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Mark Your Calendars:

- October 29, 2005: Homecoming 2005
- March 31-April 1, 2006: 2nd Annual Black Alumni Conference
- All events are posted and updated on the BAS 'EVENTS' page throughout the year.

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1st Half of 2005

Results!

The second quarter (April – June) of 2005 has ended. As stated in March on the BAS website (www.marbelinc.com/bas), the Society plans to create newsletters at the end of each quarter to inform its members and interested parties of accomplishments, updates, and activities. Here is the first installment of the BAS quarterly newsletter with articles submitted by various BAS board members. As we move forward, we will accept appropriate articles submitted by non-BAS board members to comprise a more in depth and informative newsletter that provides more variety through greater input. All newsletters will be posted online at the BAS website's 'NEWSLETTER' link.

Here are a few BAS highlights from the first half (January through June) of 2005. Details of these items are dispersed throughout this newsletter issue:

- Executive Board Growth
- Inaugural Black Alumni Conference (recap newsletter posted on website under 'CONFERENCE - Archive - 2005')
- Monthly Socials



Executive Board Growth

At the beginning of 2005, many BAS Executive Board positions had been unfilled for a while. Significant effort was made to inform the Black alumni of the Society's existence and vision, and to make the process of applying for a committee chair position as convenient as possible. By placing the Application online, alumni were able to download, fill-out, and submit (via email)

their applications in less than 10 minutes. Today, these efforts of improved efficiency along with other factors have enhanced the BAS Executive Board to 12 regularly attending members, all of which are planning activities pertaining to their committees while contributing to general Executive Board decisions.

Author: Marcus Belvin '01, President



BAS President Marcus Belvin welcomes the attendees at the Inau-

“Our family is strong, but we are only beginning to see the changes we are capable of.”



Alumni Director Lennie Barton welcomes the Inaugural Black Alumni

The Inaugural Black Family Reunion

This past spring the black alumni society embarked not only on its first ever black alumni conference, but it set in motion the annual coming together of a part of the Wolfpack family. The Black Alumni Conference provided an opportunity to discuss the organization’s mission, its history, and its purpose going forward; but more than anything the conference served as an opportunity for NC State family members from many generations to meet each other and to embrace the commonality of their experience on that brick filled campus lineage.

Like any good family reunion the beginning moments are often most valuable as it is a time where we are about to get our bearings, put together those that we know and figure out who it is we don’t know. At the Black Alumni Conference the breakfast reception provided the opportunity for all attending alumni to really get to know one another, providing a venue for business card exchange and a time where black alums could meet with the board members of BAS. This was one of the more important times because as NC State family members we are bonded through our common experience as black alumni and the meet and greet allowed us to exchange stories and experiences from our time on campus. Our stories were very different as each of us brought experiences from the many different eras of the university. The founding members of BAS told stories of marches on the capital during the wars, and BAS members of recent brought stories of marching on the capital about tuition increases. Each generation was busy sharing and learning about themselves and their family members.

The only way the Black Alumni Society or the General Alumni Association will survive is with an understanding and

appreciation for the many diverse alumni we have. The black alumni conference/family reunion was a big step in bringing together long lost family members.

Now the conference wasn’t all fun and games, there is a higher purpose for the organization and throughout the day that was stressed. We had the fortune of hearing a status report from most of our university officials. Beginning with University Provost and then the Athletic Director; each gave a detailed report along with a message tailored especially for the black alumni. It was important that BAS show the university that the black alumni of NC State care deeply about the students, the facilities and the quality of our instruction. During the presentation from the many university officials many of the alums present made it known that we are not only interested in knowing but also in helping any way we can.

During lunch we had the opportunity to hear an inspirational message delivered by Dr. Thomas Conway whose speech served well as a motivational tool for we as black alumni to get involved. We are not satisfied with just a family reunion, the black alumni conference in the years to come will be an event that serves as a forum to discuss what we have been doing the entire year. Dr Conway laid out the challenge to our group to be the change we seek and be the support system for our young alums.

As the conference/family reunion moved into working group sessions we all were starting to understand the purpose of this event and the importance that we each take something away from the event. Moving from working group to working group it was evident that people were eager to take what they were learning back to their com-

munities and try and connect the many Black Alumni circles for the common goals.

Lastly no family reunion is complete without the big meal, and the University Club came through big time with a great meal and Kevin Howell came through with a great closing speech. The brother was the first black student body president at NC State and now is a general counsel to the governor. He brought the house down and then picked it right back up with laughter. Everyone enjoyed the speech and much like Dr Conway, Kevin laid it out very plain for us all. We in the Black Alumni Society can go only as far as we are willing to take ourselves and it is up to us to see it to whatever height we seek.

Our family is strong, but we are only beginning to see the changes we are capable of. As our Alumni Association begins building and raising money for the new Alumni Center we are poised as a constituency group to do some amazing things not only for our alumni but for the students who look up to us. I encourage you to visit the website to see pictures and read comments on the many things Black Alumni Society is involved in, then I hope you will join the family as we continue to make NC State the best university with the best Black Alumni.

Author: Decker Ngongang ‘03, Vice President

Monthly Socials Alumni Development—What do you want?

In an effort to offer networking opportunities to local black alumni, we have held monthly socials in the Raleigh area since January 2005. The strength we as a society possess is increased through educated numbers, so we encourage all to continue to network with one another, support the Society's purpose, and spread the word to the thousands of other black alumni and supporters around the world. For information about upcoming socials, visit the BAS website's 'EVENTS' page.

Simple question? Yes. Simple answer? No. The Alumni Development Committee wants to know what you want. We are here to give you the type of information that would be the best value to you. Do you want to learn more about networking, evaluating a job offer or the social scene in an area you are thinking about relocating to? Well, we need to know...What Do You Want? Please contact Sabrena Robinson with all of your ideas for ways to assist in helping our alumni develop. We welcome ALL suggestions and look forward to implementing your wonderful ideas in

the near future. You can submit ideas to Sabrena at sabrena711@yahoo.com.

Author: Sabrena Robinson '99, Alumni Development Committee Chairperson



From left to right, alumni Jonathan Green, Marcus Belvin, and Yolanda Morrissey

BAS Reaches it's goal of \$35,000

The Black Alumni Society (BAS) made a five-year pledge in 2001 in the amount of thirty-five thousand dollars (\$35,000.00) for the BAS/Irwin Holmes conference room to support the construction of the Dorothy and Roy Park Alumni Center. Irwin Holmes '60 is the first African American student to receive an undergraduate degree from NC State.

The Park Alumni Center is under construction on the shores of Lake Raleigh on Centennial Campus. Please drive by the site to get a vision of how wonderful this building is going to be. From Western Boulevard take a left at Varsity Drive and turn right on Main Campus Drive. Follow Main Campus Drive until it ends and turn right on Alumni Drive. The Park Center is located at the top of the hill. This state of the art facility will cost the University more than 25 million dollars to build. The Alumni office has not raised all of the money yet, and is still looking for additional support. However, I'm proud to announce that we're 25 percent complete with construction and hope to be in the building by next spring. This new

facility will make a statement about the world-class excellence of NC State and its alumni. Alumni will be welcomed at this new facility whether coming to a special event or just returning to visit their alma mater. It will be the place to host all of those special occasions, such as weddings and anniversaries, and will offer state of the art technology in meeting rooms that will host conferences of local and national prominence. This new building will also provide the space for the Alumni Association staff to reach out and serve its constituencies with maximum effectiveness.

The Black Alumni Society/Irwin Holmes conference room should make all of us proud to be alumni of NC State. BAS was able to finish reaching its goal with the generous contributions made by some alumni while in attendance at the BAS Conference held during Pan-African weekend—April 8-9, 2005. BAS thanks Portia Burston '73 and Rick Shields '74 for being the first two alumni to make their pledges in 2001 and they have remained dedicated and loyal to their commitment monthly.

Finally, it shows that when we work together we can accomplish anything we set out to do. Visit the 'SPONSORSHIP/INITIATIVES' page on the BAS website to view other BAS initiatives. Currently the only unmet initiative BAS has is the Dr. Clark Conference Room in the Friday Center. Donoation instructions are obtainable via the aforementioned page on the BAS website.

Author: Diane H. Becton '73, Cultural Development Committee Chairperson

“The Black Alumni Society/Irwin Holmes conference room should make all of us proud to be alumni of NC State.”



On the left, 1st NCSU African-American graduate Irwin Holmes sits with lunch keynote



NC State Alumni Association
Campus Box 7503
Raleigh, NC 27695-7503

Phone: 800-627-2586 (toll-free)
Phone: 919-515-3375 (office)
Fax: 919-515-1791
E-mail: bas_president@yahoo.com

www.marbelinc.com/bas/

Mission:

The Black Alumni Society strives to foster opportunities for African American alumni, students, faculty, staff and University friends to become actively involved in enriching NC State now and in the future. The Black Alumni Society serves as a conduit for increasing alumni interaction with their alma mater through communication, outreach, education and events.

Looking Ahead



**Alumni Association
BAS liaison Lisa Dyer
with the Conference**

Homecoming 2005:

Homecoming is scheduled for Saturday, October 29, 2005. Information regarding the planned Black Alumni Society events and tailgate will be posted on the BAS website ('EVENTS' page) as well as the Alumni Association website by the end of August. BAS will conduct a general body meeting on Saturday, October 29, 4 hours prior to the game's kickoff. The BAS social programming committee chair is currently planning an event for that weekend and the Alumni Association will post tailgate and game registration information in the near future. Continue to check the BAS website for updates.

2nd Annual Black Alumni Conference:

Mark your calendars!!! The 2nd annual Black Alumni Conference will be held March 31 – April 1, 2006 in Raleigh, NC. Visit the 'CONFERENCE' link on the BAS website for updates and registration information as October approaches.

Chapter Expansion:

A number of alumni in the Atlanta, GA and Washington, DC area expressed interest in starting chapters. During the Inaugural Black Alumni Conference a Chapter Startup presentation was conducted by Charlotte Chapter representatives. That information was taken back to the respective

areas and posted on the BAS website. In the coming months, the advice given will be turned into action as these two areas intend to begin functioning as sanctioned BAS chapters conducting actions in line with BAS's overall purpose within their more immediate communities.

Get Active:

Visit the 'POSITIONS' page on the BAS website to view the many volunteer committees. If you have a passion for one or more of them, please contact the committee chair to express your interest.