



# AAAAA Update

**A newsletter for members and  
friends of the Bethel College  
African-American Alumni Association**

### Members meet with BC president in KC

Nineteen AAAA members and guests traveled to Kansas City for a biennial planning meeting March 30-31. Those attending included Bethel president Barry Bartel and Brenda Bartel, and students Adam Gabriel, Malcolm Rhymer, Darryl Diltz, Latrice Moses and Debbie Davis.

Also present was Dr. Galyn Vesey, who last fall gave leadership to the Bethel College Project, which identified ways to enhance multicultural learning and relationships among students, faculty and staff at Bethel. Copies of the BCP report are available upon request. Contact director of alumni relations Dave Linscheid, (316) 284-5252, [dlin@bethelks.edu](mailto:dlin@bethelks.edu).

Photos of the event are at [www.bethelks.edu/alumni/association/AAAAA.php](http://www.bethelks.edu/alumni/association/AAAAA.php). Minutes from the business meeting are available upon request by contacting the alumni office.

### New AAAA leadership

AAAA members meeting in Kansas City last April selected Sammie Simmons '89, Newton, as president of the association and Hope Lee '80, Grand Prairie, Texas, as vice president. The two will give leadership until May 2009.

### AAAA member receives alumni award

At the annual Bethel College alumni banquet last May, AAAA member Cynthia Doyle Perkins '77, Indianapolis, received the Outstanding Alumnus Award from the Bethel College Alumni Association.



*Left to right: Adam Gabriel, Galyn Vesey, Hope Lee, Leslie Green, Je T'aime Taylor, Latrice Moses, Malcolm Rhymer, Rosie Vesey, Adelle Thompson, Debbie Davis, Darryl Diltz, Sylvia Kelly, Dave Linscheid, Brenda Bartel, Barry Bartel, Sammie Simmons, Greg Hinex*



*Cynthia Doyle Perkins '77*

Her work at the local, state, national and international level has dealt with tough issues such as equity, diversity, socio-economic impact, safety, sports medicine, hazing, sexual harassment, character development and age appropriate skill development.

Cynthia has devoted her career to protecting the integrity of high school sport and the students who participate in school activities.

She is currently academic dean for the Academy of Academics, Athletics and Achievement ("A" Academy) at Arsenal Technical High School in Indianapolis. From 1999-2005, she was assistant director of the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS), based in Indianapolis.

The Outstanding Alumnus Award is given on the basis of character and citizenship, service to church/community or college, or other outstanding achievements, honors and recognition. An Awards Committee of the Alumni Association selects the recipients each year.

For more information on Cynthia and the award, go to [www.bethelks.edu/alumni/awards/current.php](http://www.bethelks.edu/alumni/awards/current.php).

### Introducing a new publication

This is the first issue of *AAAA Update*, an occasional newsletter highlighting the people and events of the Bethel College African-American Alumni Association.

The purpose of the African-American Alumni Association (AAAA), as stated in its charter adopted April 13, 2002, is "(1) to create mutually beneficial ties that renew and encourage ongoing relationships among African-American alumni and between those alumni and the college, and (2) to strengthen and enhance the relationship of current African-American students with the college and the African-American Alumni Association."

AAAA members include all African-American former students, all African-American current students, former and current host families of African-American students, and African-American multicultural staff members.

The newsletter will also be posted on the web at [www.bethelks.edu/alumni/association/AAAAA.php](http://www.bethelks.edu/alumni/association/AAAAA.php).



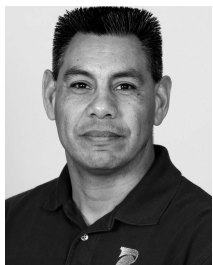


Jacqui-Ann Jackson, St. Catherine, Jamaica, (left) with Edith Lagat, Kimilili, Kenya, wears her Kente cloth stole under her nursing stole at commencement.

**AAAA gives 2007 graduates Kente stoles**

Student members of AAAA who graduated on May 20 received Kente cloth stoles from the association, in keeping with a tradition of the recent past. The stoles were made by AAAA vice president Hope Lee, Grand Prairie, Texas, and presented to the graduates by AAAA president Sammie Simmons, Newton.

**Student Life restores multicultural life position**



Chris Rangel, Newton, who serves the college as an admissions counselor, will also be working part time with the multicultural life and host parent programs of

Student Life, beginning at the start of the school year. Chris, who is of Hispanic heritage, has worked at Bethel since August 2006. He is also owner and head instructor of the Ultimate Martial Arts studio in Newton.

Look for a multicultural life and host parent booth at Fall Fest, where visitors from the area will also be invited to sign up as host parents.

**Mark your calendar for Fall Festival Oct. 6, 2007**

Mark your calendar for Saturday, Oct. 6, for the 37th annual Bethel College Fall Festival. AAAA will again host a booth, located next to the entertainment tent at the center of The Green. To volunteer, contact Sammie Simmons, (316) 284-2266, srsimmons67114@peoplepc.com, or Hope Lee, (972) 522-0429, thehopeblee@yahoo.com.

Visit both the AAAA booth and one hosted by members of the Bethel College student chapter of the National Black Nurses Association (see article in next column).

**Future events**

At the meeting in Kansas City, members talked about when the next AAAA reunion on campus will take place. Discussion at the previous planning meeting in Dallas affirmed it taking place in spring 2008; however, participants in Kansas City suggested it be held in connection with next year's Fall Festival (Oct. 4, 2008). No decision was made. AAAA members will be sent an invitation when plans are finalized.

**1/3 of the way there**

The AAAA Scholarship Endowment Fund now has about one third of the funding needed before it can produce a scholarship for a Bethel student.

As of July 31, AAAA members and other Bethel College alumni have contributed \$3,091 to the fund. A total of \$10,000 is needed before a scholarship can be granted. Additional scholarships will be granted for each additional \$10,000 added to the endowment.

Alumni may contribute to the fund at any time. At reunion time, members of all Bethel College classes are invited to contribute to the AAAA fund as well as the Alumni Association Scholarship Endowment Fund.

Feel free to use the contribution slip that is part of this newsletter. Mail it and your donation to African-American Alumni Association, Bethel College, 300 East 27th Street, North Newton, KS 67117. Thank you.

**New group for nurses helps supply mentors**

The importance of good mentors can't be overestimated.

That was a major motivation behind the formation of a new student group at Bethel College, which has turned out to be the only one of its kind in the country.

At the end of July, Nikkii Dolce, senior nursing major and chair of the Bethel College student chapter of National Black Nurses Association (NBNA), attended the organization's national conference in Atlanta, traveling with officers from the Wichita chapter of NBNA, under whose wing the Bethel group was organized.

That happened a year ago. When Debra Davis, who graduated from Bethel in May with a bachelor's degree in nursing, came as a junior, she said, she and some of her peers "looked around and saw what we wanted wasn't here in terms of [black role models for] leadership and empowerment in the nursing profession."

Thelma Latrice Moses, who also graduated in May with her nursing degree, added, "We wanted something for minority [nursing] students that would get people actively involved in leadership. We were looking for mentors."

Davis's friend Anniece Berry, a nurse at Via Christi-Good Shepherd in Wichita, was also the president of the Wichita chapter of NBNA. So Davis and Moses joined the organization but they discovered that there was no student component, similar to the National Student Nurses' Association.

"We wrote to the [NBNA] to see if they would approve us starting the first student chapter," said Moses. They got approval, as long as the group was organized under the auspices of the Wichita chapter. Davis and Moses served as co-chairs of Bethel's first NBNA group, which had about 20 members in its first year. Dolce, Marla Bell and Patricia Ngigi are this year's officers.

For Dolce, the highlight of the Atlanta convention came at the closing brunch, where the speaker was Loretta Sweet Jemmott, a professor in the school of nursing and director of the Center for

Health Disparities Research at the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia. A *Parade* magazine profile described Jemmott as "the nation's leading expert on HIV prevention in teens."

Dolce was interested in Jemmott's presentation (about strategies for helping women avoid HIV infection, a program that proved so effective that the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention adopted a version of it) because she had worked in a similar program when she was a student at the University of Kansas, she said.

Even more important, however, Dolce said, was that Jemmott "was so excited – she had that whole room of nurses excited about her program. I thought, 'Wow, that's amazing [what she was able to do].' A lot of people think nurses can't do things like that. Nurses aren't only the ones who take your temperature and record your weight. They can do all kinds of things."

The Bethel NBNA group's main activities thus far have been fundraising to endow scholarships for nursing students – leaders emphasize that anyone of any race may apply for these. NBNA members had a mini health fair at last year's Fall Festival and also participated in a larger local health fair. They contributed some of the money that allowed Dolce to attend the

NBNA national convention, with the Wichita chapter putting in the rest.

This year, the group hopes to add to its membership, both with Bethel nursing students and interested students from other area nursing programs. The Bethel NBNA is open to them since it is an arm of the Wichita chapter, Dolce said.

"Going to the conference made me really excited," she said. "I look forward to all the possibilities [it raised]. I met a lot of new nurses and some students, who were there because other [experienced] nurses had made it possible for them to attend. The mentoring is so important."

**Employment options at Bethel College**

Members of AAAA are encouraged to apply for employment at Bethel as openings occur. Two current listings follow:

**Vice President for Business Affairs.**

This Cabinet-level position manages the business operations of the college, supervises operational aspects of the college, manages the budget building and evaluation process and related financial aspects of the college, and provides strategic direction in collaboration with the senior management team.

**Payroll and Benefits Administrator.**

This position is responsible for processing the monthly payroll, quarterly payroll

reports, annual auditor reports and administration of employee benefit programs. Additional cashier duties include disbursements, check cashing and reconciling cash drawer on daily basis.

For complete information on these and other job opportunities as they become available, see [www.bethelks.edu/bc/careers/openings.php](http://www.bethelks.edu/bc/careers/openings.php) or contact Terri Headrick, Director of Human Resources, Bethel College, 300 East 27th Street, North Newton, KS 67117 or [theadrick@bethelks.edu](mailto:theadrick@bethelks.edu).

**Bethel updates Web site**

The Bethel College Web site – [www.bethelks.edu](http://www.bethelks.edu) – has a new look. A tab titled "For Alumni and Friends" covers the Alumni Association, including AAAA, plus sections for Alumni Awards, Alumni Services, the Bookstore, Church Relations, Events, Giving to Bethel, Keep in Touch, and News and Information.

Use the Keep in Touch section to look up friends' postal and e-mail addresses, and to provide the college with your own address updates and information or "Class Notes" in the Bethel alumni magazine, *Context*.

For AAAA news, information and photos, go to [www.bethelks.edu/alumni/association/AAAA.php](http://www.bethelks.edu/alumni/association/AAAA.php).

**Bethel College African-American Alumni Association Contribution Form**

The following gift is enclosed: \$150 \$100 \$75 \$50 \$25 \$10 Other \$\_\_\_\_\_

\$\_\_\_\_\_ (specify amount, or check if all) for AAAA Operating Fund

\$\_\_\_\_\_ (specify amount, or check if all) for AAAA Scholarship Endowment Fund

Payment by Credit Card: Visa Mastercard Discover

Name on card (please print) \_\_\_\_\_

Card Number \_\_\_\_\_ Expiration Date \_\_\_\_\_ V code\* \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

\*Last three numbers on back of credit card (often following the same credit card number as on front)

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State/Province \_\_\_\_\_ Code \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Please make checks payable to "Bethel College AAAA." Send this response slip to African-American Alumni Association, Bethel College, 300 East 27th Street, North Newton, KS 67117. Thank you.