

February 2010



The Voice

NATIONAL BLACK GRADUATE STUDENT ASSOCIATION

2009-2010

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Greetings from the National Black Graduate Student Association:

We are actually weeks away from the 22nd Annual National Black Graduate Student Conference that will be held March 10-14, 2010 at the Hilton Del Mar/ San Diego. This year we have had an increased interest in the conference, with a large number of paper and poster presenters, conference fellows, and recruiters. Our conference theme "Pioneering the Change Within" has truly showed the growth of NBGSA, its members, and its supporters over this past year.

The February issue of *The Voice Newsletter* showcases the efforts of our members. With the national conference taking place in the western region, there have been several mixers in California, Nevada, and Oregon to give members, black graduate students, and young professionals an opportunity to meet each other and learn more about NBGSA. In addition, with the devastating earthquake in Haiti, we recognize and support the efforts of our chapters in assisting with relief efforts.

Once more, I would like to congratulate everyone on the academic and professional endeavors and I look forward to meeting many of you at the conference in San Diego.

Warmest Regards,

Tina L. Ligon, M.A., M.L.S.
2009-2010, NBGSA President

Regional Representatives

North Central Region: Dominique C. Hill, University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign; Joseph Johnson, Western Michigan University;

Northeast Region: Antonio White, Morgan State University; **South Central Region:** Lecia Gresham, Jackson State University;

Ge'Andra Johnson, University of Tulsa; **Southeast Region:** Aysha Foster, Virginia State University; Dhymsy Owens, Virginia State University;

Western Region: Amber Wilburn, Oregon State University

NBGSC 2010**March 10-14, 2010****Hilton Del Mar****San Diego, CA****[www.nbgsc.org/
conference](http://www.nbgsc.org/conference)**

NBGSC's leadership has been working diligently over the past several months to develop a conference agenda suitable to the interests and needs of its core constituency. With a host of speakers representing various disciplines and professions along with engaging research presentations and panels, career and graduate school fair, networking with a community of scholars, great food, sandy beaches, and entertainment, this will definitely be a conference that you will not want to miss!

NBGSC 2010 awaits you! Register online today!

In peace,

Ivory M. Berry, MA
Vice President for Conference Affairs

**NBGSC 2010 Major Speakers**

Dr. Clyde Woods, University of California, Santa Barbara

Dr. Adrienne Dixon, The Ohio State University

Dr. Tyrone Howard, University of California, Los Angeles

Dr. Dana Thompson Dorsey, University of Illinois at Springfield

Dr. William Cross, University of Nevada-Las Vegas

Dr. Ebonee Williams, University of California, San Diego

Graduate/ Career Fair

Friday, March 12, 2010

10:00pm to 5:00pm

Hilton Del Mar/ San Diego

Free and Open to the Public

(Professional Attire Required)

An Evening of Art & Soul

Friday, March 12, 2010

7:30pm to 10:00pm

Hilton Del Mar/ San Diego

Featuring Open Mic, Neo-Soul Music, Light Appetizers, and Local Black Artists and Designers

“PIONEERING THE CHANGE WITHIN”

Scholar's Day

Friday, March 12, 2010

9:30a-8:30p PST

Hilton San Diego/Del Mar Hotel

Del Mar, California



About Scholar's Day

Scholar's Day is an all day event coordinated in conjunction with the **22nd Annual National Black Graduate Student Conference (NBGSC)**. The NBGSC theme this year is *Pioneering the Change Within*. We invite undergraduate Scholars from various graduate school track programs, including, but not limited to: Ronald E. McNair, Louis Stokes LAMP, and Summer Research Opportunity Programs. Come connect with graduate students from various colleges and universities from across the country, representing a vast array of fields and disciplines, and learn more about the Graduate School Experience. Scholars will participate in graduate student-lead workshops, graduate and career fair, luncheon with graduate students and a keynote speaker, research poster presentation session, and a scholar send-off.

Abstracts for the Poster Session will appear in the conference program. The Call for Posters ends on February 12, 2010 at 11:59pm EST.

To apply, please email a copy of your Abstract (Word or PDF form) to vpconference@nbgssa.org. Abstracts should be less than 250 words and include the title of the poster, presenters, University currently attending, and affiliated scholar program.

To Learn More about Scholar's Day
contact Ivory Berry at
vpconference@nbgssa.org

Congratulations to the NBGSC 2010 Conference Fellows

Amber Bell (University of Arkansas)

Britney Pearson (Virginia State University)

Deborah Strahorn (Wright State University)

Ndidi Amutah-Hardrick (University of Maryland College Park)

Tiffany Thomas (University of Tulsa)

Scottie Posey (University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee)

Kimberly Kellum (University of Missouri St. Louis)



NBGSC 2009 Conference Fellows

Reflections from Past Conference Fellows

I was pleasantly surprised that attending the 2009 NBGSC as a fellow proved to be more than just another volunteer experience. As a fellow I was privy to a "behind-the-scenes" view of the conference. I was impressed by the dedication of the outgoing executive board as they firelessly fulfilled pre-orchestrated tasks. I was encouraged by the chosen guest speakers to get involved in organizations such as this and remain diligent in my own professional development. I was welcomed by board members and conference attendees to network in one of the most positive environments I've ever been in. It was because of my involvement as a conference fellow that I chose to run for a position on the Executive Board.

Transitioning from conference fellow to board member was challenging; like an iceberg there is much more to the NBGSA than just the conference. There have been bumps in the road but I am constantly encouraged by the efforts of my fellow board members. I am learning every day what it takes to run a national organization and I am enjoying the experience. I am excited for the upcoming San Diego Conference and look forward to wrapping up the year successfully.

Michelle J. Tucker

Vice President for Information Services



When I think of my experience as a conference fellow at the 21st Annual NBGSA, I think of an opportunity I never truly expected, but has turned out to be a hugely rewarding experience.

Serving as a fellow was a great opportunity. The job showed me the many facets of conference execution that has unequivocally enhanced my own conference preparation skills as the Northeast Regional Representative. As a fellow, I worked at the registration booth and presided over presentations, while still having an opportunity to enjoy the conference presentations, events and networking opportunities on a personal level. I also unexpectedly obtained a position on the national board at the conference, which I feel was the direct result of my participation as a fellow.

I strongly feel that attending the 21st NBGSC and serving as a conference fellow has positively impacted my graduate student experience. I have acquired greater professional skills and further developed my leadership ability. More importantly, I've made memories based on the fellowship that stand concurrent with my graduate school memories at Morgan State University. I encourage anyone who is able to apply for the fellowship opportunity in the future, and if you have been selected as one of the fellows for this year's NBGSC, get ready for an experience of a lifetime.

Antonio White

Northeast Regional Representative

"PIONEERING THE CHANGE WITHIN"

Hello NBGSA members!

This school year promises to be a great one for the Western Region of NBGSA! We started out the year with the 5th annual Western Regional Conference at Arizona State University (ASU) entitled *Still We Rise: Only through Sharing Our History Can We Empower Ourselves*. Thanks to assistance from the BGSA at ASU, we had a wealth of speakers from across Arizona and student presenters from all over the region. Students from universities in California, Oregon, Nevada and, of course, Arizona were present.

We continue to meet during the year by having various Happy Hour Mixers throughout the region. This is a time for members and students interested in becoming members can get together, network, find out more about the NBGSA and support Black-owned restaurants. The first of these mixers was held in Los Angeles, December 18 at Derrick's Jamaican Restaurant. Our next happy hour mixer will be in Portland, OR, January 30, 2010 at Amalifi's Italian Restaurant. The final mixer will be in Seattle, WA, February 20, 2010, location: TBA. If you are in any of the later two cities, feel free to come out and network. We would love to see you there!

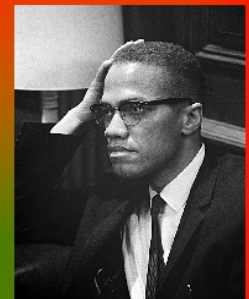
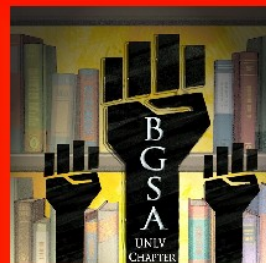
Until then, stay young, gifted and Black.

Amber Wilburn, MPH
Western Regional Representative
Oregon State University



Los Angeles Mixer,
December 18, 2009

Las Vegas Mixer
January 18, 2010



Tarryn McGhie, President of the University of Nevada - Las Vegas' Black Graduate Student Association has organized a nation wide rally for a Malcolm X Day. This is intended to be a peaceful demonstration of unity in an effort to raise awareness and offer tribute to a great leader who often does not receive the credit he is due. The rally is set for 2:00 pm EST on February 25-2010. Rallies will be held on college campuses across the country that are willing to take a stand for Black History. If you are interested in participating on your campus or would like more information contact: BGSA@unlv.nevada.edu

San Diego Black Professionals Meet-Up Group

An informal networking group of Black professionals from various fields and backgrounds that have relocated to the San Diego area. The 2nd Friday of every month, they come together to socialize and get acquainted with other professional. In January, they hosted NBGSA at East Village Tavern and Bowl.



Khara E. House (Northern Arizona University)

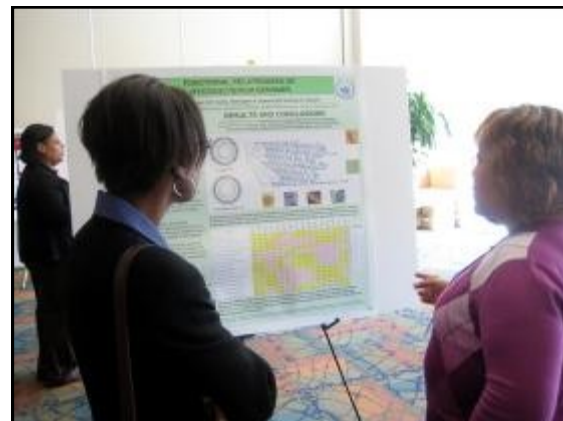
Was one of two featured readers at an Open Mic hosted by Thin Air, *The Graduate Literary Journal of Northern Arizona University*.

**Chris Underwood (Saint Mary's College of California)**

Recently been nominated by his military unit, the 129th Rescue Wing of the California Air National Guard located at Moffett Federal Air Field, CA, for the Department of Defense African American Month Recognition Award.

**John Owens (University of Illinois at Chicago)**

Has accepted an appointment as Adjunct Instructor, at Kendall College-Chicago. He will be teaching *The History and Philosophy of Early Childhood Education*.

**Monica Laudemilk**

Recently qualified was a PhD Candidate in Nutritional Sciences. She passed her preliminary qualifying exams for candidacy on January 6, 2010. Even better is that the grant proposal she wrote and defended was received well by her committee and is a viable option for a post-doc opportunity!!





Vickie Casanova (Indiana University Northwest)

Was awarded the Follett Fellowship from Columbia College Chicago for a 2nd Masters degree. She was accepted into IU Northwest's 1yr Post-Bac Certificate Program-Urban Studies/Community Development and achieved a 4.0 in both programs, Fall 2009 semester. Vickie was selected as 1 of 6 featured interdisciplinary artists: "At Close Distance" Exhibition, Columbia Chicago and plans to present a paper at the National Black Graduate Student Conference, March 2010.

Dr. Ivan B. Turnipseed (University of Nevada, Las Vegas)

Accepted an Assistant Professorship of Tourism and Hospitality Studies in the Department of Geography at Central Connecticut State University.

Jeniece Lusk (Baylor University)

Married Trina Lusk on August 15, 2009 in Waco, TX. She started position as a Frederick Douglass Teaching Scholar at Bloomsburg University of Pennsylvania in Fall 2009 as an Assistant Professor of Sociology. Jeniece also began studies for the MBA at Bloomsburg University, seeking to compliment studies in the Sociology of Consumerism. She plans to present papers at the Eastern Sociological Society Meeting and the Midwest Sociological Society Meeting.

Women's Empowerment Conference 2010

FOR WOMEN OF THE 21st CENTURY

March 13, 2010

Westside Community Center

W. Franklin Street, Anderson, SC

Doors open at 7:30 AM

*Conference begins at 9 AM

\$10 ADMISSION

(Continental Breakfast and Lunch Included)

Tickets available at Rainbow Records

Conference speakers:

Dr. Della Baker, Min. Kathy Borders, Min. Billie Donald, Sis. Sherry Grate,

Rev. Tabitha Johnson, Min. Lawan Neely,
Min. Stephanie Yelder

Vendor and Sponsor information

Vendor Fee: \$45 per table

Payable by February 20th

Sponsors also welcome

Call 864-356-9995 for more information or to rent a table

Have news related to your graduate career that you want to share with other members, please send announcements to

president@nbgsa.org

“PIONEERING THE CHANGE WITHIN”

On January 12, 2010 a 7.0-magnitude quake struck the already struggling country of Haiti. With the capital, Port-Au-Prince nearly destroyed, thousands of Haitians killed, and many more missing or displaced, aid poured out from around the world. Several BGSA Chapters participated in assisting the people of Haiti.



University of Nevada, Las Vegas

Please join the UNLV BGSA as they try to collect funds to donate to help the people of Haiti.

Tickets are \$1.00 and you could win a great MP3 player, while helping people who really need all the resources they can find. Please email them, send a message or see any UNLV BGSA member to purchase tickets. Prize winning ticket will be drawn on February 18th.

BGSA@unlv.nevada.edu

All funds will go directly to UNICEF

University of Arizona

The Black Graduate Student Association at the University of Arizona (BGSA-UA) volunteered with World Care, a national aid organization, in relief efforts for victims of the January 2010 earthquake in Haiti. Using Martin Luther King Jr. Day Holiday as a "day-on" and not a "day-off," BGSA-UA members participated in the MLK Jr. Day March and celebration on January 18 and immediately volunteered at World Care, helping organize and pack donations to be sent to the earthquake victims in Haiti. Items included clothing, toiletries, toys, all coming from different parts of the United States. BGSA-UA advisor Sheri Hill was instrumental in the connection with the World Care organization and is co-planner of a university wide luncheon to raise funds for the people in Haiti.

Agencies Helping with Relief Efforts in Haiti

Yele Haiti

This organization, founded by Wyclef Jean, creates projects to improve the quality of education, health, environment and community development in Haiti. To donate to its Haiti relief efforts, go to yele.org, or text YELE to 501501 to donate \$5.

Clinton Bush Haiti Fund

Presidents Clinton and Bush teamed up to spearhead efforts to rebuild Haiti. To make a donation to the Clinton Bush Haiti fund, text "HAITI" to "90999," and \$10 will be given automatically to the Red Cross. To donate online, go to clintonbushhaitifund.org. Money will go to basic needs -- such as food, water, shelter, and first-aid supplies -- as well as long-term support.

World Health Organization

The World Health Organization is leading the health care group in Haiti, managing both the United Nations and the nonprofit groups who are trying to bring medical care to the devastated country. Its medical distribution center is giving out vaccines, medicines and other supplies that are going to systems like water sanitation, disease surveillance and hospital assessments. To donate, visit the PAHEF Web site, or call 202-974-3727.

World Concern

The organization lifts people out of poverty, beginning with disaster response and ending when families can live sustainable lives. To donate to its relief effort, go to Worldconcern.org, or call 1-866-530-5433. You can also mail checks to 19303 Fremont Ave. North, Seattle, WA 98133. Please specify that the check is for "Haiti Disaster Response." Money will go toward water supplies, shelter, blankets, distribution of food and long-term needs, such as job training, education, loans and home construction.

DMV BGSAs

The BGSAs of Argosy University/ Washington DC, University of Maryland, and Howard University joined together to host a Haitian Relief Fund Happy Hour fundraising event at Jo Jo's Restaurant in Washington, D.C. All the proceeds at the door and 15% of all food and drinks purchased will be donated to help our sisters and brothers in Haiti.



“PIONEERING THE CHANGE WITHIN”



Looking to Advertise?

**YOUR
AD
HERE**

The National Black Graduate Student Association is Now Offering Advertisement Space in our Quarterly Newsletter, Conference Program, and Website.

Interested?

**Contact the Director of Corporate and Institutional Development at
(800) 471-4102 x106 or
development@NBGSA.org**





Join the NBGSA Executive Council!

Elections Held During the National Conference

March 10-14, 2010

Hilton Del Mar

San Diego, California

2010-2011 Positions Available



VP for Information Services
Treasurer
Secretary
Parliamentarian
Historian

North Central Regional Representatives
Northeast Regional Representatives
South Central Regional Representatives
Southeast Regional Representatives
Western Regional Representatives

***President**

***VP for Administrative Affairs**

***VP for Conference Affairs**

***VP for Membership Affairs**

*Must Have Served 1 Year Previously, If No Previous Board Member Runs, Position is Opened to the General Membership

*Each Region has 2 Representatives

Judicial Commission

Nominations & Election Commission

Finance Committee

*Each has 5 Commissioners

Leadership Team Transition Meeting

Sunday, March 14, 2010

9:00am to 11:00am

For Additional Information about Elections, Contact Tina L. Ligon at president@nbgasa.org