

# Connections

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*Continuity gives us roots; change gives us branches, letting us stretch and grow and reach new heights.  
~Pauline R. Kezer*

## Years in Review

In April 2008, an evaluative committee was established to reevaluate the Black Faculty and Academic Professional Alliance - who we are as a group, our mission, and begin looking at issues facing African-Americans on the Illinois campus. Approximately 20 faculty and academic professionals actively participated on this committee. After researching the BFAPA bylaws and looking at current issues facing the campus, the Evaluative Committee rewrote the mission of the organization.

*The mission of the Black Faculty and Academic Professional Alliance (BFAPA) is to serve as advocates for equitable and accessible opportunities, programs, services, and governance for Black faculty, academic professionals, and students through connections with administration, internal and external partnerships, social networks, and by leveraging both financial and human capital resources to effect change.*

Since then, the current Executive Team has been active and engaged. We have all experienced the impact of the university cash crisis in ways that have changed the landscape of our professional endeavors. This hurdle has energized our group and we hope BFAPA will serve each of us, the student body, and campus administrators in reaching the common goal of ensuring our optimal Illinois experience. We encourage your active participation and hope to see you soon.

FY's 09 and 10 marked years of numerous committees charged with reviewing academic programs, financial resources, and appropriate staffing levels on the Illinois campus. The full impact has yet to be realized as decisions are continually being made about the future sustainability of Illinois. The Illinois Administration provided opportunities for everyone on campus to participate and still does through Stewarding Excellence Project Teams.

The BFAPA Executive Team has been meeting on an on-going basis to ascertain any response if any that we would need to pursue. First, a small group of BFAPA members met with Trustee Carroll in March 2009 to discuss three concerns - investment and retention of high value faculty, advancing academic professionals, and addressing the needs of African American students. Subsequently, we sent a letter to President Ikenberry, Chancellor Easter, and Vice Chancellor Wheeler in March 2010 to remind our campus leadership about our diversity initiatives and to offer suggestions for such restructuring activities as it relates to the retention of Black faculty, academic professionals, civil service employees, graduate students, and undergraduate students. This letter was provided to those who attended the April 22, 2010 Lunch Connection.

As changes are being made around the campus, we encourage you to become involved with the BFAPA to further our collective voice at Illinois and establish our active participation and partnership at Illinois.

The next Lunch Connection is scheduled on July 14, 2010 from 11:30 AM ~ 1:30 PM in 210 Illini Union. Please RSVP to [Rebecca Kornegay](#) by Monday, July 13 at 12 Noon.

## NEW Faculty and Academic Professionals

Rory James  
 Director, Bruce D. Nesbitt African American Cultural Center  
 Start Date: June 16, 2010

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*Education is for  
 improving the lives of  
 others and for leaving  
 your community and  
 world better than you  
 found it.*

*~ Marian Wright Edelman*

## BFAPA Participation in Open Position Searches

The Dean of Students Office is conducting a search for the new **Director of the Office of Minority Student Affairs**. Three candidates have been identified and all are invited to meet the candidates in an Open Forum to hear presentations and ask questions. Resumes and rating sheets will be available at the presentations in 406 Illini Union.

Wednesday, July 7, 2010  
 Mercedes Ramirez-Fernandez, candidate  
 2:30 PM ~ 3:15 PM

Monday, July 12, 2010  
 Jacqueline Faulkner, candidate  
 2:00 PM ~ 2:45 PM

Wednesday, July 14, 2010  
 Wallace Southerland, candidate  
 2:30 PM ~ 3:15 PM

## Illinois Facts to Know

### Microsoft Campus Agreement (CA) Enrollment

Starting July 1, 2010, all Urbana/Champaign faculty and staff will be licensed for Windows Upgrades, Office, and Enterprise CALs on University-owned computers at no cost. Graduate and professional students will be licensed for Windows upgrades and Office on their personal machines and will be able to purchase media for \$5 per title. The Microsoft CA subscription program covers these applications and entitles eligible parties to new version releases during the subscription term.

Current faculty, staff or students can purchase Microsoft software for personal use through the U of I Webstore using a personal credit card. You have the option of picking up the media at the Illini Union Flash Drive (IFD) or having the software mailed directly to you for a nominal shipping fee.

Many Microsoft products are available to faculty, staff and students of S.T.E.M. (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) or V.I.D.A (Visualization, Illustration, Design, and Art) departments for research and/or instructional purposes free of charge under the MSDNAA program. These offers can be accessed by clicking on the Departments tab located at the top of the main WebStore screen. Please contact [webstore@illinois.edu](mailto:webstore@illinois.edu) if you have questions about your MSDNAA eligibility.

Faculty/Staff wanting to purchase Microsoft products for University owned machines must purchase their software directly from Central Stores.

## Taking Care of Business

- ❖ The Black Faculty and Academic Professional Alliance need your help. We invite your participation to work on committees as we expand our team. The chair of each committee will sit on the BFAPA Executive Team. While this list of committees is not exhaustive our current needs are:
  - Laws Committee – drafts and amends the BFAPA guiding principles.
  - Professional Development and Training Committee – Identifies opportunities on the Illinois campus for BFAPA members to participate in and to develop new leadership opportunities and contribute to the larger community
  - Social/Networking Committee – plans lunch connections; receptions for new staff; collaborations with Black Alumni Network, Department of African American Studies, Bruce D. Nesbitt African American Cultural Center, Academic Human Resources, Office of Equal Opportunity and Access; and others as necessary.
  - Communications Committee – involved with the marketing and communications aspects of the BFAPA including monthly **C**onnections Newsletter, email, wiki and a new Website.
  - Recruitment and Retention Committee – Monitors efforts at recruiting and retaining Black faculty, instructors, and other professionals at Illinois.
  
- ❖ BFAPA Treasury Report
  - BFAPA's funded the Fall 2008 Holiday event at a cost to us of \$823.00.
  - The topic of the Annual Membership dues was discussed at the April 22, 2010 Lunch Connection. The BFAPA has previously collected dues as a way to plan social and networking activities for the Alliance and had not been collected since Fall 2008. The BFAPA Executive Team has decided to reinstate the membership dues for FY11 beginning July 1, 2010. We would like to distribute funds by allocating 50% to Student Gift Awards, 25% to Meetings/Luncheons/Events, and 25% to other activities or future needs. If members agree, a sub-committee would be established under the Treasurer to research and establish an appropriate assessment to the membership and investigate ways to provide monetary or gift awards to Black Graduate and Undergraduate students.
  - Annual Membership dues are \$20 and are payable by cash or check (made payable to the BFAPA). Payments will be collected at our monthly Lunch Connections or bimonthly Business Meetings.

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*Courage is the most important of all virtues, because without courage you can't practice any other virtue consistently. You can practice any virtue erratically, but nothing consistently without courage.*

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*~ Maya Angelou*

## Upcoming Events

### Lunch Connections

July 14, 2010  
 11:30 AM ~ 1:30 PM  
 210 Illini Union  
 Topic: Administrative Review and Restructuring  
 (ARR) Report and its affect on Academic  
 Professionals  
[ARR Website](#)

August 17, 2010  
 11:30 AM ~ 1:30 PM  
 209 Illini Union  
 Topic: Welcome Back and Possible Open  
 Discussion on Effects of Voluntary Separation  
 Incentive Program (VSIP) for both Retirements  
 and Resignations

### SAVE-THE-DATE

**BFAPA Business Meeting**  
 Date TBD - September 2010

**A Celebration of African American Faculty  
 and Staff**  
 September 25, 2010  
 Place To Be Determined  
 (A Co-Sponsorship with the Office of Equal  
 Opportunity and Access)

#### Black Faculty and Academic Professional Alliance Executive Team

Dr. Christopher Span, Co-Chair  
 Associate Professor (Department of Educational Policy Studies)

Regina Stevenson, Co-Chair  
 Manager of Professional Training and Development (CITES)

Rebecca Kornegay, Secretary  
 E-Commerce Coordinator (OBFS-Treasury Operations)

Dr. Deidre Weathersby, Treasure  
 Clinical Counselor (Counseling Center)

### Community Connections

**First Fridays** sponsored by the Champaign  
 County Black Chamber of Commerce  
 August 6, 2010

5:00 PM ~ 7:00 PM  
 Lobby, Stage 5 Bar  
 Krannert Center for the Performing Arts,  
 500 S. Goodwin Ave., Urbana, IL 61801  
*Cash bar available*  
 Meet up with friends, colleagues, business  
 owners, and community members as we  
 work together to promote and sustain the  
 economic progress of African-American and  
 other minority-owned enterprises in  
 Champaign County.

### Linkages

[Black Alumni Network](#)

[Department of African American Studies](#)

[Bruce D. Nesbitt African American Cultural  
 Center](#)

[Office of Minority Student Affairs](#)

[Academic Professional website](#)

