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ISSUE V • SPRING - 2007

Link^{to}Link

A NEWSLETTER OF THE LINKS, INCORPORATED.

Top Bush Administration, Education, Business Leaders Examine the *No Child Left Behind Act* at The Links and Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies Roundtable Forum

By: Janet Baker Walker, Esq.
Executive Director, The Links, Incorporated
Capital City (DC) Chapter

On February 27, 2007, the prestigious National Press Club in Washington, D. C. was the venue for The Links, Incorporated's first Annual Public Issues Forum sponsored in partnership with the Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies, the leading African American think tank. Key players working with the Bush administration, national authorities in education and business were brought together to examine the reauthorization of *The No Child Left Behind Act* (NCLB). Our National

President, Link Dr. Gwendolyn B. Lee, brought greetings and framed the discussion from the position of The Links, Incorporated with her initial comments. "The members of The Links, Incorporated are concerned about inequities in public education for our African American youth. We are studying *The No Child Left Behind Act* along with the leading African American think tank, Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies, to determine whether or not the law addresses these inequities."



Left to Right: Dr. Henry Johnson, U.S. Department of Education; Dr. Gwendolyn Lee, National President, The Links; Janet Walker, Esq., Executive Director, The Links; Ms. Rebecca Pringle, National Education Association; Ms. Amy Wilkins, The Education Trust; Dr. Jerry Weast, Montgomery County Public Schools.

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A Message From The National President

LINK GWENDOLYN B. LEE

My Dear Sister Links,

One of the campaign promises that I made when I was elected President was to develop an effective, efficient and responsive National Headquarters. We are well on our way to keeping that promise.

With the help of our Human Resource Committee, we have selected some extraordinary administrators, Link Janet Baker Walker - National Executive Director; Link Deborah Reeves - Deputy Executive Director; and an energetic and hard working staff, to handle the day to day operations of our beloved organization and be at your service at all times.

It also gives me great pleasure to introduce to you Link Kristie Patton Foster, the new Executive Director of The Links Foundation, Incorporated. Link Kristie has been a member of The Links, Incorporated for six years. Until her move to Washington, D.C. she lived in Dallas, Texas and was a member of the Mid Cities, Texas Chapter. Upon accepting the position, Link Kristie and Connecting Link, Reverend Quinton Chad Foster, relocated to Washington, D.C.

Link Kristie brings with her a wealth of knowledge and experience. Most recently, she worked for the VHA Health Foundation as the Corporate Development Director. Prior to that she worked for the United Negro College Fund for 14 years.

This issue will give you a glimpse of their responsibilities and how they can be of assistance to you.

Enjoy!

Sisterly,

Gwendolyn B. Lee

Link Gwendolyn B. Lee
National President, The Links, Incorporated
South Suburban Chicago (IL) Chapter



Gwendolyn B. Lee, Ph.D.,
National President.

Link to Link Credits

Editors

Link Janet Baker Walker, Esq.

Link Kesi Stribling

Link Bettye F. Baker, Ed.D.

Chair, PR & Communication Committee

Link Bunnie Jackson-Ransom

Submission Protocol:

A call for articles will be posted on the web site www.linksinc.org and noted on the Calendar in *Link to Link*.

Lee

Articles must be received no later than seven (7) weeks prior to publication.

Lee

Articles must be limited to no more than 200 words; submitted in Microsoft Word format; and using Times New Roman, 12 point font, double-spaced.

Lee

Copies of signed release forms from individuals, and guardians of children in photographs must be submitted with article.

Lee

A \$16 processing fee shall be remitted for each photograph used in the newsletter. All photographs become the property of The Links, Inc. and will not be returned. Provide original print and citation for any photographs submitted that have been taken by a professional photographer.

Lee

Submit articles via e-mail to:

Janet Baker Walker, Esq.

Executive Director

The Links, Incorporated

1200 Massachusetts Avenue, N.W.

Washington, D.C. 20005

janet.walker@linksinc.org

Transmittal Cover Sheets are available online.

Link to Link will be published four times annually.

It is available on the web site www.linksinc.org.

Letter from the Executive Director

Dear Sister Links,

Welcome to the spring issue of *Link to Link* which is exclusively electronic. Many thanks to each and every one of you for submitting articles for inclusion in this edition. This edition features articles highlighting The Links, Incorporated's commitments in the areas of education and minority health. It also features our National Headquarters staff which is working to achieve our National President's, Gwendolyn B. Lee, Ph.D., goal of providing world class service to all Links. We also enthusiastically welcome Link Kristie Patton Foster who is the new Executive Director of The Links Foundation, Incorporated.

The Links, Incorporated is committed to advocating public policies that improve the education performance of people of African descent. The connections between an excellent education system for all students; the struggle for equal opportunity in access to jobs and other means by which people create a better life for themselves and their families; the vibrancy of our communities and a bright future for our democracy are clear. Therefore, we are committed to partnering with likeminded organizations as we advocate for policies that will prepare African American children to succeed in our ever changing world and translate the gains of the civil rights era into a bright economic future for our people.



Janet Walker, Esq., Executive Director and Dr. Gwendolyn B. Lee, National President

Please read about our outstanding programming in the Chapters in Action section. Many chapters celebrated National Heart Month in February which raises awareness among women that heart disease is their #1 health threat.

I hope you enjoy this edition of *Link to Link*. Print a hard copy. Please submit articles for publication by e-mailing me at janet.walker@linksinc.org.

Sisterly,
Janet Baker Walker, Esq.
Capital City (DC) Chapter
Executive Director, The Links, Incorporated



Janet Baker Walker, Esq.
Executive Director

Please read the article about our dynamic public issues forum entitled, *The No Child Left Behind Act: Is it on the Right Path or Path to Nowhere?* The Links, Incorporated partnered with The Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies at The National Press Club on February 27, 2007 for an exciting analysis of the No Child Left Behind Act which has been described by some as the most significant phenomenon to affect the education of minority children and youth this decade.

Please read the article reprinted from the Washington Post entitled *In Diversity Push, Top Universities Enrolling More Black Immigrants Critics Say Effort Favors Elite Foreigners, Leaves Out Americans* which may represent a new challenge for African Americans.

Proclamation from President Bush



NATIONAL AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY MONTH, 2007

By The President of The United States of America

A Proclamation

African Americans have been an integral part of America for generations, and our Nation is stronger because of their contributions. During National African American History Month, we honor the achievements of African Americans and recognize our continued responsibility to strive for equality for all our citizens.

With grace and determination, African-American men and women have shaped our Nation and influenced American life. Frederick Douglass, W.E.B. DuBois, Rosa Parks, and Martin Luther King, Jr., advanced the cause of civil rights for all Americans and helped change the course of American history. Educators Booker T. Washington and Carter G. Woodson helped break down racial barriers in education to provide opportunity for all people. Americans have benefited from the achievements of scientists like George Washington Carver. Artists such as Pearl Bailey, Ella Fitzgerald, and Louis Armstrong inspired Americans and created some of the most celebrated music this Nation has ever produced.

The theme of this year's National African American History Month, "From Slavery to Freedom: Africans in the Americas," recalls African Americans' long journey to justice and commemorates the courage and persistence of the heroes who called on our Nation to live up to its founding promise. A century after African-American soldiers fought for their freedom on the battlefields of the Civil War, African Americans struggled peacefully for their rights in the streets of Birmingham, Alabama, and on the Mall in Washington, D.C. Courageous civil rights leaders answered hate and discrimination with love and dignity, toppled segregation laws, and worked to make America a more just and hopeful Nation.

All Americans can be proud of the progress we have made, yet the work for a more perfect union is not done. As we celebrate National African American History Month, we reaffirm our commitment to build a society where every individual has the opportunity to achieve the promise of this great land.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GEORGE W. BUSH, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim February 2007 as National African American History Month. I call upon public officials, educators, and all the people of the United States to observe this month with appropriate programs and activities that honor the significant contributions African Americans have made to our Nation.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this twenty-sixth day of January, in the year of our Lord two thousand seven, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and thirty-first.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "George W. Bush".



LINKS CELEBRATE BLACK HISTORY MONTH AT THE WHITE HOUSE



Link Joan E. Higginbotham, NASA Astronaut at the White House



Dr. Dorothy Height, National Council Negro Women and Janet Walker, Esq., Executive Director, The Links at the White House



Link Roslyn Brock, Vice Chair, NAACP at the White House

MembershipColumn

By: Margot James Copeland
National Vice President
Cleveland (OH) Chapter

“ We should be diligent about The Links, Incorporated and what The Links, Incorporated should be, ” Link Ann Johnson, President, August (GA) chapter and task force member



Greetings Sister Links,

On behalf of the Membership Committee, the *ambassadors of friendship* let me extend heartfelt appreciation for your service and commitment to The Links, Incorporated. The work that we do on behalf of our communities makes a tremendous impact on the thousands of constituents and organizations we serve and support.

By now you know, the delegates to the 35th National Assembly overwhelmingly approved and for the second time affirmed the 48 hour service requirement for membership in our organization. This affirmation highlights the dedication that our members have for The Links, Incorporated and the confident we have in the difference we make on behalf of others.

Since the National Assembly and per the directive of our National President, Link Gwendolyn B. Lee, Ph.D., the Area Directors and a small team of Chapter Presidents have worked with me to develop a “user friendly” approach for chapter implementation of the 48 hour service requirement. A detailed report of the task force’s recommendations has been prepared for the next Chapter mailing, but the following is a brief outline of the report approved by the Executive Council at its November 2006 meeting.

48 Hour Implementation Task Force Recommendations

Major Themes

- The Membership Chair is responsible for uniform administration and accurate record keeping of all service hours.
- The process should be kept simple.
- All service opportunities (projects) must be pre-approved by the chapter in order to be credited.

Breadth and Scope of Volunteer Involvement

- Member strengths and interests should be aligned with activities that can support service and program delivery. Volunteer opportunities should be flexible and creative to best utilize the strengths and abilities of members. Suggestions: develop PR assignments, chapter newsletters, ethics review, etc.

Data Collection

- Use existing tools developed and shared at the Area level or develop a chapter tool that facilitates data collection. Remember to keep it simple.

Community Partnerships

- Community organizations must recognize and give credit to The Links, Incorporated for collaborative efforts. Before program or project collaborations begin, develop a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) and have a clear delineation of the role, recognition and expectations of the The Links, Incorporated.

Links in Demanding Professions

- As they are willing, leverage the access and connections of members with limited time, but considerable influence. Suggestions: legislative briefings, fund development, corporate relations, community partnerships, etc.

Members with Physical and Personal Limitations

- Utilize members with limited personal time or physical mobility as ambassadors of friendship. Suggestions: Establish a card and acknowledgments committee, phone trees, scheduling for events, mailings, etc.

Special thanks to a great team of task force members whose names are listed below. In addition, thank you my sisters for making my first few months as your National Vice President a most enjoyable and privileged experience.



48 Hours Implementation Task Force Link Margot James Copeland National Vice President, Chair

Central Area

Link Jeannine M. Quick-Frasier, Area Director,
Columbus (OH) Chapter

Link Sandra Evans, Charleston Institute (WV) Chapter

Link Barbara Pinder, Lake Shore (IL) Chapter

Eastern Area

Link Joyce Lowe, Area Director, Boston (MA) Chapter

Link Hermina Hendricks, Lynchburg (VA) Chapter

Link Mary V. Jones, Bergen County (NJ) Chapter

Southern Area

Link Margaret Thompson Johnson, Area Director,
Jacksonville (FL) Chapter

Link Ann Johnson, Augusta (GA) Chapter

Link Vivian Ingersoll, Atlanta (GA) Chapter

Western Area

Link Sandra Malone, Area Director, Dallas (TX) Chapter

Link Alesia Boatright-Jackson, Orange County (CA) Chapter

Link Thelma Snow-Jackson, Anchorage (AK) Chapter



Area Updates

Eastern

The Eastern Area Conference will be held April 17-22, 2007 in Arlington, Virginia at the Crystal City Gateway Marriott.

Southern

Southern Area Director, Margaret Thompson Johnson reminds Links that the Southern Area Conference will be held May 1-5, 2007 in Mobile, Alabama.

Western

The Western Area Conference will be held July 4-8, 2007 in San Diego, California at the Sheraton San Diego Hotel & Marina.

Central

The Central Area Conference will be held July 11-15, 2007 at the Hyatt Regency Crown Center in Kansas City, Missouri.



Link Joyce Lowe, Eastern Area Director, Link Margaret Johnson, Southern Area Director, Link Jeannine Quick-Frasier, Central Area Director, Link Sandra Malone, Western Area Director.



Central Area HBCU Scholarship Challenge

By: Jeannine Quick-Frasier
Central Area Director
Columbus (OH) Chapter

The “Heart of Linkdom” has always been committed to taking care of its own. Thus, we are pleased to announce the creation of the Central Area HBCU Fund to assist historically black colleges located in our **chapter service communities**. This Area has an endowed scholarship of \$100,000 in support of scholars at **Fisk University**. During the 2005 Area Conference, we contributed \$10,000 each to the two HBCU’s located in Ohio: **Central State** and **Wilberforce Universities**. We have also donated \$5,000 to **Tennessee State University**, with another \$5,000 pending.

There are ten other undergraduate HBCU’s located in our chapter service communities, namely...

- Bluefield State College (WV)
- Harris-Stowe State College (St. Louis)
- Kentucky State University (Frankfort, KY)
- Knoxville College (TN)
- Lane College (Jackson, TN)
- Langston University (Oklahoma City)
- LeMoyne-Owen College (Memphis)
- Philander Smith College (Little Rock)
- University of Arkansas (Pine Bluff)
- West Virginia State University (Institute, WV)

Our goal is to be equitable with our scholarship efforts. We hope that chapters and individual Link members will embrace this effort and consider a commitment to **The Central Area HBCU Fund**. If, for example, every active member participated at a \$50 level, we could easily surpass a minimum goal of \$10,000 per school. **In addition, the Area is committed to contributing \$75,000 to these collective efforts.**

Sisters, we can have a profound impact upon the lives of countless scholars who will be the professionals of tomorrow. Let us continue to reach out to our own and give our young people that necessary hand up that each of us has accepted in our own individual life journey. We will announce our success at the Area Conference.

Checks should be made payable to **The Links Foundation - Central Area HBCU Fund** and mailed directly to the Central Area Treasurer, **Link Alice Strong-Simmons** by March 31, 2007. This allows us to measure the impact of the Area’s gifts prior to sending your tax-deductible contributions to The Links Foundation.

Join me in ensuring a bright future for many through our collective presence defined by a singular significant act of generosity.



Headquarters Highlights

NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS AT YOUR SERVICE...

At National Headquarters, we seek to provide members of The Links, Incorporated with world class service. So you can get to know us and our roles better, we have printed pictures and brief job descriptions of the National Headquarters team

The Links, Incorporated

Janet Baker Walker, Esq. Executive Director

Link Walker is responsible for providing executive direction for the operations, programs and services which respond to the interests and needs of leadership, membership and public served by The Links, Incorporated. Link Walker participates with the National President and National Executive Council in the establishment of policies, in planning professional program goals and assessing the implications of major decisions. The functions of the Executive Director also include planning, accountability, external relations, public affairs, liaison to the National Executive Council and overall supervision the of Deputy Executive Director and staff. Link Walker is also responsible for the Link to Link newsletter.
janet.walker@linksinc.org



Deborah Reeves, Esq. Deputy Executive Director

Link Reeves assists the Executive Director in planning, directing, coordinating, implementing, budgeting and monitoring all operations to achieve the seamless, efficient and effective National Headquarters operations. Link Reeves is second in command at The Links, Incorporated and supervises headquarters staff. The functions of the Deputy Executive Director also include personnel guidance, building security, planning, developing, managing and coordinating management and administrative support functions.
deborah.reeves@linksinc.org

Membership Department

membership@linksinc.org

Avis White Thomas **Membership Services Specialist I**

Ms. Thomas is the supervisor of the membership department and primary contact for members, chapters, Area Directors and the National Vice President and National President on all issues related to membership including the induction of new members, maintenance of accurate records and ensuring chapters have information to follow the membership requirements of The Links, Incorporated. She processes all paperwork related to day to day membership activities including name and address changes, member transfers, member deaths, leaves of absences and changes in status from active to alumnae. avis.thomas@linksinc.org



Stephanie Burns Mason **Membership Services Specialist II**

Ms. Burns Mason is a point of contact for members, chapters, Area Directors and the National Vice President and National President on all issues related to membership including the induction of new members, maintenance of accurate records, ensuring chapters have information to follow the membership requirements of The Links, Incorporated. She processes all paperwork related to day to day membership activities including name and address changes, member transfers, member deaths, leaves of absences and changes in status from active to alumnae. stephanie.mason@linksinc.org



Information Technology Department

techcom@linksinc.org

Paula Wall **Information Technologist**

Ms. Wall is responsible for overall planning, management and operation of all computing and communications technologies associated with information technology applications, communications and computing services within The Links, Incorporated.

Ms. Wall is responsible for operating systems, data communications, servers, local and wide area networks and security. She provides strategic and tactical planning, development, evaluation and coordination of information systems. paula.wall@linksinc.org



Assembly and Conference Planning Department

meetings@linksinc.org

Eris Sims **Meeting Planner**

Ms. Sims has responsibility for planning and coordinating all meetings, National Assemblies, Area Conferences and other events originating out of the national offices of The Links, Incorporated and The Links Foundation, Incorporated. Ms. Sims works closely with the National Officers, Executive Directors and community based events managers. Ms. Sims is currently planning The Links Foundation, Incorporated's trip to South Africa. eris.sims@linksinc.org



Finance finance@linksinc.org

Lisa Grayson **Senior Accountant**

Ms. Grayson handles the financial functions for The Links, Incorporated including finance, budget, accounting and audit. She applies the financial management and administrative policies of the National Executive Council and consults with the National Treasurer on matters related to finance.

Alfonso Davis **Accountant**

Mr. Davis performs professional accounting work, including analyzing and verifying fiscal records and reports, accounts payable and accounts receivable. He also prepares journal entries and reconciles general ledger and subsidiary accounts and other routine accounting functions.



Assistants / Reception



Joan Scarborough **Secretary/Assistant**

Ms. Scarborough performs administrative and secretarial duties including information gathering and analysis and dissemination, word and data processing. She also prepares correspondence, memoranda, reports and other documents for signature. Ms. Scarborough provides training and back up services to reception. joan.scarborough@linksinc.org

LaShawnda J. Spriggs
Receptionist

Ms. Spriggs is the first staff contact a visitor or caller has when visiting or contacting National Headquarters. She answers and routes telephone calls to the appropriate party, greets and assists visitors and logs mail. She also supports the organization's conference planning and membership departments. reception@linksinc.org



The Links Foundation, Incorporated



Kristie Patton Foster
Executive Director

Link Foster is responsible for managing external contacts aimed at resource development and supervising operations staff to support the mission of the Foundation. Link Foster is the Chief Development Officer. She is responsible for fund development, grants management and supervision of member committees involved in fund raising. Link Foster also ensures receipt, acknowledgement and accounting of all funds received by the Foundation. She also works with the National Executive Council of The Links, Incorporated and Foundation Board of Directors to advise them on the funding implications of programmatic decisions. kristie.foster@linksinc.org

Joy Jones
Fund Development

Ms. Jones develops strategies to develop grants/contract proposals and manage and oversee grants/contracts received. Ms. Jones reports to the Executive Director of The Links Foundation, Incorporated.

Mr. Tyson
Custodian

Mr. Tyson is responsible for housekeeping services including cleaning restrooms, dusting, wiping furniture, vacuuming floors, locking and unlocking the building, moving furniture and checking locks. Mr. Tyson also removes debris from sidewalks and moves tools and supplies on an incidental basis.

National Headquarters Highlights of The Links, Incorporated

Website

The Members Only section of our website was launched on February 1, 2007. Note that there is a special section for Chapter Presidents containing various forms, Rituals, Manuals, and other important items. We will be posting documents to our website on an ongoing basis. Our next project is to establish a separate link on our site for each Chapter that will contain documents and forms that are Chapter specific (i.e., future Master Data Forms). We are also in the process of establishing email boxes for each Chapter that will enable Chapter Presidents to obtain important information on a timely basis.

In the coming months, we will be announcing additional capabilities such as an on-line directory, and the ability to update your contact information from your desktop computer.

We will, of course, send Chapter Presidents an email as each of these items are launched on our website.

Membership

We will begin moving our transferees into Chapters on May 1st. The Membership Department will contact Affiliate members to advise them of Chapters in their locale that have space available.

To date, we have approximately 700 names that have been submitted for membership. We are working closely with the Area Directors to return New Member Verification forms to the Chapter Presidents. Remember, Chapters may not send letters of invitation until the verification form has been signed by the Area Director and National Headquarters, and returned to the Chapter President.

We are also in the process of securing a new membership card for every Link. This newly designed card will contain a disaster relief telephone number that will enable us to stay linked together in the event of a national disaster.

Certification Letters and One-in-Five Compliance

The Membership Department continues to send certification letters to all Links who complied with the attendance requirements for the 2005 Area Conferences and the 2006 National Assembly. If you have any questions regarding your certification, contact Headquarters at membership@linksinc.org.

Please be reminded that the 2007 Area Conference is the last opportunity to satisfy the one-in-five requirement. In order to satisfy the requirement, you must attend the Area Conference in your Area, register for the Conference, and attend the requisite number of plenary sessions and workshops.

Master Data Forms

The Membership Department has emailed the Master Data Forms to Chapter Presidents. If your contact information has changed (address, telephone number, email address, etc.), please advise your Chapter President so that the information may be corrected on the Master Data Form and in our database.

Headquarters Closed

Headquarters will be closed on Monday, May 28, 2007, in observance of Memorial Day.

Have a safe and enjoyable Memorial Day weekend!

If you plan to be in the Washington, DC area, stop by and visit your National Headquarters. We look forward to seeing you!

Link Janet Baker Walker

Executive Director

Link Deborah E. Reeves

Deputy Executive Director

The Arts is Stirring It Up

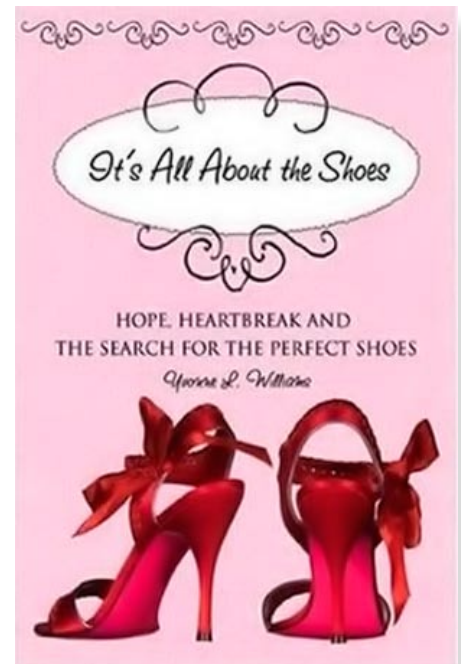
By: Marcia White
Director, The Arts
Long Island (NY) Chapter

The winter *Link-to-Link* newsletter gave an overview of our national arts programming. The National Arts Committee looks forward to presenting national arts programming at the upcoming Area conferences. As Director, I applaud the work of the outstanding members of the National Arts Committee who you will meet at your respective Area Conference.

If you are interested in selling your book(s) at next year's National Black Writers Conference at Medgar Evers College, Brooklyn, New York, kindly notify Link Toni Yuille of the Brooklyn (NY) Chapter. Link Yuille is the chair of our Link National Black Writers Conference Liaison Committee. She can be reached at YUILLEA@coned.com. The participation form will be included in the fall *Link-to-Link* newsletter.

We are proud to introduce twice-published author Link Yvonne L. Williams' of the Greater Springfield (MA) Chapter whose new book entitled *It's all About the Shoes* includes a story about the Windy City (IL) Chapter. It is a gift book that features short, true, first-person tales of womens' shoe memories and mishaps—from the humorous to the heroic, the heartwarming to the heart-wrenching, and the ordinary to the extraordinary—*It's All About The Shoes* cleverly taps into womens' nearly universal passion for shoes, making what Yvonne calls the sole-soul connection. That is, the stories of women and their shoes provide humor to lighten the day, encouragement to keep them going, or even nuggets of wisdom for living more meaningful lives. \$12.95 at Amazon.com.

We are interested in supporting our "artsy" members. Kindly contact Link Marcia White at marjon1@optonline.net or 631-351-1951 (fax) with good news that you wish to share with our membership.



Cover of Link Yvonne L. Williams's new book entitled: *It's All About the Shoes: Hope Heartbreak And The Search For the Perfect Shoes*

It was a pleasure to serve as moderator of the discussion. An impassioned and sometimes intense discussion followed as the leaders examined the issues as they related to the various factions implementing the NCLB, specifically funding, its impact on the drop out crisis and the increasing rates of incarceration for young people of color generally and young men of color specifically. The role of educators, business, and policymakers was examined as they considered the importance of this legislation and its impact on implementers. Participants discussed possible modifications to NCLB to more effectively achieve its goals and objectives in minority communities. A brief Q and A period followed with insightful questions from the audience.

Participants in the roundtable forum included **Dr. Gwendolyn B. Lee**, National President of The Links, Inc.; the Special Advisor to the U. S. Secretary of Education, **Dr. Henry L. Johnson**; **Ralph Everett, Esq.**, President & CEO, Joint Center; **Ms. Stacey D. Stewart**, President & CEO, The Fannie Mae Foundation; **Dr. Jerry D. Weast**, Superintendent,

Montgomery County Public Schools; **Dr. Badi Foster**, President, The Phelps Stokes Fund; **Ms. Rebecca Pringle**, Executive Committee, National Education Association; **Ms. Amy Wilkins**, Vice President, The Education Trust, and **Janet B. Walker, Esq.**, Executive Director, The Links, Inc.. Ms. Pringle of the NEA applauded The Links for including former teachers on the panel.

The national staff of The Links, Incorporated did a magnificent job assisting in the planning process, the pre-reception and the compilation of the packets. The Links, Incorporated have initiated a powerful educational tool that will have national impact as we involve ourselves in public policy issues of national significance.



Ralph B. Everett, President & CEO, Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies



Link Stacey Stewart, President, The Fannie Mae Foundation



Connecting Link Michael Walker and Link Alexine Jackson, President, Black Women's Agenda



Dr. Weast shakes Dr. Lee's hand after a successful public issues forum.

In Diversity Push, Top Universities Enrolling More Black Immigrants Critics Say Effort Favors Elite Foreigners, Leaves Out Americans

By: Darryl Fears
Washington Post Staff Writer
Tuesday, March 6, 2007; A02

The nation's most elite colleges and universities are bolstering their black student populations by enrolling large numbers of immigrants from Africa, the West Indies and Latin America, according to a study published recently in the *American Journal of Education*.

Immigrants, who make up 13 percent of the nation's college-age black population, account for more than a quarter of black students at Ivy League and other selective universities, according to the study, produced by Princeton University and the University of Pennsylvania.

The large representation of black immigrants developed as schools' focus shifted from restitution for decades of excluding black Americans from campuses to embracing wider diversity, the study's authors said. The more elite the school, the more black immigrants are enrolled.

"A lot of these institutions have been promoting the increase in their black populations, but clearly this increase reflects a growth in their black immigrant populations," said Camille Z. Charles, an associate professor of sociology at the University of Pennsylvania who co-authored the study.

Black American scholars such as Henry Louis Gates and Lani Guinier, two Harvard University professors, have said that white educators are skirting long-held missions to resolve historic wrongs against native black Americans by enrolling immigrants who look like them.

In an interview, Guinier said that the chasm has less to do with immigrants and more to do with admissions officers who rely on tests that wealthier students, including black immigrants, can afford to prepare for.

"In part, it has to do with coming from a country, especially those educated in Caribbean and African countries, where blacks were in the majority and did not experience the stigma that black children did in the United States," Guinier said. "The fathers of these students tend to be much better educated. This is not just true of immigrants from Africa and the Caribbean, this is true across the board. We have an admissions system that prefers wealth, that rewards wealth and calls it merit."

Officials at several top universities, including Harvard, the University of North Carolina and Princeton, did not respond to calls or e-mail messages seeking comment on the study.

The University of Pennsylvania's dean of admissions, Lee Stetson, said that although the university takes note of students' backgrounds, "we do not focus specifically on whether students are Caribbean American, African American or African. We do not involve ourselves with exact roots.

"They bring diversity to the campus," Stetson said. "We try to find students from all walks of life, including African American students who have their roots in the southeastern United States."

The study relied on data from the National Longitudinal Survey of Freshmen, which included 1,028 black students, 281 of whom were immigrants. Black immigrants were defined as students who emigrated directly from Africa or the Caribbean, including countries such as Guyana that are on the South American continent and nations in the black diaspora or their American-born sons and daughters.

Stanford, Duke, Columbia, Vanderbilt and Harvard universities had the highest percentages of black students in their fall 2006 freshman classes, according to the *Journal of Blacks in Higher Education*. The percentage of black freshmen at elite colleges and universities ranged from a high of 12.3 percent at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill to 1.4 percent at the California Institute of Technology.

The study's authors considered several possibilities to explain the large number of immigrant students. They noted that black immigrants tend to come from the uppermost classes of their native land and tend to be highly motivated to succeed. The authors also considered that black immigrants posted higher grades and test scores, and that admissions officers were impressed by their work ethic.

But the final theory, based on previous research by Nancy Foner and George M. Fredrickson, who co-wrote a 2004 study on immigration, ethnicity and race, was the most provocative.

"To white observers," they wrote, "black immigrants seem more polite, less hostile, more solicitous and 'easier to

get along with.' Native blacks are perceived in precisely the opposite fashion."

On campus, native black Americans and immigrant students both embrace and wrestle with diversity. At the University of Georgia, native black American and African students met in the student union two years ago to discuss an emotional topic, "Where's the Africa in African American?" They were quiet at first, senior Oluwatoyin Mayaki recalled, but with some coaxing, the black American students spoke up.

"They were saying, 'I don't think it's fair that you get affirmative action like we do,' "said Mayaki, the American daughter of Nigerian parents. "This country was built on my parents' backs, not on your parents' backs. You didn't go through the years of slavery, discrimination or the civil rights movement.' "

Mayaki counts many black Americans as friends, but that was not always so. As a child, she was steered away from black Americans by her protective Yoruban mother, who emigrated from Nigeria in the 1980s.

"My mom wouldn't let me go next door for a sleepover with African American kids, but I could go five houses down

to Asian houses. I kind of got along better with foreigners," she said. "You don't go to parties. You don't go to movies. You just study, stay at home, do your chores. My Indian and Asian friends got it. All my other friends, they never got it."

At Rutgers University in New Jersey, Ghanaian immigrant Abena Busia said that drawing distinctions between black Americans and Africans is divisive and dangerous.

"What disturbs me... is it immediately casts African Americans as unmotivated," she said. "It's like a good Negro, bad Negro syndrome and I reject it. It creates more problems than necessary. It's also a myth."

Busia grew up in Ghana's upper classes, was educated at Oxford University and received additional education in the United States. Regardless, she said, U.S. immigration laws were stacked against her and other ethnic immigrants.

"Look at me. Even with all my degrees, when I adopted my daughter in Ghana it took more than seven years to get her here," she said. "They lost my papers twice. I had my fingerprints taken three or four times. You have to do this and... that. This country... has always been an inhospitable place for Africans to enter."

The Indianapolis Chapter Salutes Connecting Link Tony Dungy, the First African-American Coach to Win the Super Bowl

By: Judith "Judy" Waugh
National Communications and Public Relations Committee
Indianapolis (IN) Chapter



On Sunday, February 4, 2007, the City of Indianapolis celebrated the fabulous victory of its Indianapolis Colts Team which etched its name in Hoosier history by winning Super Bowl XLII in Miami. The effort was led by **Coach and Connecting Link Tony Dungy** who proved that not only can a man of color lead a group of 53 men in achieving a common objective, but that one need not be a bully to motivate a team to excel. Coach Dungy's dignity, decency and dedication have earned him the respect of everyone. His players have found him to be genuine, helpful, fair and candid. He lives his life exactly according to the values he espouses.

Relocating to Indianapolis five years ago, he and **Link Lauren** have become an integral part of the community and support a number of organizations.

Chapters In Action

Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Get Support From Azalea City (GA) Chapter of The Links, Incorporated

By: Bunny Jackson-Ransom
National Chair, Communications & Public Relations Committee
Azalea City (GA) Chapter

With more than 2.3 million grandparents in this country providing care to their grandchildren, the issues associated with *Grandparents Raising Grandchildren* has captured the attention of the media and has hit home to many Atlantans. This is not a new concept – especially within the Black community. Members of the Azalea City Chapter of The Links, Incorporated know this to be true and have implemented a services project to assist grandparents

who need help in raising their grandchildren. “Many of us were raised by our grandmothers and grandfathers. Furthermore, we stand on the shoulders of our forefathers – proud of where we came from, and willing to support future generations of our communities,” said **Joyce Hendricks**, President of the Azalea City (GA) Chapter.

Grandparents Raising Grandchildren is the new project of the Azalea City (GA) Chapter of The Links, Incorporated; and it was the reason behind the chapter’s recent fundraiser – *The Green & White Panache* – recently held at the Georgia Aquarium. Funds raised at *The Green & White Panache* permitted the chapter to present a check for \$50,000 to the Clayton County Kinship Care Center for *Grandparents Raising Grandchildren* to assist them with many support services and to give direct aid to grandparents.

Edmond Rostand introduced the word “panache” to the English language, through his classic production of *Cyrano de Bergerac* written in 1897, to describe the character’s style and flair. He declared that even death cannot take away his “panache.” The sixty women of the Azalea City Chapter of The Links, Inc. felt that “panache” best described their luncheon, fated to be the luncheon of the season, which was held to raise funds for their services programs.

“Not only was this a very worthy cause, it was an event where you must see the panache and be seen in panache; in addition, there are some children and some grandparents that really needed our help,” said Ms. Michelle Gandy and Ms. Billie Greenwell, Chair and Co-Chair (respectively) of *the Green & White Panache*.



L-R: Eldrin Bell, Clayton County Commissioner; Billie Greenwell, Member of the Azalea Chapter of The Links, Incorporated and Co-Chair of the Green & White Panache; Angie Burda, Director of the Clayton County Kinship Care Center; Michelle Gandy, Member of The Azalea Chapter of The Links, Inc. and Chair of the Green & White Panache; Joyce Hendricks, President of the Azalea Chapter of The Links, Inc. (Other persons included in this photo are some of the Grandparents who are serviced by the Kinship Center)

Links Across the Nation Celebrate National Heart Month

By: Alma L. Dodd
National Program Director
Windy City (IL) Chapter

During the month of February, Links across the nation held local activities to raise awareness among local women that heart disease is their #1 health threat. Links chapters planned creative and exciting campaign events warning women about their risk of heart disease.

The Links in partnership with the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute (NHLBI), and other groups are committed to the health and well-being of women. This national campaign is building awareness of women's heart disease and empowering women to reduce and prevent their risk. The campaign's goal is to give women a personal and urgent wakeup call about their risk of heart disease. Link Kimberly Jefferies Leonard, Director, National Trends and Services, attended the Red Dress fashion show in New York City's fashionable Bryant Park to raise awareness of this important issue.



Charter members of Windy City Chapter at The Red Dress Fashion show and luncheon.
seated: Alma Dodd, Gloria Hemphill, President, Suellen Hurt, Janice Freeman.
2nd row : Sandra Paris , Patricia Woodfolk, Joyce Herron and Mary Fields-Taylor

The Heart Truth features a Red Dress as the national symbol for women and heart disease awareness. This symbol links a woman's focus on her "outer self" to the need to also focus on her "inner self" and her heart. The Red Dress works as a visual red alert to get the message heard loud and clear that "Heart Disease Doesn't Care What You Wear-It's the #1 Killer of Women."

Notable celebrations included Greater Miami Chapter's "Take Heart" healthy cooking demonstration, Windy City Chapter's Red Dress Luncheon and Fashion Show and Fort Lauderdale's Green Tea.



L-R: Link Suellen Hurt, Gwendolyn B. Lee, Ph.D., National President, Link Alma Dodd

The North Broward County (FL) Chapter of The Links, Incorporated Host High Tea to Benefit The American Diabetes Association

By: Cheri Spikes-Henry & Lorraine Mayers
North Broward County (FL) Chapter

Members of the North Broward County (FL) Chapter of The Links, Incorporated (NBC Links) gathered at the Boca Country Club in Boca Raton, Florida situated on a golf course surrounded by beautiful gardens to benefit the American Diabetes Association. Guests enjoyed an elegant afternoon of green tea while sharing information about diabetes. Proceeds from this event benefited the Broward County Chapter of The American Diabetes Association.



Gorgeous in Green Broward County Links Host Tea Benefiting American Diabetes Association

Links Margaret Hayes and Margaret Roseburr, Co-Chairs of the National Trends and Services/Green High Tea along with other committee members, organized an informative affair including panelists who shared personal experiences, preventative and maintenance measures for persons living with diabetes. Brochures, literature and tapes were distributed to all guests. Each guest received a green colored gift bag which contained sugar free candy, a diabetes lapel pin and bracelet. Panelists were: Dr. Maxine Hamilton- Internal Medicine; Ms. Phyllis Bruno- Nurse Educator at the Cleveland Clinic; Mr. Leroy Bland- Connecting Link, NBC Links; Ms. Alexis Weisman- Teen Consultant for Diabetic Camp at Coral Springs Medical Center and Link Bernice Bailey- member of NBC Links.

“The Green Tea for Diabetes is the start of a great Links Health Umbrella Program that will continue in the community. The panelists were absolutely marvelous,” said Link Charlyne Monroe, First Vice-President, NBC Links. Guests commented that the event was very positive and some even indicated that the information saved their lives.

LeFleur’s Bluff (MS) Chapter Re-sounds the Alarm in Recognition of National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day

By: Eleanor Mitchell
LeFleur’s Bluff (MS) Chapter

LeFleur’s Bluff (MS) Chapter of The Links, Incorporated and the Mississippi Urban Research Center at Jackson State University co-sponsored a *Re-sound the Alarm* Town Hall meeting in observance of National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day on February 7, 2007. This event was hosted with conscience awareness that Jackson, Mississippi is ranked 22nd among the top 26 cities in the Nation with the highest number of African-American female AIDS cases. The organizations collectively responded in an effort to enhance public awareness and make an impact on reducing this statistic.

A panel of local experts engaged audience participation in open discussion exploring possible solutions to combating the rising infection rates in the Jackson area. The diverse panelists

included The Honorable Alyce Clarke, Representative Mississippi Legislature; Mr. Mark Colombo, My Brother’s Keeper, Inc.; Ms. Juanita Davis, Mississippi Department of Health; Reverend Hosea Hines, Pastor College Hill Baptist Church; Dr. Harold Henderson, University of Mississippi Medical Center; Ms. Marilyn Mooring, Building Bridges, Inc.; Ms. Jasmine Shelby, 12th grade student.

“This activity, spearheaded by JSU and the National Trends Facet, will serve as a pro-active measure to help deter acceleration of new cases of HIV/AIDS in the Jackson, Mississippi community,” commented Link Eleanor Mitchell, LeFleur’s Bluff (MS) Chapter President.

The Brunswick (GA) Chapter Presents: *Stormy Weather*

By: Myrna Amos
Brunswick (GA) Chapter

The Brunswick (GA) Chapter of The Links, Incorporated received thunderous applause from an appreciative audience after the film presentation of *Stormy Weather* at the Glynn County Public Library on March 2, 2007. The evening began with a welcome reception as guests enjoyed the toe-tapping music of the “Hi-de-ho Man,” Mr. Cab Calloway. The Arts committee conceived the Black Film program as a way to educate and give tribute to African American entertainers.

A special *Stormy Weather* playbill created by members of the Arts committee provided a historical perspective of this 1943 culturally significant film which is preserved in the National Film Registry. It also included biographical information about the featured entertainers such as Ms. Lena Horne, Ms. Katherine Dunham, Mr. Bill “Bojangles” Robinson, Mr. Fats Waller, Mr. Cab Calloway and the Nicholas Brothers.

The diverse audience, ages 10 – 82, enjoyed this special event bridging the divide that existed in 1943 when the film was produced. The evening closed with the presentation of the “Black Film Celebration Basket” to commemorate the program. The Arts committee plans to develop this event into an annual Black Film Festival to highlight the many accomplishments of African Americans in the performing arts.



Link Velma Crosby and guests during reception



Group - left to right: Links Myrna Amos, Gwendolyn Massey, Margie Harris, Eulalia Wilson, Carrie Rischer, Alice Carter, Velma Crosby, Charlie Atkinson, Versie Thomas, Harriet Brown, Paula Pedersen and Chante Roberts

Significant Appointments & Accomplishments

By: Janet Baker Walker, Esq.
Executive Director
The Links, Incorporated
Capital City (DC) Chapter

We are proud to announce a list of significant appointments across the country adding to the outstanding legacy of members of the Links, Incorporated. Congratulations!

Links

Joyce London Alexander, J.D.



National Co-Chair, Public Affairs Committee

Boston (MA) Chapter

Judge Joyce London Alexander, J.D., the nation's first African-American chief U.S. magistrate judge, presiding for the District of Massachusetts, was elected Chairman-Elect of the Board of the Joint Center for Political & Economic Studies, the nation's premiere black think tank headquartered in Washington, D.C.



Edith J. Patterson, Ed.D.

Southern Maryland Chain (MD) Chapter

Dr. Edith J. Patterson is the first African-American in the 350 year history of Charles County Maryland to serve on the Charles County Board of Commissioners. Link Patterson was nominated by the Democratic Central Committee and appointed by the former Governor of Maryland, Robert L. Erlich, Jr. Link Patterson is also President of the Southern Maryland Chain (MD) Chapter.



Calendar

JANUARY 2007	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Happy New Year [Headquarters closed] 15 Martin Luther King's, Birthday [Headquarters closed] > Chapters may vote on candidates for membership and submit candidate profiles and verification forms to National Headquarters and Area Director > Chapters send letters to candidate(s) approved for membership [when verification form is signed and returned to Chapter President]
FEBRUARY 2007	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Chapters email Program Reports to Area Program Chairs 16 Deadline for submitting articles for Link to Link 19 President's Day [Headquarters closed] > Black History Month > National Nominating Committee sends names of candidate(s) for National Officers to Chapters [even years only] > Area Nominating Committee sends names of candidates for Area Officers to Chapters [odd years only] > Chapters send letters to candidate(s) approved for membership [when verification form is signed and returned to Chapter President] 27 The Links, Inc. & Joint Center for Political Economic Studies Present The No Child Left Behind Act: Is it on the Right Path or Path to Nowhere? Washington, D.C.
MARCH 2007	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Chapters send remittance to National Headquarters for National Dues, Grants-in-Aid, Foundation Dues, and Program Endowment Fund. Chapters send fees for new members to National Headquarters > Chapters send letters to candidate(s) approved for membership [after verification form is signed and returned to Chapter President] > Chapter Conducts Orientation Workshop I for approved candidates [use Orientation Manual] > National Link to Link Newsletter
APRIL 2007	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Deadline for receipt of dues and assessments at National Headquarters 7 End of 2006-2007 Fiscal Year 17-22 Eastern Area Conference, Arlington, VA 30 Chapters elect officers > Happy Easter > Chapter conducts Orientation Workshop II for Candidate(s) for induction [use Orientation Manual]



MAY 2007	<ul style="list-style-type: none">1 Beginning of Fiscal Year 2007-20081 Deadline for receipt of late dues, assessments, and fees for non-financial members at National Headquarters1-5 Southern Area Conference, Mobile, Alabama5/1- Installation of Chapter Officers6/30 [Send names of new officers and program chairs to National Headquarters and Area Directors]18 Deadline for submitting articles for Link to Link25 Final deadline for new member fees due at National Headquarters 35 days before induction date<ul style="list-style-type: none">> Chapter conducts Orientation Workshop III for candidate's induction [use Orientation Manual]> Induction of new members [New members may be inducted beginning 5/1 and ending 6/30]Evaluation of chapter activities [see Orientation Manual]> Chapters may begin to submit Form 990 to IRS and Chapter bonding insurance to> National Headquarters29 Memorial Day [Headquarters closed]
JUNE 2007	<ul style="list-style-type: none">> Establish all committees for new Chapter year> Induction of new members [New members may be inducted beginning 5/1 and ending 6/30]> National Link to Link Newsletter
JULY 2007	<ul style="list-style-type: none">4 Independence Day [Headquarters closed]4-8 Western Area Conference, San Diego, California11-15 Central Area Conference, Kansas City, Missouri<ul style="list-style-type: none">> Chapter committee meetings and workshops> For National Elections [in odd years only]-- National Nominating Committee sends nominating forms and instructions to Chapters for elections to be held at National Assembly [in even years only]> For Area Elections [in even years only]-- Area Nominating Committee sends nominating forms to Chapters; Chapters distribute forms to members for elections to be held at Area Conferences [in odd years only]

Foundation



Members and Friends of The Links Foundation, Incorporated Prepare for Anniversary Trip to South Africa

By: Kristie Patton Foster
Executive Director
The Links Foundation, Incorporated
Affiliate



In preparation of the 10th Anniversary Celebration of the *Education Across The Miles* Signature Program, over 100 Links, Connecting Links, and friends are preparing to travel to South Africa.

Travelers will depart on May 18, 2007 and will return on May 27 (10 day trip). The trip kicks off with a welcome dinner in Johannesburg on May 19 followed by shopping and a visit to the Apartheid Museum; there will be a day spent in Soweto (South Western Townships) visiting the Motsoaledi Primary School, the Mandela Museum, the Gladys Gary Vaughn Library, an optional wildlife safari, and shopping; following is a visit to Durban which includes a city tour, various school visits, the 5th year Anniversary Celebration of our South African Links Chapters in Gauteng, Durban and Cape Town, and the *Education Across The Miles* 10th Anniversary Celebration. Lastly, the group will visit Cape Town which includes a trip to Table Mountain, a city tour, a gold tour and a ferry ride to Robben Island (a landmark that was once the political prison that held Nelson Mandela); the trip will conclude with a farewell dinner. An extension trip is also available which includes visits to Victoria Falls in Zambia and Sun City in South Africa.

Scheduled school visits during the trip include:

- Motsoaledi Primary School
- Eisizbeni Secondary School
- Ntwela
- Ngilosi
- Umgijimi
- Zwelixelile
- Umbumbululu

If you are interested in traveling to South Africa, there is still space available for a few more guests. Please contact Eris Sims, The Links' National Meeting Planner, as soon as possible. She can be reached at (202) 842-8686 x211 or at eris.sims@linksinc.org. Only credit card payments or certified checks will be accepted at this time.



Fund Development: World-Class Commitment for World-Class Results

By: Joy Jones
Fund Developer
The Links Foundation, Incorporated

Dr. Gwendolyn Lee has a strongly stated goal for The Links, Incorporated and The Links Foundation, Incorporated is “Seizing the Opportunity to Provide World-Class Leadership, Friendship and Services.” How does this goal translate into effective fund development?

Vision

The vision of *world-class* leadership, friendship and services asks Links to look beyond the current and visualize the world we want—one in which everything the Links organization does reflects moving towards the highest standards for Links governance, operations, programming and philanthropy. This vision provides the spark and foundation for success at both friend-raising and fundraising.

Planning

While vision is essential, it also takes planning to achieve *world-class* status. In fund development, The Links Foundation, Incorporated now has an approved work plan that encompasses:

- Specific goals to raise the profile of the Foundation and its role
- Measurable financial objectives
- Timelines
- Consideration of needed human resources
- Consideration of necessary financial resources

Action

If planning increases the odds of fundraising success, then acting on the plan, with *world-class* commitment must be the clincher. *World-class* action means *every member* gets to do her best part in achieving the dream and making the vision a reality.

World-Class Results

World-class leadership will result from having a strong vision and from being able to get things done. *World-class friendship* will happen as we share that vision and our plans with others. And finally, *world-class service* is what The Links, Incorporated and The Links Foundation, Incorporated will be known for across the globe, as increased resources allow even greater organizational and program capacity.

Links members have a firm tradition of responsiveness to the call for excellence. When you are called, we know we can count on your *world-class* response.

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