

BPIA BULLETIN

Newsletter of the Association of Black Professionals in International Affairs

About the Association

BPIA is a charitable, non-profit membership association founded in 1989 to increase the involvement of African Americans and other people of African heritage in international affairs.

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***C. Steven McGann, US
Ambassador (ret.)***

***Eunice S. Reddick, US
Ambassador (ret.)***

What's Inside

As we look forward to the delights of spring, this issue reviews BPIA's activities that have taken place since the publication of our Fall 2018 issue. You'll find an account of the third annual International Career Expo, held at Howard University, on pages 6-7, and an article on the organization's second annual African Economic Outlook Forum, co-sponsored by the US Africa Development Foundation, on pages 5-6. BPIA President Sylvia Stanfield reports on the state of the association on pages 3-4. Two Black History Month events are reported on page 2. The first, a dinner at DACOR Bacon House co-sponsored by DACOR, BPIA and three other organizations, honored the life of the first African America diplomat, Ebenezer D. Bassett. The second brought folks together for professional networking at a 14th Street night spot. You'll meet our newest Board member, Ambassador (ret.) Eunice Reddick on page 4. *On the Calendar* appears in its usual place on page 7, featuring several interesting international affairs events coming up at the end of March and during the month of April.

BPIA Bulletin is a quarterly publication. Persons interested in contributing/subscribing to the newsletter should email the Editor, Dr. Michele Cisco Titi, at upwardway17@gmail.com



Dinner Highlights Life of Trailblazer

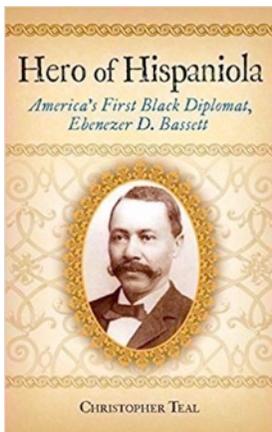
By Earl Yates

On February 7, BPIA and the Association of Black American Ambassadors, the Ambassador Club International, DACOR, and the Thursday Luncheon Group held a dinner featuring a presentation on the life of Ebenezer D. Bassett, in honor of Black History Month. Bassett was, as identified in the program title, “The World’s First African American Diplomat.” The evening’s speaker was Christopher Teal, a career diplomat in the US Foreign Service and a faculty advisor at the Inter-American Defense College, Fort McNair. Teal created a documentary on



J. Dandridge, C. Teal

Bassett, shown in short form at the dinner. He also authored a book, *Hero of Hispaniola*, on the history-making diplomat’s work. Teal’s presentation was incisive and eye-opening. It was followed by a vigorous Q&A. James Dandridge served as moderator.



Bassett, who lived from 1833 to 1908, was a pioneering educator and abolitionist. President Ulysses S. Grant appointed him Minister Resident to Haiti, where he served from 1869 to 1877. Here he famously withstood a five-month siege of his residence after taking in refugees from the country’s civil war, and negotiated their release. Back in the US, in an unusual appointment, he served as American Consul General for Haiti for 10 years in New York City.

Nearly 100 people, most of them current and former diplomats, attended the event. The evening afforded them opportunities both to re-connect and to learn.

Black History Month Networking Soireé

Zeba Bar on DC’s lively 14th Street corridor was the scene of a gathering held on the evening of Thursday, February 21 for BPIA members about the organization. It was one Month events (one co-sponsored, several former US Ambassadors,



and people interested in learning more of BPIA’s two 2019 Black History see above article). Newcomers to DC, and others discussed international



experiences and career aspirations over drinks and bar fare. All in all, it was a great night for networking in a relaxed and cordial setting.



From the BPIA President – 2018 in Review and the Year Ahead

With CY 2019 now underway, I review with you here BPIA's accomplishments over the past year and share the Board's expectations for the year ahead. — President Sylvia Stanfield

BPIA is proud of the success — and quality — of its programs and activities in 2018:

January: Re-launch of the mentoring program under the leadership of Vice President for Professional Development Earl Yates, held in conjunction with our annual meeting. Peace Corps Training Country Director Yvonne Hubbard helped facilitate the lively discussion, where mentored and mentoring professionals shared their experiences.



Amb. Sylvia Stanfield

February: Networking and mentoring workshop, with the theme “Moving Forward and Giving Back” at The Washington Center. Approximately 80 young professionals came to hear remarks on career planning by BPIA Board members.

March: Visit to the US Department of State's new Diplomacy Center and cross-cultural communication workshop for college students and young international affairs professionals, organized by BPIA member and Howard University International Affairs Society's Oona Nelson and Ms. Black DC US Ambassador, Candace Johnson.

June: Launch of “Think and Drink “ Program series, organized by Board Member-at-Large Dr. Sandile Hlatshwayo. “Uncertainty and its Consequences” was the program theme.

October: In cooperation with the Association of Black American Ambassadors (ABAA) and the Ralph Bunche International Affairs Center at Howard University, 4th annual International Career Expo.

November: Second Annual Africa Business and Economic Outlook Forum, hosted with US African Development Foundation (USADF) at The Washington Center organized by BPIA Vice President for Business and Economic Development J. Calvin Williams.

Activities for 2019

February: For Black History Month, co-hosted with four collaborating groups at DACOR, a dinner that featured a presentation on “Ebenezer Bassett: The World's First African American Diplomat.” (See page 2), and a Social networking event at the Zeba Bar (See page 2)

Upcoming: March 30, a professional development and mentoring workshop on “The Future of Work” in international affairs;

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Plus, a second program in the “Think and Drink” series; a social networking event; and in the fall, our October career event at Howard University’s Bunche Center, the annual membership meeting and the third African Economic and Business Forum.

Member Services and Outreach

BPIA Bulletin newsletter, produced by Editor and founding BPIA member, Dr. Michele Titi.

The Website, <http://www.iabpia.org>, currently being updated to make it more user friendly and informative

New Software, installation underway, expected to improve communications with members, outreach, and record keeping.

We need to hear from you, our members, in order to respond to your interests. Better yet, volunteer and join us in planning and implementing events. Keep in mind that BPIA is a membership based organization with NO paid staff.

BPIA’s committed and hard working Board meets monthly, and its members take the lead in organizing and implementing programs. Professional and personal commitments, however, continue to impact Board stability. For this reason, in accordance with the bylaws, I am working to expand Board membership. **I am pleased that US Ambassador (ret.) Eunice Reddick has agreed to join the Board** (see below). I hope to announce other appointments, particularly in the technical and financial areas.

We look to launch a **membership expansion campaign** in the near term. **You can help by paying your dues for this calendar year. Encourage your friends and associates to join now and help BPIA fulfill its mission!**

Ambassador Reddick Joins BPIA Board

BPIA welcomed Eunice S. Reddick to its Board in February 2019. Before retiring from the US Foreign Service in 2017, Reddick served as US Ambassador to Niger from 2014 to 2017, and Ambassador to Gabon from 2007 to 2010. She was Diplomat-in-Residence at Howard University from 2010 to 2011, advising students and career-seekers on State Department careers and foreign policy issues. Ambassador Reddick held two Africa regional directorships at the State Department, managing US relations with East Africa and West Africa. She also covered political issues at the American Institute in Taipei, Taiwan, and the US Embassy in Beijing, and held director positions managing US relations with Southeast Asia in the State Department. Currently, she is the 2018-19 DACOR Lecturer at the US Army Command and General Staff College in Leavenworth, Kansas. She served on the selection committees for the 2018 Rangel Fellowship program and the 2019 American Foreign Service Association (AFSA) Scholarship program. She is a graduate of New York University and the School of International Affairs, Columbia University.



Amb. Eunice Reddick

African Economic Outlook Forum

By John Calvin Williams

On November 12, 2018, BPIA joined with the US African Development Foundation (USADF) to hold the second annual Africa Business and Economic Outlook Forum. The Washington Center generously provided the venue. Sixty-five people braved inclement weather to attend the event. Coordinated by Board members John Calvin (Cal) Williams and Zainabu Williams, the program featured a panel discussion based on the findings in the International Monetary Fund's (IMF) October 2018 *Regional Economic Outlook Sub-Saharan Africa* report, and the work of two organizations that promote economic and business development in Africa, the USADF and the Initiative for Global Development (IGD). Cal Williams moderated the discussion.



IMF rep., J. Wieczorek; Panelists, D. Karanja, C.D.Glin; Moderator, Cal Williams

Jaroslav Wieczorek, Deputy Division Chief of IMF's African Department Regional Studies Division, presented highlights of the *Regional Economic Outlook*. He explained that the macroeconomic outlook for Sub-Saharan Africa had strengthened, with economic growth projected to increase to 3.1 percent in 2018 from 2.7 percent in 2017, reflecting domestic policy adjustments, steady growth in the global economy, higher commodity prices and supportive external financing conditions.



Forum participants

Wieczorek noted the report examined two significant policy challenges facing Sub-Saharan Africa over the medium term: The causes and consequences of high levels of capital flows; and perhaps the most difficult and consequential policy challenge which is inadequate job creation to absorb the inflow of new entrants into labor markets. In the first case, the historically high levels of nonofficial capital flows to the region could pose macroeconomic and financial stability risks in the absence of adequate fiscal and macroprudential frameworks. In the latter case, the demographic trends are daunting, given that 41 percent of the population is 14 years old or younger with 60 percent less than 25 years old. The projected real economic growth of 4 percent over the medium term is insufficient to generate the required number of new jobs.

First presenter Dr. Daniel Karanja, Vice President, Programs and Advisory of the non-profit IGD, explained that he and his organization were “bullish” on the continent. IGD works with the private sector to advance sustainable development and inclusive growth in Africa. Its members are high-level private sector executives, two-thirds of whom lead businesses in Africa. IGD plays a key role in increasing investment in the rapidly expanding small and medium sized enterprises in

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Africa's private sector that are driving growth while creating 80 percent of the jobs on the continent. IGD is committed to increasing the engagement of young people in finding solutions to the challenges facing Africa.

C.D. Glin, President and CEO of the USADF, described the work of the independent federal agency, as a provider of seed capital and technical support. It works at the grassroots levels in the 20 countries in which operates to enhance the involvement of the youth in shaping their future opportunities, promoting "bottom-up development." It provides some \$30 million/year to African organizations able to execute projects without intermediaries, using local technical assistance. Some African governments match USADF funding. The organization is currently seeking new partners.

The ensuing discussion among the presenters and the questions and comments from the participants were very animated, and the audience engagement intense.

Third Successful International Career Expo

A sampling of expert advice from BPIA's third annual International Career Expo:

- "Put yourself at the center of your organization's most difficult challenge; make yourself part of the solution... More work will come your way."
- "Develop two areas of expertise — regional and topical... Explore many areas, then decide what you want to be your specialty."
- "Develop your professional network. Some of the best jobs are not advertised... Reputation in this field is everything. If you're a jerk, people won't want to work with you."
- "Do your homework. Show you've delved into" your subject matter.

So said Expo panelists (respectively) Brionna Dawson, Director of East and Southern Africa, US Chamber of Commerce; Travis L. Adkins, Director for Global Governance and Civic Engagement, InterAction; Frank A. Rose, Senior



Students C. Charles, A. Ellis; Reps. D. Egan, Catholic U., B. Suarez, APSIA

Fellow for Security and Strategy, Foreign Policy Program, the Brookings Institution; and Chuke Asike, US Foreign Service Officer, Department of State. BPIA Board member John-Ubong Silas moderated the panel. The program drew a capacity crowd.

The event, held October 18, 2018 at Howard University's Ralph J. Bunche International Affairs Center was supported by the Center and the Association of Black American Ambassadors.



Pres. Stanfield, F. Rose, B. Dawson, T. Adkins, C. Asike

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On the Calendar

Friday, March 29 - U.S. State Department's 10th Annual HBCU Foreign Policy Conference, 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. FREE registration. State Department officials discuss policy issues. Career, exchange opportunities. **GWU Elliott School of International Affairs, 1957 E St., NW, WDC 20052.** Info: Call (202) 647-5342.

Saturday, March 30 - BPIA Mentoring Series: The Future of Work, 1:00 - 3:00 p.m. Panel, Mentor-Mentee Workshop. **US Africa Development Foundation, 1400 I St., NW, #1000. WDC 20005** Info: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/bpia-mentoring-series-the-future-of-work-tickets-58029471712>

Thursday, April 4 - 7th Annual SAIS Global Women in Leadership Conference, 8:45 a.m. - 7:30 p.m. FREE registration. Presenters from organizations including Black Lives Matter DC,, American Assn. of University Women, United We Dream. Reception, Australian Embassy. **Kenney-Herter Auditorium, Johns Hopkins University School of Advanced International Studies, 1740 Mass. Ave., NW, WDC 20036.** Info: saiswomenlead@gmail.com

Thursday, April 11 - Best Practices in Applying to Graduate School, Association of Professional Schools of International Affairs (APSIA) - 10:00 - 11:00 a.m. Selecting a grad program, preparing an application, paying for studies, career opportunities. **Location: Online** - Info: <https://apsia.org> Click on Events.

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The panelists described their individual international career paths to the Expo participants. Those in attendance also had opportunities to consult with representatives of nine exhibitors: US Peace Corps; the Johns Hopkins

University School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS); Integral Economic Development Graduate Programs, Catholic University; the Association of Professional Schools of International Affairs (APSIA); the Thomas A. Pickering Fellowship Program; the Charles B. Rangel Fellowship Program; the Donald M. Payne International Development Fellowship Program; the Howard University Office of Study Abroad, and the US Agency for International Development (USAID).

The program was well-received by participants. "I really loved it," said Fatou Sankare. "It gave me motivation. The panel gave me a sense of living my purpose." Kladius Maynard found it "Very inspirational to see black people living and working in international affairs."



Fr: Expo participants, panelists

Attention BPIA Members: Are your annual membership dues current? It takes funding to do what we do, and we want to do more! Full-time Student: \$20 General Member: \$50 Sustaining Member: \$195 Institutions: \$2,500

Mail payment to: BPIA/PO Box 55922/
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