

Association of Black Biomedical Graduate Students

General Assembly Meeting 3/8/2007

510 Becker Medical Library

Present

Tracy Nicholson (Executive Chair)

Tamika Samuel (Co-chair)

Kelly Diggs (community chair)

Elizabeth Sitati (historian)

Members: Tamira Butler, Damian Fair, Pascale Guiton, Marc Edwards

Visiting from GSC- Tricia Wallace.

Purpose: To discuss previous and upcoming ABBGS activities, the office of diversity Diversity Weekend, and inform members of professional development opportunities.

Discussions, Decisions and Assignments.

1. Old Business

- **2/10/07-** Lift Every Voice: Black History Month Celebration
 - 13 members attended this free event held by the St. Louis symphony. There was a choir, symphony orchestra and jazz ensemble.
 - It was suggested that ABBGS make this an annual event.
- **2/15/07-** Bridging Gaps: The State of the Black Scientist
 - There were 18 attendees to this postdoctoral panel, including Rochelle Smith from the office of diversity and Brian Sullivan from the MSTP office. Don Lawrence, PhD, Octavia Peck, PhD, Craig Smith, PhD and Cherilynn Shadding, PhD gave graduate students a synopsis of their lives as postdoctoral fellows and their career paths and initial interest in science.
- **2/22/07-** BOSS Event: Salsa Night at Club Viva!
 - 12-15 members attended the free Salsa lessons, and 22 or more other members attended afterwards. Members were informed that there were free lessons at Club Viva! Every Thursday if they so wished to re-visit.
 - Kelly sent a thank-you letter to the club owner.

2. New Business

Upcoming ABBGS activities for the school year:

1. Message from the Genome Sequencing Center Outreach Division

- a. Tricia Wallace spoke to ABBGS on behalf of the director, Dr. Shadding. She invited ABBGS members to take a tour of the GSC. This is an hour-long tour to present new technologies and current projects. She pointed out that the GSC contributed to the completion of 25% of the human genome project. To schedule, a tour—www.genome.wustl.edu/outreach/tours- schedule an event.
- b. April 25- DNA Day
 - The GSC goes out to area schools (K-12) to give presentations. Volunteers are needed. The GSC will provide materials for demos. Those interested should email ABBGS.
- c. GSC has ten summer undergraduate students that need science/career/ professional mentors from June-July 2007. Students have already been matched with a laboratory,

but need someone to talk to over lunch or to give advice. Tricia will let ABBGS know of final decisions at the end of April. Interested volunteers should contact ABBGS via email.

2. March 2007

a. Recruitment-

- 3/22-3/24 Diversity Weekend Update
- The schedule was handed out at the last meeting, volunteers have been emailed with details, and a meeting is set for 3/15 to complete plans.

b. Social

- Happy Hour at Moolah or Bar Louie, time TBA.

3. April 2007

a. Outreach

- Damian gave an update on the Medical Text Book Drive which will be held on Saturday April 21 from 8pm-12am at Bar Italia
- There will be a DJ playing African music, free CDs to the first 30 people, and appetizers. Patrons will have to buy their own drinks.
- A book registry will be set up at Borders and at the Medical Bookstore on the medical campus (MPRB) and drop-off points will be set up around the medical and Danforth campuses for those who cannot attend the event.
- \$2000 will be required to ship the books. Damian has spoken with various people including Brenda at the Cultural Affairs Office at Barnes Jewish Hospital and Sheri Notaro at the Chancellor's Office to help with funding.
- Volunteers are needed to set up and clean up.
- Seth Bloom suggested sending an email to 4th-year medical students to donate books.
- ABBGS will send a reminder email to members at the end of March.

b. Professional-

- Career Development Seminar, Date-TBA
- This is in the planning- the career office will be contacted, examples of seminar: Presenting Successfully. Members were asked to email ideas.

4. Non-ABBGS events

a. Sankofa: "Return and Get It" A Night of Expression!!!

- The Society of Black Student Social Workers
- **March 8th**, 7-10pm, @ Brown School of Social Work-Brown Lounge

b. SAC Breakfast Recess

- **March 21st**, 8:30-10:30am at the Seashell Lobby
- Free food!

c. CHIPS (Community Health-In-Partnerships) is holding the 7th Annual Run/Walk and Community Health Festival.

- **April 28th**, registration \$10
- CHIPS targets the uninsured in the North St. Louis area, providing free medical services to those who cannot afford insurance, but do not qualify for Medicaid.

- Volunteers are needed to participate in the run/walk and/or to help with organization, etc.
- d. Academic Guide
 - Highlight new student organizations
- e. Academy of Science regional science fair
 - Judges are needed for the Queeny Park Science Fair on Monday, **May 7th** at 5pm.
 - Those interested can register separately on the web site (<http://www.sciencefairstl.org/>)
- f. African Film Festival
 - i. **3/22- 3/25** 7:00 p.m. Brown Hall 100. Danforth Campus.

5. Professional Information

- a. **2007 Robert D. Watkins Graduate Fellowship**
 - Stipend of up to \$21,000 a year for three years and travel support to present research results at the ASM General Meeting.
 - Deadline is May 1, <http://www.asm.org/Education/index.asp?bid=6278>.
- b. **GSS 8th annual Outstanding Faculty Mentor awards**
 - **NOMINATION DEADLINE IS Friday, March 9, 2007, by 5 PM.**

The meeting was adjourned until April.