



AFRICAN AMERICAN

Unity Caucus NEWS



Advancing the Interest of the African Diaspora

WINTER 2007

Message from the AAUC COORDINATOR



Greetings! On behalf of the Members of the African American Unity Caucus (AAUC), I welcome you to our second quarterly newsletter. In this and in future newsletters, we will inform our stakeholders of

AAUC news and information, provide insight on Africa and US-Africa relations, and provide a forum for thoughts on Africa by our leading policy and decision-makers. Having concluded my three year commitment as the AAUC Coordinator I am quite proud of the role that I have played in moving forward the agenda of the AAUC. 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 collaborative efforts to improve and strengthen US-Africa relations. The AAUC is truly a historic undertaking, and is fully consistent with the Diaspora's outreach initiatives of the African Union, as evidenced by the recent establishment of an AU Mission in Washington, D.C. As I pass along the AAUC baton to Ms. Jeannine B. Scott, I wish to express my utmost gratitude and apprecia-

tion for the opportunity to have been chosen as a "leader amongst leaders". Jeannine, in my humble opinion, is absolutely qualified to serve in this capacity and allows for a woman to lead the AAUC. Additionally, while she is already the Senior Vice President of Africare, which is a "marquee" African development agency, she also represents a solid link to the next generation of leadership within the AAUC. While I am stepping aside, I will continue to be fully engaged in the work of the AAUC as there is much that needs to be done and those of us who work on Africa-related matters recognize the importance of our calling. The development of the African-American community will never succeed without the development of Africa and the AAUC represents clearly the "best opportunity" for African-Americans and the Diaspora to move to the next level of constructive engagement with Africa. In closing, the AAUC is continuing to position itself to be an important part of this success. Wishing you all peace and blessings during this holiday season!

Stanley L. Straughter
AAUC Coordinator

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AAUC TO CONVENE 2008 LEONARD H. ROBINSON, JR. LEADERSHIP RETREAT.

The AAUC will convene its third annual leadership retreat April 3-5, 2008 in Potomac, Maryland. Named in honor of the late Leonard H. Robinson, Jr., the theme will focus 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.

AFRICAN UNION ESTABLISHES US MISSION.

The African Union has established a permanent representative mission in the US which is located in Washington, D.C. H.E. Amina Salum Ali, the Ambassador of the African Union to the United States, has stated that the Mission will be "to develop, maintain, undertake resource mobilization and consolidate constructive and productive institutional relationships between the African Union and Africans in the Diaspora, the Bretton Woods Institutions as well as with the Government of the United States of America through marketing of the African Union". For more information,

please visit www.africa-union.org.

ROBIN SANDERS APPOINTED US AMBASSADOR TO NIGERIA.

On Monday, November 19, 2007, Robin Renee Sanders was sworn in as the first woman United States Ambassador to the Federal Republic of Nigeria. The Nigeria posting is Ambassador Sanders second time heading an embassy on Africa. From 2002 to 2005, she served as the US Ambassador to the Republic of the Congo (Brazzaville). During her prestigious career spanning 27+ years she also served in the African countries of Sudan, Namibia, and Senegal. Other international postings have included Portugal and the Dominican Republic. Her most recent position was the International Affairs Advisor and Deputy Commandant at the Industrial College of the Armed Forces at the National Defense University in Washington, D.C.

AAUC SUPPORTS AFRICAN DIASPORA OPEN HOUSE HELD AT THE WORLD BANK.

On November 29, 2007, the World Bank, in partnership with the African Union's Washington Mission, held a historic Open



Stanley L. Straughter, AAUC Coordinator and Melvin Foote, President & CEO of CFA with Obiageli "Oby" Ezekwesili, World Bank Regional VP for Africa at the Open House.

House for the African Diaspora at their headquarters in Washington, D.C. Attended by more than 400 participants from across the United States and Canada, the theme of this event was "Mobilizing the African Diaspora for Development on the Continent. According to the African Union, the African Diaspora consists of people of African origin living outside of the continent, irrespective of citizenship and nationality and who are willing to contribute to the development of the continent and building of the African Union. The African Union estimates that the African Diaspora represents approximately 39.2 million people in North America (United States and Canada); 112.6 million people in South America (primarily Brazil, Columbia and Venezuela); 13.5 million people in the Caribbean Islands; and about 3.5

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million people in Europe. The African Union has put forth a Program of Action which includes: (a) International Affairs, Peace and Security; (b) Regional Development and Integration; (c) Economic Coopera-

tion; (d) Historical, Socio-Cultural and Religious Commodities; (e) Women, Youth and Children; and (f) Knowledge Sharing. Keynote speakers included Obiageli "Oby" Ezekwesili, Vice President of the

Africa Region at the World Bank; Dr. Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala, Managing Director at the World Bank and H.E. Amina Salum Ali, Ambassador of the African Union to the United States. ❖

AAUC INITIATIVES UPDATE

NEXT GENERATION OF LEADERS.



David J. Saunders, CFA Program Director, Olive Ikeh, a student from Cooley Law School in Lansing, Michigan, and Melvin P. Foote, CFA President & CEO.

The objective of the Next Generation of Leaders Initiative is to mentor and create opportunities 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 estab-

lish linkages with Africa-focused groups, government agencies and private-sector organizations.

NATIONAL DIALOGUE ON AFRICA.

The objective of the National Dialogue on Africa Initiative is to increase and improve the dialogue on US-Africa policy by engaging African-America and Africa constituencies across America. Discussion roundtables, town hall meetings, and other outreach forums as well as media sessions will be convened. Outreach activities and events will take place in targeted US cities and will also serve to introduce AAUC and its members. This initiative will seek to build on the success of CFA's Town Hall Meetings.

LEADERSHIP RETREAT. The primary purpose of the retreat is to further enhance and strengthen the AAUC's purpose by implementing lessons learned, best practices, and

next steps to refine the AAUC's objectives, goals, strategies, and methods of evaluating performance. The initial AAUC Leadership Retreat was convened in February 2-4, 2006. The second annual retreat, named in honor of the late Leonard H. Robinson, Jr. was convened on April 19-21, 2007. The third annual leadership retreat will be convened April 3-5, 2008 in Potomac, Maryland.

SECRETARIAT CAPACITY BUILDING.

For sustainability, the AAUC requires an effective Secretariat with the proper infrastructure. The Secretariat will provide program management, program coordination, operating guidelines and procedures as well as management and financial systems. The long-term objective is to create a stand-alone, independent AAUC that will add value to its member organizations through its programmed activities and events. ❖

2007 RONALD H. BROWN AFRICAN AFFAIRS SERIES

The Constituency for Africa held the Ronald H. Brown African Affairs Series September 24-October 2, 2007 in Washington, D.C. The Ronald H. Brown African Affairs Series is planned and organized by the Constituency for Africa each year in conjunction with the Congressional Black Caucus (CBC) Legislative Conference. The purpose of the Ronald H. Brown African Affairs Series is to: (1) educate, inform and engage the American public on critical challenges, issues and concerns facing Africa; (2) to help link Members of the Congressional Black Caucus and their staff to African challenges, issues and concerns; and (3) to promote a pro-active and sustainable US-Africa foreign policy agenda. In addition, the Ronald H. Brown African Affairs Series, which was named after the late Commerce Secretary Ronald H. Brown, acknowledged the significant contributions made by this champion for forging US ties with Africa. Ron Brown opened the doors for recognition on the importance of a US-Africa relationship, highlighting trade and investment opportunities,



Dr. Gloria B. Herndon, Michael E.M. Sudarkasa, Mrs. Tiamoyo Karenga, Dr. Maulana Karenga, Melvin P. Foote, and Dr. Badi Foster. Dr. Karenga and Mr. Sudarkasa were guest speakers at the AAUC General Meeting on September 24th, 2007.

traveling to Africa and supporting organizations seeking to educate, advocate and build strategic ties with Africa. Both Americans and Africans owe a deep debt of gratitude for his visionary efforts. The Co-Chairs for the 2007 RHB Series were Ambassador Amina Salum Ali, the African Union's Permanent Representative to the United States and the Western Hemisphere and Congresswoman Diane Watson (D-CA) Member of the Congressional Black Caucus.

This year the Constituency for Africa partnered with the new Washington Office of the African Union to organize and present the Ronald H. Brown African Affairs Series which specifically focused on how the African Diaspora can participate and support the African Union's Sixth Region initiative. Consequently, the theme was "Working with the African Union to Build Diaspora Links". Following the proposal of the African Union to include the Diaspora as its Sixth Region, the need for the Diaspora

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Twenty-four total undergraduate and graduate students from twelve colleges and universities across the country participated in the 2007 Ronald H. Brown African Affairs Series.



Mr. Michael E.M. Sudarkasa, Guest Speaker at RHB Series with Ms. Nomfundo Xenia Ngwenya, RHB Series Final Report Writer and Melvin P. Foote, CFA President & CEO at Embassy of South Africa Reception for African Leadership.

2007 RHB SERIES,

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to intensify its understanding of the African Union, its programs and its institutional processes has become more urgent. Accordingly, the aim of the 2007 RHB Series was to introduce the first African Union Ambassador to the United

States while creating a forum for the Diaspora to debate its strategies for supporting the programs of the African Union and its Sixth Region initiative. The conference was not limited to the African Diaspora in the United States as delegates also represented the African Diaspora in Canada and the Caribbean while Africans visiting the United States also took part.

The conference cut across a diverse range of eighteen sub-themes with the overall purpose to successfully create a platform for robust dialogue among members of the African Diaspora and the African Union. The vibrant exchange of ideas and the concrete resolutions for action that emerged from the conference ensued that, in



H.E. Amina Salum Ali, Ambassador of the African Union receiving an African Leadership Award on behalf of the African American Unity Caucus from Melvin P. Foote, CFA President and CEO.

keeping with the central theme of the conference that the African Diaspora in the United States will indeed be “Working with the African Union to build Diaspora Links”.

The 2008 Ronald H. Brown African Affairs Series will be held September 22-30, 2008. ❖

CONSIDERING THE LEGACY of Ambassador Dr. Jendayi E. Frazer

THE AAUC HELD ITS ANNUAL "DIALOGUE ON US-AFRICAN FOREIGN POLICY" on October 31, 2007 with Ambassador Dr. Jendayi E. Frazer, the US Department of State's Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs in which she reflected upon her legacy on behalf of advancing US-African foreign policy. This highly informative session was a continuation of CFA's previously successful briefings with Ambassador Frazer in 2005 and 2006. The purpose of this particular meeting was to have a meaningful discussion about US-Africa Foreign Policy amongst key influential individuals from within both the public and private sector with the Department of State. Everyone in attendance was a friend of Africa, although some may have differing ideas about how to best proceed with improving upon the Bush Administration's US foreign policy agenda on Africa. Prior to Ambassador Frazer's appointment as the US Department of States' Assistant Secretary for African Affairs, she was the US Ambassador to South Africa, and prior to that appointment she

served as a Special Assistant to the President of the United States and was Senior Director of African Affairs at the National Security Council (NSC). Dr. Frazer's resume is augmented by academia as an Assistant Professor at the University of Denver and at Harvard University, coupled with her Department of Defense experience in African Affairs. Ambassador Frazer has visited twenty-four of the forty-eight countries located in Sub-Saharan Africa and has worked extensively on African issues for more than twenty-six years.

Ambassador Frazer spoke about how she greatly appreciated the opportunity to reach out to the Africa-focused NGO community in an effort to increase awareness and support of President Bush's initiatives towards Africa. In particular she commented on the impact of her legacy as the Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs. With regard to the Bush administration she mentioned the "transformation of economies" from a reliance on foreign assistance to debt relief to the growth

and development of free market partnerships; a greater emphasis on institutional development and resources in people as well as an enhanced focus on peace and security for the African continent. She also mentioned that First Lady Laura Bush has been very influential in her support of the Africa Education Initiative (AEI) headed up by Dr. Sarah Moten which grew from \$200 million to \$650 million all of which have added value to Africa's sustainability. In addition, she stated that foreign assistance has quadrupled since the year 2001 when President Bush set the goal of \$1 billion with foreign assistance now at \$5.6 billion. She acknowledged that trade and investments on the African continent have gained momentum but that much more needed to be done as well as highlighted the success of the Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC) which is an innovative foreign assistance program designed to "reduce poverty through sustainable economic growth".

She also mentioned that the Bush administration's progress on ad-

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EBONY MAGAZINE'S SPOTLIGHT ON AFRICA: THE AFRICA YOU DON'T KNOW

Ebony Magazine is to be congratulated for a Special Section on the Motherland! The 2007 December Edition of Ebony Magazine begins a year-long examination of the “Africa You Don’t Know” and consequently why it is important to the world. It features well-written articles on the good news from the continent as well as talks to Africans there and across the Diaspora. It also probes the often-testy relationship between Africans and African-Americans and helps them to learn more about our own real roots. It looks at celebrities such as Oprah Winfrey and Quincy Jones, African Advocates such as Randall Robinson and Dr. Henry Louis “Skip” Gates but also offers insight from ordinary people—doctors, educators, engineers, entrepreneurs—who are doing many things on

the continent to help Africans help themselves. Africa is accurately presented as the Motherland and the “Cradle of Humanity” from a historical, cultural and social perspective. Not only did African-Americans come from Africa, but every human being did—making it all the more important for people of goodwill in the Diaspora to promote better awareness of the continent and thereby start the process for “making contact, reaching back and making an impact” by doing something positive for Africa. The AAUC applauds this effort by Ebony Magazine to not only present a realistic face of Africa but to give people a positive view of Africa that connects with them individually as well as collectively so that they can make their own assessment and analysis of Africa. ❖

CONSIDERING THE LEGACY of Dr. Jendayi E. Frazer, *Continued from page 6*

dressing HIV/AIDS, Malaria and Tuberculosis has met with much success. For instance, the Bush administration has been very successful in doubling the total funding allocations for the President’s Plan for Emergency AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) to \$30 billion over the next five years. In addition, in the area of peace and conflict resolu-

tion, there has been great success with dealing with the civil unrest situations in Sierra Leone, Liberia, Burundi, Southern Sudan, Angola and the Democratic Republic of the Congo. She also agreed that there is still much more work to be done with the crises in the Darfur region of Sudan, Somalia and Zimbabwe and the Bush adminis-

tration is seeking to resolve these through a commitment to African partnership such as the African Union. Overall she expressed that she was very pleased with the fact that her legacy on Africa will show that the Bush administration has done a lot for Africa but acknowledged that there is still much more that needs to be done. In

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MEMBER SPOTLIGHT: Phelps Stokes Fund

The Phelps Stokes Fund is America's oldest continuously operating foundation serving the needs of African Americans, Native Americans, Africans and the rural and urban poor. The Fund is a 501(c) (3), nonprofit organization whose guiding motto is Education for Human Development. The logo, four open books, symbolizes the importance of education in promoting every aspect of human capacity building. The Fund seeks to build bridges of intercultural, interracial, and international understanding and uses its modest endowment to finance core staff and the operations of its central office in Washington, DC. The Fund does not award grants to individuals or other organizations. Through the generosity of private donors, foundations, and corporations and through grants from local, state, and federal government agencies, the Fund is able to address a variety of educational needs.

The mission of the Phelps Stokes Fund is to address the educational needs of the urban and rural poor of Africa, the African Diaspora, and the United States with particular attention to the needs of people of color and Indians of the Americas. The Fund's activity is founded on the conviction that true education depends on a fundamental

respect for human dignity, the development of the full capacities inherent in each human being, and the cultivation of social harmony. These core values are essential to achieving its mission: (1) Respect for Human Rights; (2) Participatory Democracy; (3) Sustainable Development; (4) Equality of Economic Opportunity; (5) Entrepreneurial Initiative; (6) Participation in a Pluralistic Society; (7) Racial Harmony; and (8) Commitment to Service of Disadvantaged Peoples.

The Fund was established in 1911 by the will of Caroline Phelps Stokes, one of the first female philanthropists in the United States, based on her lifelong concern for the educational needs of the underprivileged. Perhaps the Fund's most notable achievement is its capacity to anticipate needs and offer a variety of shifting services and programs to meet the challenges of successive generations into the twenty-first century. Over its nearly 100-year history, the Phelps Stokes Fund has initiated, conducted, and sponsored hallmark educational surveys and research studies that were fundamental in shaping the improvement of education for African Americans, Native Americans, and Africans. The Fund has been particularly active in Liberia taking a leadership role in the American

Colonization Society. The Fund's most notable contribution to supporting the growth of Liberian civil society was the creation of the Booker Washington Institute (BWI), Liberia's first and largest vocational/technical training school. For over 75 years BWI has produced a master class of artisans, technicians and technologists who become teachers, community leaders and overall catalysts of development. Along with its policy-shaping studies and scores of human services programs, the Phelps Stokes Fund has facilitated the growth of human development by serving as an incubator to many nationally and internationally-known programs and institutions through providing founding grants, which attracted other investments and contributions. Another recent initiative is the Ralph Bunche Societies which is a campaign to partner with select colleges and universities to establish undergraduate student associations at their institutions. This initiative is named after Dr. Ralph J. Bunche, who served as a distinguished leader and member of the Phelps Stokes Fund's Board of Trustees for over twenty years. Open to all but, designed specifically for underrepresented minority students, Ralph Bunche Societies encourage stu-

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MEMBER SPOTLIGHT: Phelps Stokes Fund,

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dents to study activities and events international issues and apply their academic skills on a global scale. Ralph Bunche Societies have four key purposes: (1) develop leaders for a global society; (2) encourage an active and engaged citizenry; (3) raise awareness of living in an independent society; and (4) promote the Ralph Bunche legacy of global scholarship and activism. For more information about the Phelps Stokes Fund, please visit our website at www.psfdc.org. ❖

CONSIDERING THE LEGACY OF JENDAYI FRAZER,

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conclusion, she suggested that her legacy towards Africa should be best remembered for her contributions which have paved a way for a more positive and pro-active change in attitude towards Africa both from an American and African perspective. ❖

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 if wish to submit any news and information to the next edition of AAUC Newsletter.
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