coconut milk or canned
- 1 large onion sliced
- 1 habanera pepper
- 2 green plantain
- 2 ripe plantain
- 10 cloves garlic chopped
- Salt and pepper
- Lime for lime water

Method

1. Clean and wash fish with lime water. Dry with paper towel and season with salt and pepper.
2. In sauce pan, add coconut milk and stir constantly until milk boils
3. Add fish and onion and continue to stir until fish is tender. Season to taste with salt and pepper.
4. Remove from heat
5. Peel plantains and boil until soft
6. Mash together the green and ripe plantains. Season with salt
7. Season mashed plantain with serre

BGSA INTRODUCES SPECIAL PROGRAMMING...

A recap of chalk talk

The Black Graduate Students Association (BGSA) of University of Arizona stands on three strong pillars but the one which needs the most emphasis is that of Academic Excellence. Based on the need to always strive for excellence in our pursuit of professional degrees, the ability to communicate ones interest to the general public was found to be important and necessary. From this concept, the "Chalk Talk" program was established. Chalk Talk was designed to facilitate discussion based on our members' research. This informal discussion allows one BGSA member to give an informal presentation about their current research project with no aids other than marker and white board.

Since the inception of this program, we have heard talks ranging from Medical Pharmacology, Population Genetics to Public Health Initiatives. The diverse audience from different fields funnels a range of questions which the presenter might not typically receive when presenting for peers in his or her particular discipline.

BGSA members through chalk talk are able to gain general knowledge about their fellow member's interests, practice for upcoming seminars and develop presentation skills all in a no pressure, comfortable environment.

As professionals in our respective fields, it is crucial that we are able to relay information on our specialized

topics in a manner that is comprehended by any audience.

With the success of the Chalk Talk program, it should surely always have a place in the infrastructure of the organization. BGSA is not only in the business of recruitment and retention, we also would like to see our students matriculate through the system and that is why Chalk Talk under academic excellence is so important. If you would like to participate or present at a chalk talk session, please email Rowena

rowenac@email.arizona.edu) to schedule a time and location.

These sessions are scheduled on an as needed basis unless otherwise stated.

By Rowena Campbell

A recap of the Writing Group

The BGSA Academic Writing Group was formed in February to support and encourage BGSA members in the pursuit of their academic writing goals. Members (Alisha, Ada, Rowena, Joe, Ibrahima, Gerard, Veronica, Keosha, and Miriam) have been meeting every two weeks to discuss our writing goals, hold each other accountable, and set new goals. Everyone has been doing a great job of working towards and meeting their goals. We have two more meetings left this semester, so let's finish the year off right!

By Alisha Watts

BGSA Word Search

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S M C D E D I V E E S I P A O V E G O A S R O E H
A U E S C A L M S E O E E S E S C O P M N E E S G
P D C A D T M U L D O C L O N T S T S N A A D V D
C D U C I C S A T E I U D Y O E S O O C E R U O A
T D S M E O E T S V A S N D S C R A D E I R N N A
N M N E E S H N R T G P F D P N L N C C C T T T S
U D S C A O S E D A E O P O P L D N E C S S Y O C
S H O E L U S F N S N R S L E S E E O I Y C F T C
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D L P S S O M S M S I I T E D R A E T L E C U D S
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E P R A C O D R S T C E I I C H O I S D N S R R I
N L R O D N M C E S Y I T T I O H M E O R A A R R
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A P E E P I O I S T C E S S S A C L R T I A E O
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G E I D A S R S E C A O A A I A W A O M T E D E P
O C V N C E I S S U P L S D L C S G A S E A V O
E H R P V I S S D P L L E I E S L C F L D D D R A
L N F I I I E A E L T D A F V A A N T L T S A R D
L X N T D R R L A H E H R D O D P N O S O P O C N
V U I L C G R C S G T I E T U O A I E U S S C M A

academic	application	fellowship	money
grants	doctoral	masters	thesis
dissertation	dedicated	stressed	socials
community	service	excellence	graduate
successful	support	university	advisor



A Note From BGSA President Elect

It is with great honor that I accept the roles and responsibilities of being the BGSA President for the 2009-2010 academic year. I am anticipating a very successful year academically and organizationally for BGSA members. We will continue to uphold the values placed on our three pillars and make BGSA an organization whose presence is felt throughout the campus. With the help of our

members and executive board, goals will be set to improve the organization and increase our community involvement.

As we come to the end of the semester, I hope that everyone survives finals, relaxes (to some extent) during the summer and prepares for a great Fall semester!

Sincerely,

Candice Morrison
2009-2010 BGSA President

A Note from Dr. Maria Teresa Velez, Associate Dean, UA Graduate College

I would like to celebrate and congratulate the University of Arizona's Black Graduate Student Association for the outstanding job you have performed since the organization was started a little over a year ago. BGSA not only won the bid to host the first BGSA regional meeting in the West, putting together a very polished and stimulating conference, but also was recognized with the Affiliate of the Year Award at the national organization's annual conference in Houston in 2009. Three of the four UA graduate students who attended the conference were also elected to positions of leadership in the national organization, suggesting that the caliber of the students that comprise the University of Arizona BGSA chapter is impressive indeed.



Dr. Maria Teresa Velez

Continued on page 12

Note from Dr. Velez continued...

As someone who has recruited and mentored many of you individually, I am extremely proud of what you have accomplished as a group in such a short period of time. I see in BGSA tremendous enthusiasm, goal orientation, a strong and proud identity as people of African descent, and an enormous desire to succeed academically as individuals but also as a group. Seldom have I seen such a smart, high achieving and hard working group of graduate students who are so committed to their own and each other's academic success. Especially in a place like the University of Arizona, where there is not a large African American presence, BGSA provides that indispensable sense of community, belonging and pride that is critical for all minority students to succeed.

A strong and vibrant organization like BGSA will help attract many more outstanding Black graduate students to the UA. I am sure that, as your numbers grow, you will play an even more pivotal role in inspiring our students to achieve and succeed. As we say in Spanish, Si se Puede!!! Yes, We Can! I very much appreciate the excellent work you do and look forward to celebrating your successes in the years to come.

Dr. Maria Teresa Velez

Graduate Corner

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Keisha Robinson will be graduating this May of 2009 with her Master of Public Health, Epidemiology. Keisha plans to begin her career as an Epidemiologist, providing descriptions and statistics about the health of communities. Upon graduation, she will continue to dedicate time and efforts toward HIV/AIDS education and awareness in the Black and African American communities in Southern Arizona. Ms. Robinson is an advocate for social justice, and believes in continual self-reflection for personal growth. In the future, Keisha aspires to compile a book of daily affirmations and uplifting quotes for the modern young Black woman.

Keisha Robinson



Graduate Corner



Michelle J Tucker will be graduating this May 2009 with her Master of Public Administration degree with a concentration in Nonprofits and Local Government. She wishes to enhance service delivery of social service programs. One thing interesting about Michelle is that she “makes a mean pico de gallo” and some thing else interesting about Michelle is that she loves random facts and loves to share them even more.

Michelle Tucker



Keosha Hooks will graduate this May 2009 with her Master of Public Administration with a Nonprofit and local government concentration. She is excited to work in the government or nonprofit sector to provide services to citizens. She has a special interest in programs for the elderly. Keosha is likes to eat, sleep and hang out with family and friends. Keosha loves experimenting with food and creating good meals with leftovers.

Keosha Hooks



Miriam Zmiewski is a graduate student at the Mel and Enid Zuckerman College of Public Health (MEZCOPH), pursuing her Master's of Public Health (MPH) degree. She is dedicating her life to helping others. She has a passion for helping underserved communities. Promoting sexual health, the prevention of sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) and enhancing communication between youth and their parents are the primary goals for her career.

Miriam Zmiewski

SANKOFA



I had the pleasure of attending the Sankofa event held this past March. Through BGSA, I have been introduced to the graduate black community at the University of Arizona, but it has been difficult to make connections with the black community outside of the university setting. For this reason, Sankofa was a very rewarding experience, for the ideal of learning from those who came before us to hopefully make the road ahead more manageable can now be more easily met.

My favorite portion of the event was the planned networking activity. As mentioned, many of us have had the opportunity to network with individuals for academic and job purposes, but social networking is just as important. It was very entertaining to learn of the book people would write if given a chance, or which recipe is their most memorable. I can't speak enough how I truly enjoyed this event, and feel strongly that it should become a signature event of BGSA. From the keynote speaker to the networking activity to the illustrious church hat walk, I truly learned how inspiring, diverse, and beautiful the Tucson black community is.



From left: Ada Dieke, Keosha Hooks, Alisha Watts



Hat Walk participants.

BGSA Paid Members

- 1. Alibode, Claryml**
- 2. Anako, Chinenye**
- 3. Campbell, Eowena**
- 4. Davis, Erittany**
- 5. Deas, Joseph**
- 6. Dieke, Ada**
- 7. Dixon, Torry**
- 8. Griffin, Clarence**
- 9. Griffin, Danielle**
- 10. Hooks, KeeSha**
- 11. Jansen, Leslie**
- 12. Jennings, Chandra**
- 13. Jones, Tiffany**
- 14. Elibuka, Sanyu**
- 15. McClary, Lakelsha**
- 16. Mckam, Yvonne-Marie**
- 17. Morrison, Candice**
- 18. Namakando, Sibeso**
- 19. Niane, Ibrahima**
- 20. Swcru, Chinedu**
- 21. Omari-Tunkara, Mikelle Smith**
- 22. Robinson, Kelsha**
- 23. Robertson, Gerard**
- 24. Sillah, Ishmall**
- 25. Vazquez, Dandy**
- 26. Victory, Kerton**
- 27. Zmlowski, Miriam**

Just Relax!

By Chandra S. Jennings-Jackson

Around this time of the year we are often overwhelmed with many responsibilities. These can range from taking final exams, writing papers, and lab reports to making summer plans and going home. With all of these things on our plate we can become stressed out. Also, sometimes the stresses that we have put on ourselves throughout the entire semester or year has caught up with us making us feel tired, worn out, and unproductive. Not only is it difficult to deal with stress, but it is also hard to manage it. Our own University of Arizona Campus Health provides us with many ways to handle our stress during this time. This is a summary of stress relievers from some articles featured on their website:

1. Relax where you are: close your eyes, take deep and slow breaths, and just relax
2. Take a break from your work: go outside, take a walk, read a book not related to school, watch television or go to the movies
3. Make time for yourself: do an activity that you personally like to do; this should help you stay calm and ready to return to your studies relaxed
4. Think positive!
5. Laugh: at a movie, at television, with friends, or even at yourself
6. Exercise: it will give you an extra boost of energy and release
7. Sleep: try to get as much sleep as you need to work at your personal best, keep your sleeping patterns as regular as possible
8. Eat nutritiously: eat a well-balanced diet as your body will need all of the extra vitamins and minerals it can get

I know that it is easier said than done to take sometime out of your hectic day for yourself, but do it! Not only is it important for your health, but it will help in staying focused on that final exam or writing those last few pages of your thesis or dissertation. It is all about balancing your time with work, school, research, relaxation, and of course an occasional party! If you cannot manage your stress on your own and you need to talk to someone Campus Health has a great service called Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS), which provides low cost counseling to students.

I hope that you use some of these steps in managing your stress. I wish you all nothing but the best with finals and have a wonderful and relaxing summer!

Here is a link to the Campus Health Service articles, along with a few other topics to check out: http://www.health.uarizona.edu/webfiles/health_topics_mental.htm



FINANCIAL RECAP

Financially speaking, it has been a busy year for BGSA. During the first semester, we conducted three fundraisers in November – a bowling night, a yard sale, and the Gold Canyon fundraiser, which involved selling high quality candles during the winter season. Because the rules regarding bowling fundraisers were not detailed sufficiently, we came out at about even for bowling night. Not many people were impressed with the hair weave that Ada Dieke, our president, tried to sell, so we netted only \$30 from the yard sale. Not bad, but what can we do with \$30? Keosha Hooks, executive secretary, was able to organize the Gold Canyon fundraiser and BGSA was able to collect \$218. Keosha also had a trick up her sleeve- BGSA had never tried cashing in on fundraisers run through restaurant chains, so why not try that? That was probably the best idea we could have made!

In mid-January, we hosted a welcome back dinner/fundraiser at Claim Jumper. Although only a few weeks had passed since the potluck in December, it was good to see black graduate student faces again. We came out with the start of a new semester and \$88.68. Next, in order to make a more convenient profit, we had two fundraisers operating at the same time at the end of January. Wendy's and Boston Market were gracious enough to allow us this opportunity, and we were gracious enough to take \$101.12 and \$293.76 (respectively) off their hands. Rolling right into February, BGSA held the Copyright Potential event at Neo of Malaka, a chic Malaysian restaurant. Attendees were able to drink, mingle, and dance for a \$5 cover that went directly to BGSA. We walked out of Neo of Malaka with \$417!



Copyright Potential attendees

So in total, BGSA raised \$930.56 for the 2008-2009 academic year. As you can see above, we gradually became better at selecting better fundraising opportunities and venues. Since we already know what to expect from previous fundraisers, and there are endless fundraising ideas waiting to be realized, next year's BGSA executive board should have no trouble organizing fundraisers to at least reach this year's total. Congratulations to BGSA for such an aggressive fundraising year and good luck to us for next year!

By Joe Deas

EGSA Paid Members

- 1. Alibode, Oluyomi**
- 2. Anako, Chinenye**
- 3. Campbell, Ewena**
- 4. Davis, Brittany**
- 5. Deas, Joseph**
- 6. Dieke, Ada**
- 7. Dixon, Torry**
- 8. Griffin, Clarence**
- 9. Griffin, Danielle**
- 10. Hocks, Keasha**
- 11. Jansen, Leslie**
- 12. Jennings, Chandra**
- 13. Jones, Tiffany**
- 14. Mbuka, Sanyu**
- 15. McClary, Lakelsha**
- 16. Mckam, Yvonne-Marie**
- 17. Morrison, Candice**
- 18. Namakando, Sibeso**
- 19. Niane, Ibrahima**
- 20. Swcru, Chinedu**
- 21. Omar-Tunkara, Mikelle Smith**
- 22. Robinson, Kelsha**
- 23. Robinson, Gerard**
- 24. Sillah, Ishmail**
- 25. Vazquez, Dandy**
- 26. Victory, Kerton**
- 27. Zmlewski, Miriam**

Operation C.A.S.H.F.L.O.W



Black Graduate Students Association's OPERATION C.A.S.H.F.L.O.W.

(Constantly Acquiring Secret Habits For Locating Our Wealth)

Motto: Strategic planning now for future financial success tomorrow

January 24th: Personal Finances & Building your Budget

January 31st: Getting out of Debt and an Open Forum

Tony Finely, CFO Long Realty

BGSA wanted to kick off 2009 in line with new years' financial resolutions that are normally made at the start of the year. We invited Tony Finely, Chief Financial Officer of Long Realty, to conduct a two part series on "Planning for future financial success right now". The mini-series entailed how to assess personal finances, credit card use, as well as creating an effective budget. The program mainly targeted how to develop a steady plan to tackle school loans and begin saving for early retirement.



C.A.S.H.F.L.O.W attendees

BGSA assessed this program to be very successful. On both days, the program was strongly attended (more the 30 participants both days) and all were grateful to learn "secret habits" on how to save, budget and accumulate wealth. The program was a combination of a presentation and open forum discussion amongst Tony Finley and graduates students from all departments. In the two days we covered topics such as needs vs. wants, purchasing big ticket items, knocking down debt, as well as investing our money. In conclusion students walked away realizing that in order for growth of wealth to occur, there needs to be the elimination of debt.

By Chinedu Nworu





2008 Members Of The Semester

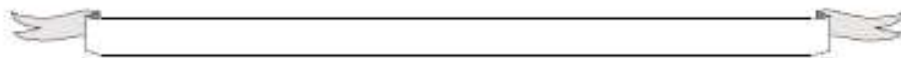
Kerton Victory- Nutritional Sciences

Sanyu Kibuka- Retail and Consumer
Science

Candice Morrison– Soil, water and Envi-
ronmental Science

20 Chandra Jennings-Jackson- Public Health

Randy Vazquez- Nutritional Sciences



WWW.ARIZONABGSA.ORG– CHECK IT OUT

Since we revamped the BGSA website, we've added new features that allow BGSA to serve as a portal to the Tucson community. After revamping the layout to present a more professional image, we've added a calendar with real-time updates on the front page as well as a blog for more interaction between members.

When you check out the site, you'll see recognition from UANews for winning NBGSA Affiliate of the Year. You'll see pictures from our events, displaying BGSA-UA's wide range of activities. We have member awards and recognitions and mentee spotlights for undergraduates. We even have links to our friends as well as resources within the UA and the greater Tucson community. Take a look for yourself and visit www.arizonabgsa.org.

By: Torry Dixon

2009 Members of the Month



Candice Morrison, February 2009

"I would like to work as an Environmental Scientist/Chemist for a company that needs to remediate sites they have purchased for business use OR Superfund site remediation."



Sanyu Kibuka, March 2009

"My interests include yoga, black and white photography, French impressionist art, and reading biographies. I also loooove Thai food and hot dogs...not together though."



Torry Dixon, April 2009

"I liked making lunches at the Ronald McDonald House and I enjoyed the End of Year party last year with the white elephant gift exchange. Getting a free calendar magnet didn't hurt either :)."



Oluyomi Ajibode, May 2009

"I have had a lot of experience being a secretary and was even the editor of my college year book, I love interviewing and documentation."

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Shout out to Bruce -Dr. Bruce Smith, Director of African-American Student Affairs at the University of Arizona, has been the BGSA-UIA Faculty Advisor for the 2008-2009 year. He has expressed great confidence with BGSA's ability to be a truly student-run organization. Although we would have loved to have Dr. Smith be our advisor for another year, he will bless Colorado State University with his skills and become the Director of African American Student Affairs at that University. We will miss him and his support tremendously and we wish him well. Thanks! ---Ada

09-10 Executive-board



President— Candice Morrison



Vice President— Gerard Robertson



Treasurer— Randy Vazquez



Public Relations Chair—Kerton Victory



Executive Secretary— Oluyomi Ajibodi

Dear Reader,

As I have said, many times before, I am so proud of BGSA-UIA. I am continually amazed by the wide variety of people that make up this organization. BGSA's got talent! From the strong showing of members at the general meetings to the high quality relationships with these members that I've developed over the past years, I think it is safe to say that we truly are the "best in the West."

Allow me to support that claim. In our academic writing group, we hold each other's writing goals as our own; if you can't commit, you must equip the rest of the group with snacks. Humor aside, a strong current of support binds our group members as even life situations threaten to affect our progress in graduate school. I saw with my own eyes how we have each other's back.

That was just one example of how our organization acts as a support network for black graduate students on campus and the greater Tucson community. We enjoy taking care of our 102+ listserv members and 27 paid members as well as facilitating their ascent towards excellence. We are thankful for the internal BGSA support as well as sister groups, advisors, and community members that support us externally.

In my past year I have been honored to lead this organization. But a wise man once said, you cannot be a good leader without attempting to be a good follower. And I choose to follow my executive board. I could not have done it without them; Ishmail Sillah, Vice President; Keosha Hooks, Executive Secretary; Joe Deas Jr., Treasurer; Rowena Campbell, Public Relations Chair; and Chinedu Nworu, Immediate Past President. A special shout out goes to our Director of Website Development, Torry Dixon and our Advisor Bruce Smith. With various challenges, but many more successes, our TEAMWORK helped keep the organization moving, achieving and thinking outside of the box. No joke. It makes BGSA's winning the NBGSA Affiliate of the Year prize that much more meaningful since it was a true collaborative labor of love.

While I will be passing the torch along to President Elect, Candice Morrison, I will continue to be an active member of BGSA and help ensure that my "play family" continues the legacy of excellence. Tyler Perry can do a documentary on us—"BGSA Family Reunion—Hawaii." Japan? The Gambia? The Moon? Hmmm, well let's see. I may be thinking too far outside the box on that one.

I wish everyone that's pursuing their life passions and goals, good luck. Fist bump. I wish the new incoming executive board well, in addition to the outgoing executive board. Fist bump. And for prospective and current members...you know how we do...it's all about you! I love you all!

With great sincerity,

Ada Dicke

2008-2009 BGSA-UIA President



"Being involved with BGSA-LIA has allowed me to meet lots of interesting people and increased my awareness of engaging campus events"

- BGSA-LIA member Sanyu Kibuka



