

Association of Black Professionals News

Radford University

ABP President's Message

by *Connie Phillips*

Special points of interest:

- *A New Name, A New Look*
- *Membership Meeting in September*
- *Association's Interim President to Assume Duties October 1st.*

It's hard to believe that summer has come and gone already. The students are back and classes are in full swing. It's time for class assignments, presentations, meetings, and networking with new friends and colleagues.

This year will provide exciting times for all as we have a new Provost and other administrative professionals who have joined President Kyle's team to lead RU to the next level.

I encourage you to walk around our campus, meet new people and see some of the changes that are unfolding.

As you may know we changed our name last semester from the African American Faculty and Staff Association to the Association of Black Professionals and we opened the membership to include graduate students. Some have asked "why change from faculty and staff to professionals?" The term **professional** indicates "one who is engaged in a specific activity as a source of livelihood." Therefore each one of us is either preparing for our profession or we are professionals (i.e. from the classroom to facilities management and to the office). Using this definition, we are all

professionals if we are performing using our best skills/training and abilities.

By changing our name, we hope to encourage more participation among the faculty and staff as well as to provide a resource and experience for grad students as they continue to prepare for their professional pursuits.

On behalf of the ABP family at RU, I extend an invitation to all graduate students and new or returning faculty, staff and administrators to join us for our first meeting of the year scheduled for **Thursday, September 28th at 12 noon in Room 229 of the Bonnie Hurlburt Student Center.**



We have a new name, a new look and we are excited about moving forward with a new enthusiasm that seems to be contagious on this campus.

The executive council will have a number of things to present to the membership for consideration this year. Nominations for the offices of Secretary and Treasurer will be taken at our first meeting.

So, watch for upcoming announcements from the Association of Black Professionals (ABP).

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WELCOME FROM THE MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

Greetings and Welcome! As we embark on a new academic year, we are excited about recent changes made to include Graduate Students to the membership of the Association of Black Professionals (ABP). As before, the Association is open to all interested full-time and part-time African American faculty, staff, as well as other university employees who identify with the purpose of ABP. We are striving to build a vibrant, active membership that is a positive force for RU. Through monthly meetings and participation in programs and events, and serving on various University-wide committees, ABP is working to bring more cohesiveness to our campus by providing resources, support, and working on collaborative projects.

If you would like to join ABP or share your ideas, please contact one of the Membership Committee Chairpersons.

Thanks and we look forward to working together!

Monica Hunter, Faculty/Staff Membership Co-Chair, mhunter@radford.edu

Lauren Harris, Graduate Student Membership Co-Chair, lharris@radford.edu

Interim President to Assume Duties October 1st — Resignation Letter from Current President



Dear Members of the Executive Council and General Membership:

Please accept this letter as my formal notice of resignation as President of the Association of Black Professionals (*formerly known as AAFSA*) at Radford University effective September 30, 2006. As many of you are

aware I have served in various capacities during my membership with this organization over the past 11 years and I have enjoyed working with the faculty, staff, and students. The connections I've made during my term as president will truly be memorable for years to come. This has been a very difficult decision but due to personal and immediate obligations, I feel I am making the best choice at this time. I believe this association continues to have a

lot to offer the university community at large and I look forward to seeing it progress in the coming years.

It is my plan to continue supporting and actively participate in the association. If I can help to tie up any loose ends or provide assistance to the Interim President as he completes the remaining year of my elected term, I will be happy to do so. I have every confidence that Richard Tillies will provide excellent leadership for our organization as we move forward.

Thank you very much for the opportunity to serve as President of this great association for the past two years.

Sincerely,

Connie Phillips

ABP President

**"I HAVE EVERY CONFIDENCE THAT RICHARD TILLIES WILL PROVIDE THE EXCELLENT LEADERSHIP FOR OUR ORGANIZATION AS WE MOVE FORWARD."
~ CONNIE PHILLIPS**



RICHARD TILLIES TO ACT AS THE INTERIM PRESIDENT FOR THE ACADEMIC 2006-2007 YEAR EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1ST.

From the desk of Richard Tillies, II Current Vice President/Interim President (as of October 1, 2006)

I am honored to have served as the Vice President of the African American Faculty & Staff Association over the past year. I have focused on improving the presence of our organization by connecting and improving relations with students. As a proud alumnus of Radford University, I feel that it is important that students have a positive relationship with the faculty and staff on campus, especially those who may share a common background. For that reason, I have directly engaged students at organizational meetings, functions, and on campus. Over the past year, I have personally attended meetings and functions of several student associations, such as the Black Awareness Programming (BAP) Board, the National Pan-Hellenic Council (NPHC), and the Black Student Affairs Council (BSAC). This practice has been very beneficial in establishing a positive rapport with the backbone of the university.

With that said, I welcome the opportunity to serve as Interim President of the Association of Black Professionals. The addition of graduate students to our group will further increase our visibility on campus, as well as providing an additional avenue for these students to contribute to the university. In this era of change, I feel fortunate to lead the charge and take this organization to new levels. It will be a privilege to serve this organization in its highest capacity. Thank you and I look forward to serving you.

ABP Committees

The purposes of the Association are to (a) promote the well-being of the Radford University Black community, (b) advocate for and assist in recruitment and retention of Radford University Black faculty, staff and students within the academic community.

The functions of the Association shall be to (a) support mentoring of Black faculty, staff and students (b) conduct regular meetings of the Association; (c) provide liaisons to various groups concerned with or related to the RU Black community; (d) recognize achievements within the Black community and to promote and enhance relationships and cooperation with various campus organizations that share concerns for Black faculty, staff and student development; (e) assist the University in the identification, recruiting and retention of Black faculty, staff and students; (f) conduct an annual institutional audit of the status of Black faculty, staff and students in the university community and (g) provide the University ideas, strategies and recommendations to better achieve diversity.

To that resolve, the ABP has the following committees. Please consider taking an active part in one or more of these committees. If you are interested or want more information, please contact the committee chairpersons listed below.

Membership Recruitment—Monica Hunter (mhunter@radford.edu) and Lauren Harris (lharris@radford.edu)

Fundraising—Carlotta Lewis (clewis@radford.edu)

Programming—Jocelyn Hash (mhash@radford.edu)

Communication (Website/Newsletter)—Richard Tillies (rtillies@radford.edu)

Scholarship—Michael Sinclair (mmsinclair@radford.edu)

ABP Needs You!

Please help us in our efforts to revitalize and empower ourselves, build financial stability, improve communication between organizations with shared interests and provide training and continuing education.

FUNDRAISING

The ABP is currently in a fund raising campaign to secure funding to cover programming expenses for the year. In the past years, we have used funds from previous fund raising events and have asked for monetary donations and goods to be used throughout the year.

Many of you have been very generous with your giving and support in the past.

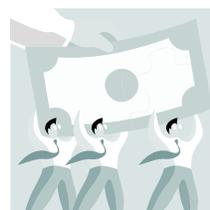
This year, the fundraising campaign will consist of taking orders for Southern Flavoring products and for

greeting cards provided by Carole Joy. If you are interested in seeing a catalog, placing an order, or taking a catalog to get orders, please contact Carlotta Lewis, Box 7026 RU Campus, Phone: 831-7613.

If you would like to make a financial donation to the ABP, please make checks payable to AAFSA/ABP and mail to P. O. Box 7026—RU Campus, Attention: Fund Raising Campaign.

If you have suggestions for fundraising projects please forward them to Carlotta Lewis. Your support of our

programs and activities is greatly appreciated. As a TEAM—Together Everyone Achieves More.



**TEAM WORK...
PUTTING OUR
MONEY TO
WORK.**

PROGRAM COMMITTEE

Greetings from the Program Committee Chairperson! One of the most exciting and rewarding aspects of African American Faculty & Staff is the Program Committee. A major component of this committee's mission and assignment is to reward, acknowledge and recognize outstanding academic achievement in graduating seniors. It is an unforgettable and crowning achievement when family and friends gathers to celebrate the graduation of its own. We sponsor the Donning of the Kente in the fall and spring, a graduation celebration for those of African American heritage. We embody and make visible the dreams of our graduating seniors.

We also plan other events for faculty and staff to participate in for professional development and informational purposes. In the years past, we have invited our faculty and staff to participate in forums concerning current health issues, financial investments, etc. We have also sponsored annual achievement banquets to recognize alumni, faculty, staff, and students for their accomplishments.

Please consider joining this dynamic and rewarding committee. If you have ideas for programs that we can sponsor, please let me know.

Jocelyn Hash, Chairperson

Radford Black Alumni Weekend—September 29—October 1, 2006

“Unite—Rebuild—Renew”

For more information go to <http://radfordblackalumni.com>

Donning of the Kente XV

On May 5, 2006, the ABP (formerly known as AAFSA) hosted the Donning of the Kente XV—a highly celebrated event on RU's campus recognizing our graduating Black students for their achievements during their academic careers. We had 31 students participate with over 200 family members and friends celebrating their achievements.

Mrs. Mary Todd-Allen, an alum of Radford University from Winston-Salem, NC was the guest speaker.

Highlights of her comments included:

“Never forget your roots;

Never forget those cherished memories of RU;

Come back from time to time to see how things have changed;

Invest in others; and

Always put God first in everything you do.”

Special artistic expressions were presented by Lauren Harris, a RU graduate and Wanda Wright, a JMU graduate.

Special thanks to Jocelyn Hash, the Programming Committee, and the Office of Multicultural Services for their hard work on this event. This was one of the best celebrations that we have hosted.



Membership Meeting in September

The Association of Black Professionals' doors are open to all interested RADFORD UNIVERSITY FACULTY, STAFF (CURRENT AND RETIRED), AND GRADUATE STUDENTS. We invite you to come to our meetings and check us out.

In an effort to encourage membership, dialogue, and interaction between the faculty, staff, and students, the ABP will host its first membership meeting on Thursday, September 28th at 12 noon in "The Bonnie", Room 229. Light refreshments will be served.

Our Provost, Dr. Ivelaw L. Griffith has been invited to attend this meeting as our special guest.

This will provide an opportunity for networking and a chance to have an open dialogue with Dr. Griffith. We will also have a very brief business meeting during this event. **Nominations for the offices of Secretary and Treasurer (2006-2008) as well as Interim Vice President (2006-2007) will be accepted during the meeting and will close on October 5th.** Duties of officers may be found in our bylaws and on our website (www.radford.edu/~aafsa). Ballots will be sent out via email and postal mail on October 6th. The elections will close on October 13th at 5:00 p.m. Announcements of our newly elected or re-elected officers will be posted on October 14th.

Please take the time to join us for our first meeting of the semester as we embark upon a new year.



MEMBERSHIP DUES

The Executive Council has recommended that the ABP Dues for Academic Year 2006-2007 be set at **\$10**.

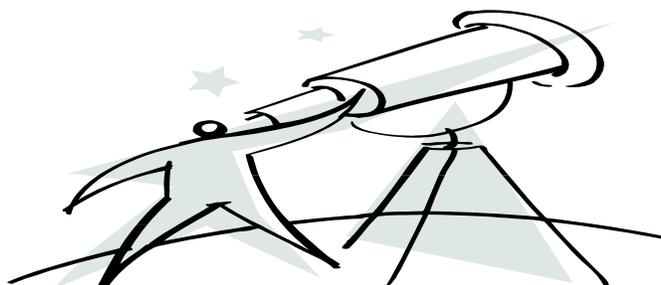
Please make your financial contribution to our general treasury for supplies and general expenses. Checks can be made payable to AAFSA/ABP and mailed to ABP, Box 7026 (Attention: Treasurer) - Radford University, Radford, VA 24142.

"All interested full-time and part-time Black faculty and staff (current or retired), current graduate students, and other university employees who identify with the purpose of this Association are eligible to participate in the Association of Black Professionals.

This Association does not discriminate with regard to race, gender, sexual orientation, disability, age, veteran status, national origin, religion or political affiliation in its membership or in its programs or activities." - ABP Bylaws, Membership

ABP Seeking Partnerships

The ABP is always looking to work with organizations which share our interest and purposes. If you belong to or know of another group with which we may collaborate on programs, activities, or university initiatives, please let us know by contacting the president of the Association.



The sky is the limit to what we can accomplish together. We are always looking to work with other organizations. Contact us if you would discuss new ideas!

Radford University

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Association of Black Professionals at RU

*"Promoting, advocating, and
assisting within the RU Black
Community."*

WE'RE ON THE WEB!

WWW.RADFORD.EDU/~ABP

PLEASE DELIVER TO: