



## Message from the AAUC Coordinator



Greetings! On behalf of the Members of the African American Unity Caucus (AAUC), I welcome you to our third newsletter. In this and in future newsletters, we will inform our stakeholders of AAUC news and information, provide insight on Africa and U.S.-Africa relations, and provide a forum for thoughts on these issues by our leading policy and decision-makers. 2008 is a pinnacle year for the AAUC, and the year started on full throttle as we endeavor to make our mark in the foreign policy arena. Indeed this was the focus of our 2008 AAUC Leadership Retreat – which was held April 3-5 to engage the AAUC towards making strategic policy agenda impacts on Africa coming out of Washington, D.C. The role of the Diaspora is also gaining significant importance in the eyes of development and policy programmers. We are there through our recently established and strengthened relationship within the World Bank. In addition, with the U.S. in the throes of a presidential election what better time to reach out to put forward ideas and candidates to positively impact the future administration’s Africa agenda. This summer, through our AAUC Policy Committee, we prepared a Presidential Appointments Initiative (PAI) booklet, presenting potential candidates for international affairs

positions in the forthcoming administration; and we have distributed it to both candidates’ teams. You can read more about the PAI later in this newsletter. Kudos are due to the AAUC Policy Committee for its pioneering work on our behalf. Moreover, we are deepening our linkages with the Congressional Black Caucus as well as the African Diplomatic Corps through the African Union by developing more strategic dialog and partnerships with them, especially through the African Union’s Mission accredited to Washington, D.C. These are but a few of the items on the AAUC’s 2008 agenda that we hope to bring to a new level of engagement as we move forward. The AAUC, a program of the Constituency for Africa, was formed to bring together a number of Africa-focused organizations in the United States, Canada and the Caribbean in order to develop a common agenda and increase our collaborative effort to improve and strengthen U.S.-Africa and African Diaspora relations. The AAUC is truly a historic undertaking and is consistent with the Diaspora’s outreach initiatives of the African Union. The AAUC represents a great opportunity for African-Americans and the Diaspora to move to the next level of engaging with Africa. The AAUC continues to position itself to be an important part of this success.

*Jeannine B. Scott*  
**AAUC Coordinator**

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## 2008 AAUC Leonard H. Robinson, Jr. Leadership Retreat



*Photograph shows some of the members attending the AAUC Leadership Retreat of April 2008.*

The AAUC convened its third annual Leadership Retreat on April 3-5, 2008 in Potomac, Maryland. Named in honor of the late Leonard H. Robinson, Jr., this year's theme focused on "Empowering the Next Generation of Leaders for the AAUC". The AAUC Leadership Retreat is held every year as a structured program to help shape and refine the objectives, goals and strategic initiatives of the AAUC. Currently, there are about fifty participating member organizations involved in the AAUC. For more information please contact the AAUC Secretariat at [intern\\_cfa@yahoo.com](mailto:intern_cfa@yahoo.com).

## Congressional Black Caucus Foundation CEO Speaks at AAUC Retreat

According to Dr. Elsie L. Scott, Chief Executive Officer of the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation (CBCF), "she is delighted to be working in a collaborative partnership with the African American Unity Caucus (AAUC). This relationship will identify common-ground issues and policies, develop strategies around them, and put them forth to CBC members here as well as to legislators abroad in African and Caribbean countries."

As a nonprofit organization with a mission of leadership development, policy engagement and civic education, CBCF recognizes the link between the African-American community and the development of Africa and the Diaspora. As brokers of information, CBCF is committed to working with AAUC on the following topics: We want AAUC and Africa to have a presence at our Annual Legislative Conference (ALC). This unique four-day conference will take place September 24-27 at the Walter Washington Convention Center in Washington, D.C., and brings together organizations and individuals of diverse backgrounds to discuss common issues and concerns. It is the premier gathering for stimulating policy debate around issues that affect the global Black community. In this year of unprecedented political inroads, we come together under the theme "Embracing the Promise, Realizing the Vision." This vision includes our expanded relationship with AAUC. One of the first thoughts that come to mind is the Constituency for Africa's outstanding Ronald H. Brown African Affairs Series.



*Dr. Elsie L. Scott, CEO of the CBCF addressing AAUC Members at Leadership Retreat April 3, 2008*

The series helps link Congressional Black Caucus Members to African challenges, concerns and issues as well as promotes sustainable, proactive U.S.-Africa foreign policy. We hope to offer our expertise, knowledge and influence in shaping this important agenda towards an even higher visibility with new audiences. As in any relationship, we must remain honest and forthright with each other as we may not always agree on all policies and methodologies and we also recognize that there are diverse interests among the various constituencies here that transcend both shores. We are working with AAUC to bring some of these various publics to our table – from the African Ambassadors, to the World Bank Officials, to our congressional representatives and their staff – to build and leverage relationships, to garner support and move beyond the status quo.

Part of realizing the vision is carving out our fair piece, Africans and African Americans, of the monies, talents and connections in the U.S. that are focused on Africa. The African continent provides an important arena for examining the effects of infrastructure, wealth and political differentials across countries and the effects on relationships with the U.S. Let us keep in mind one of our main

goals of this alliance is to keep our AAUC, CBC and CBCF staff members informed on issues and concerns if we are going to be greatly successful. Again, CBCF is proud and honored to be collaborating with AAUC. For more information about the CBCF, please contact them at (202) 263-2800 or visit their website: [www.alc2008.org](http://www.alc2008.org).

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## AAUC NEWS AND INFORMATION

### AAUC Establishes Strategic Partnership with World Bank



*Dr. Richard Cambridge receives an award at the AAUC 2008 Retreat. Standing left to right: Dr. Nelson Adams (President of NMA), Bonnie Jenkins (Program Officer, Ford Foundation), Jeannine B. Scott (AAUC Coordinator and SVP Africare), Dr. Richard Cambridge (the World Bank), Lauri J. Fitz-Pegado (Principal of The Livingston Group), and Melvin P. Foote (President of CFA)*

An AAUC Delegation led by Jeannine B. Scott, AAUC Coordinator, met with Obiageli “Oby” Ezekwesli, World Bank Regional Vice President for Africa on Tuesday, April 1st, 2008. The purpose of this meeting was to follow-up on the Open House for the African Diaspora that was held at the World Bank on November 29, 2007. The meeting was attended by several members of the AAUC who have agreed to serve as coordinators of various initiatives that came forth from this meeting. Since then, several follow-up meetings have been held between working groups of AAUC members and World Bank officials in order to further discuss possible areas of engagement with the Bank, including advocacy outreach initiatives, technical

assistance and procurement opportunities in the Bank’s projects on the African Continent as elsewhere. According to the World Bank, Africa is a priority for the development community and itself. It is the Bank Group’s largest region with the greatest number of client countries and the highest volume of International Development Assistance (IDA) and it presents some of the greatest challenges. Growth has been good but economic performance is uneven, and the challenge will be to maintain or accelerate the pace while improving the quality and delivery of human services in order to achieve progress towards the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). To support Africa’s development, the World Bank Group has implemented the Africa Action Plan which sets out the Bank Group’s priorities for supporting strategies to achieve broadly shared economic growth, support country-led efforts to achieve results, accelerate progress towards MDGs and build capable states. It also defines priorities for the Bank Group’s efforts to strengthen the development partnership for Africa through more effective aid coordination and international coordination of increased assistance to Africa in order to meet the Millennium Development Goals. The Action Plan has eight focus areas as follows:

- (a) strengthen the African private sector;
- (b) increase the economic empowerment of women;
- (c) build skills for competitiveness in the global economy;
- (d) raise agricultural productivity;
- (e) improve access to and reliability of clean energy;
- (f) expand and upgrade road networks and transit corridors;
- (g) increase access to safe water and sanitation;
- and (h) strengthen national health

systems and combat malaria and HIV/AIDS. As additional details regarding the AAUC partnership develop, you will receive more information.

## CFA to Convene 2008 Ronald H. Brown African Affairs Series September 22-29, 2008

This year, CFA will partner with both the African Union and the World Bank to organize the 2008 Ronald H. Brown African Affairs Series. The purpose of the Ronald H. Brown African Affairs Series is to educate, inform and engage the American public on critical challenges, issues and concerns facing Africa; help link Members of the Congressional Black Caucus and their staff to African challenges, issues and concerns; and promote a pro-active and sustainable U.S.-Africa foreign policy agenda.

Highlights of the Ronald H. Brown African Affairs Series will include: (a) African Diaspora Day on the campus of Howard University featuring Dr. Julius Garvey, the son of the Honorable Marcus Garvey as well as a Youth Roundtable on the “Role of the

Next Generation in Africa’s Future”, featuring college students and young professionals from across the United States; (b) Ronald H. Brown Legacy Breakfast featuring the Honorable Rodney L. Slater, former Secretary of Transportation during the Clinton Administration; (c) AAUC Foreign Policy Forum on Africa at the National Press Club; and (d) Congressman Donald Payne’s Africa BrainTrust which will feature a guest appearance by the Head of the African Union, the Honorable Jean Ping, former Foreign Minister of Gabon.

For more information, please contact David J. Saunders, CFA’s Program Director at (202) 371-0588 or [intern\\_cfa@yahoo.com](mailto:intern_cfa@yahoo.com).

## AAUC Next Generation of Leaders



*AAUC Next Generation Committee Members from left to right: Angelique Mutombo-Davis (Executive Director, Black Professionals In International Affairs (BPIA)), Heather McLeod (Chairperson, African Affairs Task Force, Congressional Black Associates), Adryan Wallace (Chair of the AAUC Next Generation Committee), and Alexis Lynn Hall (CFA Volunteer).*

for the next generation of African-Americans and Africans who are inclined to pursue careers in Africa-related fields of interest. This process will include peer review, mentoring and leadership training. Networking activities will also be developed to enable next generation leaders to establish linkages with Africa-focused groups, government agencies and private-sector organizations. Recently, the AAUC Next Generation Committee linked with the Congressional Black Associates (CBA) which is a professional and social network for current and former Black Hill staffers. CBA has established a Foreign Policy Commission to highlight the issues and concerns pertaining to Africa and the Diaspora. For more information about the CBA please contact Heather McLeod at [heathersmcleod@gmail.com](mailto:heathersmcleod@gmail.com).

For additional information about how you can become involved in the AAUC’s Next Generation Initiative please contact Ms. Adryan Wallace, Chairperson of the AAUC Next Generation Committee at [awallace@aol.com](mailto:awallace@aol.com) or [intern\\_cfa@yahoo.com](mailto:intern_cfa@yahoo.com).

The mission of the AAUC’s Next Generation of Leaders Initiative is to mentor and create opportunities

## Where Are They Now?

**Maryamu Aminu** (CFA Intern 2001) previously distinguished herself as a Congressional Staffer in the Office of Congressman Tom Lantos (D-CA) and is currently employed with The ONE Campaign in Washington, D.C. as the Deputy Director of Government Relations.

**Julia Mensah** (CFA Intern 2004) previously distinguished herself as a Special Assistant for the Africa Working Group at the National Academy for Public Administration (NAPA) and is pursuing her graduate studies in International Affairs at Harvard University.

**Heather S. McLeod** Heather S. McLeod (CFA Intern 2006) was previously a Congressional Legislative Assistance in the Office of Senator

Richard Durbin (D-IL) and is now pursuing her graduate studies in International Affairs at Georgetown University. She was also a member of the Executive Committee of the Congressional Black Associates (CBA) and continues to volunteer with the AAUC Next Generation Committee and AAUC Women's Committee.

**LaShunda S. Hill** (CFA Intern 2007) is a junior at the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga. She recently completed a study abroad program at the University of Legon in Accra, Ghana and is also very active in the AAUC Next Generation Committee.

## AAUC Policy Committee Establishes a Task Force on 2008 Presidential Election

The AAUC Policy Committee has been working on a special assignment to determine a strategy to impact U.S.-Africa Foreign Policy for the next administration. This effort, referred to as the AAUC Presidential Appointments Initiative (PAI), is an unsolicited effort and is not connected to any campaign or political party and therefore should not be considered an official effort.

The purpose of the PAI, which is being carried out in collaboration with the AAUC, the Sunday Brunch Group, and the Black Professionals in International Affairs (BPIA) is to actively involve the AAUC in the identification of highly qualified African-American and African candidates for consideration of key positions in the next U.S. administration.

This will include an analysis and review of the key positions that will become available in the U.S. State Department, U.S. Defense Department, U.S. Agency for International Development and many other governmental agencies with regard to their influence on U.S.-Africa foreign policy.

Particular emphasis is being placed on assembling a list of highly qualified individuals to present for consideration of these senior positions by the new administration's transition team. In addition, a thorough assessment of the diversity status and employment opportunities for mid-level and entry-level positions within these governmental agencies is also being considered.

## AAUC Policy Committee to Brief African Diplomatic Corps on U.S.-Africa Foreign Policy Agenda in the Next Administration

Based on the emerging awareness of the AAUC Policy Committee's Presidential Appointment Initiative, there will be a briefing with the members of the African Diplomatic Corps in the fall of this year in order to inform them on how to advocate for the continuation of several critical African initiatives established during the Bush administration that should be continued in the

next administration. These would include the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR), the Millennium Challenge Account (MCA) and the African Education Initiative (AEI) among others. For more information, please contact the AAUC Secretariat at [intern\\_cfa@yahoo.com](mailto:intern_cfa@yahoo.com).

## AAUC Establishes a Senior Leadership Advisory Group

The primary purpose of the AAUC Senior Leadership Advisory Group is to enhance and strengthen the AAUC's mission by establishing a cadre of highly eminent Africanists to serve as a "think tank" for the AAUC. They will evaluate lessons learned and best practices as well as suggest next steps required to refine the AAUC's objectives, goals and strategies. The initial Senior Leadership Group meeting was convened at the 2007 RHB African Affairs Series. For more information: please contact David J. Saunders, AAUC Secretariat at (202) 371-0588.

## AAUC Establishes a Scholars Group

The primary purpose of the AAUC Scholars Group is to bring together interested academicians for the scholarly collaboration of ideas and information about Pan-Africanism and the African Diaspora. Established in 2008 at the Leadership Retreat, plans are underway to convene an annual symposium during the Ronald H. Brown African Affairs Series. For more information; please contact David J. Saunders, AAUC Secretariat at (202) 371-0588.



*Pictured above from left to right: Gerald Lamelle (AfricaAction), Jeannine B. Scott (Africare), Dr. Lisa Aubrey (Professor, Arizona State University), Hon. Vivian Lowery Derryck (Academy for Educational Development) and Melvin P. Foote (Constituency for Africa) April 4, 2008 at the AAUC Leadership Retreat.*

## International Association of Black Professionals in International Affairs

In the late 1970s, at the invitation of BPIA founder Barbara C. Patterson, Black professionals affiliated with 40 organizations met in Washington, D.C. to discuss the possibility of forming a new international organization. This association would serve the growing, diversified interests and needs of Black professionals in the Diaspora in international and intercultural affairs. The representatives unanimously agreed there was a need for such an organization.

During the decade of the 80s, the number of Blacks in diplomacy and Foreign Service declined. Professionally prepared Blacks were unable to find employment in government or the private sector. In order to encourage and assist Black participation in a broad spectrum of international affairs, BPIA held its founding meeting on January 26, 1989, in the Great Hall of the historic Charles Sumner Archives and Gallery in Washington, DC. BPIA made its debut to the public with their November 1990 symposium "A Salute to African American Ambassadors."

BPIA is an educational, charitable, non-profit membership association founded to increase the involvement of African Americans and other people of African heritage in international affairs. BPIA fulfills its objectives in education, cultural exchange, economic development, and professional development through public education forums and conferences, referrals, publication of its newsletter *Global Visions*, networking and outreach activities, and the awarding of grants and scholarships.

Membership in BPIA is open to individuals of all races, nationalities, religions and cultural identities, and to organizations that support BPIA's objectives. Over 300 African-American professionals and others engaged in international affairs are currently affiliated with BPIA. Members of BPIA include current and former foreign affairs professionals of U.S. government agencies including the Departments of State, Commerce, Labor, Agriculture, Peace Corps, the Smithsonian Institute; international organizations such as the World Bank, International Monetary Fund, Inter-American Development Bank; colleges and

universities, major corporations, private organizations and humanitarian relief agencies. Members represent a wide range of academic disciplines, professional experience and expertise. BPIA serves its members through several functional areas as follows:

**Education and Exchange** - One of the missions of BPIA is to contribute to a global understanding of world issues. Through its Foreign Policy Forums, held periodically throughout the year, BPIA explores issues and current events in a stimulating dialogue with experts in the field.

**Business & Economic Development** - BPIA promotes and facilitates Black and minority business and entrepreneurship in the international marketplace. Activities seek to encourage the development of international expertise in small business, technical training, banking and finance, tourism and export/import enterprises. BPIA sponsors a series of international business seminars and serves as a clearinghouse to facilitate the development of business relationships between members and institutions/firms outside of the United States.

**Professional Development** - BPIA periodically offers forums on employment opportunities and networking. Our career development workshops provide a forum for members to gain access to employers and learn how to take advantage of potential employment, internship and consulting opportunities. BPIA's professional development efforts are complimented by other BPIA activities.

**Mentors Forum** - BPIA provides the opportunity for students, graduate scholars, and young professionals to meet informally with senior professionals in international affairs. During these sessions they discuss career options and issues in one-on-one or small group settings. Participants have a valuable opportunity to share and to learn from leaders who represent a variety of disciplines.

**Global Visions** - BPIA publishes an information packed newsletter which highlights world events, employment and research opportunities, members' accomplishments, a calendar of activities and events as well as other news of interest to the membership. Global Visions is published several times a year. Subscription is free to members and copies are mailed to libraries upon request.

**Networking and Outreach** - BPIA gains its strength and support through collaborative relationships and partnerships. Programs of mutual interest have been developed and co-sponsored with international governmental agencies, embassies, local universities and a number of the Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs). BPIA has also co-hosted social activities and receptions with the embassies of the United Arab Emirates, Angola, China, Nigeria, Great Britain, Singapore and Senegal.

**Annual Membership Meeting, Planning Retreats and Social Events** - The Board of Directors hosts several business meetings and social events throughout the year. An annual BPIA business meeting is held in October for the general membership. During a conference year, this annual meeting is held in conjunction with the conference. In the summer, the Board of Directors meets at the annual planning retreat to develop the agenda for the coming year. Social events are held throughout the year including a holiday celebration and a summer picnic.

**Biennial Conference** - BPIA sponsors a biennial conference designed to make a vital contribution to creative thinking, informed policy development and action in international affairs. The biennial conference is a major mechanism for pursuing the organization's objective of educating and increasing involvement of African Americans and other people of African heritage in international affairs. It is also an opportunity to interact and forge linkages with diverse organizations and professionals with like interests. Through workshops, plenary sessions, panels and roundtables, dynamic, informed and experienced professionals share their knowledge and insights on a variety of topics. This year's biennial conference theme is "*Enhancing Effective Global Partnerships*," it will take place on October 2-4<sup>th</sup> at the Four Points by Sheraton Hotel, located at 1201 K Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. More information on BPIA can be found at: [www.iabpia.net](http://www.iabpia.net).

**SAVE THE DATE**

Africare's 2008 Bishop Walker Dinner will be held on November 12, 2008 6:30pm at the Hilton Washington Hotel in Washington, D.C. "Clean Water – Life's Lifeline"! Please mark your calendar!

## OPEN FORUM

Greetings Colleagues:

Much has happened since our AAUC Leadership Retreat in April. By far the most important development has been the emergence of Senator Barack Obama (D-IL) as the Democratic Party's nominee for the President of the United States. This is a truly historic moment in the U.S. history as a son of African heritage heads to the November General Elections as the favorite to be the next President of our nation!

Kudos also go out to the AAUC Policy Committee Co-Chair, Crispian Kirk who is tirelessly leading our efforts to ensure that African-Americans and other Africans from the Diaspora are included in key Africa and international affairs jobs in the next administration. More than one hundred resumes have already been received and vetted by Cris and his team, and the Presidential Appointments Initiative book will be submitted to both the Obama and McCain campaigns in the coming days.

I also want to congratulate the African Diaspora Association of Canada (ADAC), on the formal launching of the organization in early June. It was truly a high honor for me to have been able to participate and speak at the launching ceremony held in Ottawa on June 2nd, representing the Constituency for Africa and the African American Unity Caucus. It was also great to witness first hand how Canadian AAUC Members, Saaka Minimaana and Dina Epale are organizing north of the U.S. border.

The African American Unity Caucus is clearly an idea whose time has come. I am convinced that we are very much on the right track in how we are going about getting ourselves organized! At the same time, it is important for all of us to recognize that we are only at the early stages of a process that is probably going to require generations for us to achieve true success. It is therefore absolutely essential that the AAUC have as a guiding principle, a focus on the empowerment of a next generation of leaders to carry this ball forward.

*Melvin P. Foote*  
President & CEO

## ABOUT THE AAUC

Established in 2002, the AAUC is a non-partisan alliance of committed leaders and organizations of African ancestry focused on challenges, issues and concerns affecting Africa and the African Diaspora. The mission of the AAUC is to marshal human, material, and social capital to enhance the overall sustainable development of African people. Through strategic decision-making, the AAUC will initiate and foster actions and forge effective partnerships among public and private entities in Africa and the African Diaspora and impact U.S. foreign policy (adopted February 2006). The AAUC is a program of the Constituency for Africa.



**Editor's Note:** Please contact AAUC Secretariat at (202) 371-0588 or intern [cfa@yahoo.com](mailto:cfa@yahoo.com) if you wish to submit any news and information to the next edition of the AAUC Newsletter. Copyright© June 2008 by the AAUC and all rights reserved