Annual Report of Events

Association of Black Professionals
In International Affairs
(BPIA)

November 6, 2020
Washington, DC
Editor’s Note

This report has been created as a record of programs planned and implemented by the Association of Black Professionals in International Affairs (BPIA) from October 2019 through October 2020.

Respectfully submitted,
Michele Cisco Titi, Ph.D.
November 6, 2020
October 16, 2019 – Annual International Careers Expo

Supporting organizations: Thursday Luncheon Group; Ralph Bunche International Affairs Center, Howard University
Venue: Louis Stokes Health Sciences Library, Howard University.

Program Focus: International career guidance and preparation
Participants: Undergraduate and graduate students, young professionals
Presenters/Speakers: International Career Practitioner Panel - T. Michael Peay, Judge, Organization of American States; Hussainatu Blake, Co-Founder, Focal Point Global; Eric Reid, CEO, SPAGnVOLA; and Christina Tilghman, US Foreign Service Officer/Pickering Fellow. Recardo Gibson, President, TLG, moderator
Exhibitors/Recruiters: USAID, State Dept., NSA, CIA, Dept. of Commerce, Dept. of Agriculture, Peace Corps; Pickering, Rangel, and Payne diplomatic fellowship programs; educational organizations: the Association of Professional Schools of International Affairs (APSIA) and Howard University; and NGOs: the Washington Center and US Institute of Peace.
Board Coordinators: Amb. Sylvia Stanfield and Earl Yates

November 26, 2019 – Third Annual Sub-Saharan Regional Economic Outlook Forum

Supporting organization: US African Development Foundation
Venue: US African Development Foundation offices

Program Focus: Commentary on October 2019 International Monetary Fund publication, Regional Economic Outlook for Sub-Saharan Africa
Participants: General international affairs audience
Presenters/Speakers: Panel - Seung Mo Choi, Senior Economist, Africa Department, IMF; C.D. Glin, President and CEO, USADF; Alicia-Robinson-Morgan, Managing Director for Africa, Dept. of Compact Operations, Millennium Challenge Corporation; and Prof. Landry Signé, David M. Rubenstein Fellow, Global Economy and Development Program, Africa Growth Initiative, the Brookings Institution. BPIA Board member John Calvin Williams, Vice President, Business and Economic Development, panel moderator.
Board Coordinator: John Calvin Williams, assisted by Zainabu Williams and Demetrius Story

January 25, 2020 – Annual Membership Meeting - “Celebrating Three Decades of Service”

Supporting organization: US African Development Foundation
Venue: US African Development Foundation offices

Program Activities: BPIA 30th anniversary celebration; President Sylvia Stanfield’s Annual Report; other reports; members’ input session; keynote address; election of Board members (See page 6-7 for results); buffet lunch
Participants: BPIA members
Speaker: Dr. Gwen Mikell, Professor of Anthropology and Foreign Service, Georgetown University
Board Coordinators: Amb. Sylvia Stanfield and Board
February 19, 2020 – “Think & Drink” event – “Human Trafficking: Domestic Impacts and Implications”

Partnering organization: Women of Color Advancing Peace and Security (WCAPS)
Venue: George Washington University Elliott School of International Affairs

Program Focus: Expert panel addressed causes and effects of the $150 billion trafficking industry on women, children, men, from a range of perspectives
Participants: General international affairs audience
Presenters/Speakers: Amb. Bonnie Jenkins, Founder and Executive Director, Women of Color Advancing Peace and Security (WCAPS); Ambassador Steven McGann, Our Secure Future; Kara Hernandez, Strategic Consultant and Chair, WCAPS Working Group on Illicit Trafficking; and Dawnesha Coffin, Fair for Girls.
Board Coordinator: Dr. Sandile Hlatshwayo

April 13 – July 2, 2020 – “BPIA Chats” Series

NOTE: As the social distancing requirements of the COVID-19 pandemic made large gatherings impossible beginning in mid-March, BPIA’s events went virtual. Unexpected results of this development for the association included an expansion of our virtual reach and actual growth of our membership. The “BPIA Chats” series, conceived and implemented by Board member Alexandria Maloney, was our first virtual venture. SEE ACCOMPANYING SEPARATE REPORT ON THE MORE THAN 40 PROGRAMS IN THIS SERIES FOR TOPICS, SPEAKERS, PHOTOS, AND RECORDINGS.

Venues: Instagram, Zoom
Program Focus: Various topics relating chiefly to international careers
Participants: Students, young professionals, general international affairs audience
Speakers: More than 40 experts and resource persons
Board Coordinator: Alexandria Maloney

June 20, 2020 – Spring Mentoring Program Workshop

Venue: Zoom
Program Focus: Topics including benefits of mentoring, roles of mentors and mentees, mentoring agreements, drafting a mentoring plan, potential challenges to mentors and mentees
Participants: BPIA mentors and mentees
Speakers: BPIA Board members Dr. Sandile Hlatshwayo, Yvonne Hubbard,
Board Coordinators: Dr. Sandile Hlatshwayo, Yvonne Hubbard, assisted by Alexandria Maloney

July 14, 2020 – Think & Drink event – “Climate Change and the Diaspora”

Venue: Zoom
Program Focus: Disproportionate negative effects of global climate change, environmental degradation, and spread of COVID-19 on black communities in the US and abroad
July 14, 2020 – Think & Drink event (cont’d.)

Participants: General international affairs audience  
Speaker: Dr. Belinda Archibong, Assistant Professor of Economics, Barnard College, Columbia University  
Board Coordinator: Dr. Sandile Hlatshwayo, with assistance of Amb. Cynthia Akuetteh, Allison Johnson, Vannary Kong, and Alexandria Maloney  
Recording link: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jrrShhfKodU

August 25, 2020 – Diversity in International Affairs Virtual Conference and Career Fair


Venue: Hopin Virtual Events Platform  
Program Theme: “Connecting Diverse Talent to International Opportunities”  
Participants: Undergraduate and graduate students, young professionals  
Main Stage Speakers: Amb. Andrew Young, Keynoter; Congresswoman Karen Bass (D-CA); Amb. Tibor Nagy, US Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs; Florizelle Liser, President and CEO, Corporate Council on Africa  
Nine Expert Panel Presentations: (See links below)  
20 Exhibitors and Recruiters: (See list on page 6)  
Board Coordinator/Co-chair: Dr. Jeanne Toungara and Alexandria Maloney,

Mainstage Recording links: (Please allow about 15-30 seconds for links to load.)

Greetings, BPIA President Amb. Stanfield – https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Z_nV6DVsU8&list=PL3vSl2PGCGwWjnMk0jl4leDbyzyYV2Wew

Remarks, Congresswoman Karen Bass – https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TuEM8zeXPOE

Keynote Address, Amb. Andrew Young – https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l9xoiV0_ly4

CCA CEO Florizelle Liser – https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gS3e8utHHe_g

Panel Recording Links
How to Join the US Foreign Service Session
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lYT98UjjWfE
National Security and Intelligence Careers Panel
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8jLLoZoq--w

How to Join the US Foreign Service Session
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lYT98UjjWfE

Careers in International Development Panel Recording
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eRNbVluMg6M

Military and Foreign Affairs Panel https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JK5j_74fzQ

International Developments 21st Century Outlooks
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6WuHLR6Whhc

Diversity Hiring in Development Sponsored by FHI360
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Smlh6LDKsKg

Multilateral Organizations Panel https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=N4bPvY3cfu0

Private Sector & Corporate Social Responsibility
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IzDP1QXgrg

Conference Exhibitors
US Department of State
USAID Donald M. Payne International Development Fellowship
Seton Hall University School of Diplomacy and International Relations
US Institute of Peace
US Peace Corps
Robert F. Kennedy Human Rights
Global Ties US
Granicus Cybersecurity
DAI
Korbel Graduate School of International Studies, University of Denver
American University School of International Studies Graduate School
Thomas R. Pickering Fellowship
Charles B. Rangel Fellowship
Women of Color Advancing Peace and Security
DACOR-Bacon House
Mercy Corps
Presidential Management Fellows – OPM
Atlantic Council
Society of International Development
Creative DC Associates

Venue: Zoom
Program Focus: Self-presentation, Mentor/Mentee Check-in
Participants: Students, young professionals, BP1A mentors and mentees
Speaker: Ashley Joy Sutton, Women’s Empowerment Coach and Advocate
Board Coordinators: Dr. Sandile Hlatshwayo, Yvonne Hubbard
Recording link: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8bKXhzA7_o

BPIA Board of Directors 2020 to 2022
Elected January 25, 2020

President, Ambassador (ret.) Sylvia Stanfield
Vice President, Business and Economic Development, John Calvin Williams
Vice President, Education and Exchange, Jeanne Toungara, Ph.D.
Vice President, Professional Development, Sandile Hlatshwayo, Ph.D.
Treasurer, Allison Johnson
Assistant Treasurer, McGrath Jean Thomas
Secretary, Alexandria Maloney
Assistant Secretary, Demetruis Story
Assistant Secretary, Vannary Kong
Historian, Cynthia Johnson
Members-at-Large:
Ambassador (ret.) Cynthia Akuetteh
Yvonne Hubbard
Cherif Lassine
Ambassador (ret.) Steven McGann
Earl Yates