



Global Visions

VOLUME 10, ISSUE 1

OCTOBER 2006

The International Association of Black Professionals in International Affairs

African/African-American "Next Generation" Leadership Caucus

by: *Angelique Mutombo Davis*

2006 RONALD H. BROWN
AFRICAN AFFAIRS
SERIES

“The African/African-American Next Generation Leadership Caucus: The Role and Responsibility of Today’s Youth for Africa’s Future” was hosted by the **International Association of Black Professionals (BPIA), Constituency for Africa (CFA), the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) and the Bureau of African Affairs of the U.S. Department of State.** The meeting, the second in the Ronald H.

Brown African Affairs series, brought together African and African-American young professionals and student leaders from colleges and universities in the Washington, DC, metropolitan area to dialogue with the representatives of the African-American Unity Caucus (AAUC).

This forum was part of a very important initiative to involve youth of African and African-American descent in the critical development agenda of Africa. In particular, the forum focused on the challenges, issues and concerns related to building college and university students into future leaders of their respective

African countries. In addition, the forum provided an opportunity for young African professionals and young professionals from the United States to formulate an agenda for building effective linkages as well as to encourage mentoring opportunities among themselves. With a particular emphasis on collaboration, cooperation, and networking, this forum featured: **Claudia Anyaso, Anita Estell, Linda Thomas Greenfield, Luddy Hayden, Madeline Quinn Seidenstricker and Emira Woods.** These speakers have played influential roles in addressing the social, political, and economic challenges to Africa’s prospects for development.

Special points of interest:

- Read a message from BPIA’s director.
- Hear about the unique overseas experiences of our members.
- Mark your calendars with upcoming BPIA events!



Inside this issue

Director’s Message	2
Corruption in sub-Saharan Africa	3
Is Egypt Located in Africa?	4
Foreign Affairs in the Public Today	5
BPIA Board Member Louis McCall	6
Schedule of Events	7
Members’ Update	8

United Arab Emirates (UAE) Education and Exchange Forum

By: *Angelique Mutombo Davis*

BPIA held its Education and Exchange Forum at the United Arab Emirates (UAE) Embassy on Thursday, August 10, 2006. The reception began with a welcoming address from our Vice President of Education and Exchange, Louis McCall. Unfortunately, His Excellency Saqr Ghobash, Ambassador from the UAE, previously scheduled, could not attend this event because he was in New York tending to the crisis between Lebanon

and Israel. However, Ms. Reem Al Hashimy, the UAE commercial attaché, acted as our gracious hostess.

Ms. Hashimy highlighted the exceptional geographic position of the UAE in the Middle East and the history of peace and diplomatic relationships her country has maintained with its neighbors and the rest of the world. Ms. Hashimy’s presentation gave a unique perspective on the government, people, and industries of the UAE. Her presentation

was followed by a question-and-answer period and a reception, where BPIA members sampled foods typical of UAE cuisine. Members and students enjoyed this event together.



Courtesy: www.uaeinteract.com

Director's Message

by *Angelique Mutombo Davis*,
Executive Director, BPLA

The past quarter has been really busy for BPLA. You can read about several events that we sponsored in the newsletter. Members attended events at the UAE embassy, the Africa summit in Abuja, the Ronald H. Brown African Affairs Series at the Department of State and several other International Affairs functions throughout the region. Our program officer, Megan Burke from the Ford Foundation, visited us August 10. We were also deeply touched by the passing of Leonard Robinson on July 25, 2006. Mr. Robinson was President and CEO of Africa Society on the National Summit on Africa and an esteemed advocate for African Affairs.

Throughout the world, and especially in Washington, our attention turned toward the Middle East. The crisis

between Lebanon and Israel brought back memories for me and my family. We lived in Saida, Lebanon, in 1982 during Israel's first invasion.

I remember as a little girl standing in the street and looking at the tanks rolling in what used to be considered the Switzerland of the Middle East.

On July 12, 2006, the 2006 Israel-Lebanon conflict commenced. We were all mesmerized by the mounting civilian and military casualties, great damage to Lebanese civilian infrastructure, and massive population displacement. We all hoped for an immediate cease-fire, but it was slow to come. On August 11, the United Nations Security Council unanimously approved UN Resolution 1701 in an effort to end the hostilities. This resolution took effect a few days later.

As the region returns to peace and as more than a quarter million internally



Angelique Mutombo Davis,
Executive Director

displaced people return to their homes, we are reminded that people's culture and history should be taken into consideration before any actions are taken or conclusions are drawn.

Job Opportunities in International Affairs

Internship—The Crown Agents Consultancy, Inc. (Washington, DC Office - CAC) Student Internship Program offers a unique opportunity for undergraduate and graduate-level students interested in the field of international development. We are now accepting applications for Fall 2006. The internship will support the bid and proposal and business development team. Individuals who are currently enrolled as a student in an accredited college or university interested in applying for the internship program should submit their application package via e-mail, care of Catherine French, to: careers@crownagents.com. Please write -INT1003- in the subject line. To find out what to include in the application packages before submission, please log on to: www.developmentex.org

Executive-Level- International Relief and Development, Inc. (IRD) , is a non-profit organization specializing in international development and humanitarian assistance in over 20 countries. IRD works with a wide range of partners to design and implement, and provide technical assistance in the areas of health, economic development, relief, infrastructure, civil society and food security. The successful candidate must have a proven track record, in a fast paced environment, with multiple priorities. Responsibilities include supervision the staff of professional recruiters and support personnel. Qualified candidate will have: a bachelor's degree in a related area and at least 10 years in a senior management recruitment role within an international organization. E-mail your resume to: career@ird-dc.org

Program Officer—Kenya, The National Democratic Institute for International Affairs (NDI) seeks a dynamic and results-oriented individual to assist in documenting, reporting the impact of and implementing political party training programs in Kenya. The Program Officer will report to the Kenya Resident Director and will work closely with other members of the Kenya team to deliver political party training and ensure quality, coordination and timely submission of program reports. The Program Officer responsibilities include: organize, conduct and contribute to political party training workshop with collaboration with other Kenya staff. Qualified candidates will have: a bachelor degree in International Relations, minimum 5 years experience. Please apply at: www.ndi.org

A Guide to Combating Corruption and Bribery in Sub-Saharan Africa

by *Wendeline-Barbara Yuni Vega, BSC, Marketing; LLB, LLM, International Law*

A recent report from the U.S Congress's "watchdog" agency, the General Accounting Office, warns that corruption in sub-Saharan Africa is still widespread and severely undercuts the region's long-term economic growth and development, often diverting funds that could be used for education, investment, and public infrastructure.

Indeed, corruption is a barrier to the development of dynamic entrepreneurship and healthy competition for profits, maintaining in its place an environment of unhealthy competition.

In support of anti-corruption activities in developing countries, like those in Africa, the focus should be on promoting greater public awareness of corruption issues, access to information regarding government processes, and demand for reform. In addition, emphasis should be placed on improving ethics and integrity among public servants, including but not limited to the disclosure of assets, and strengthening the governmental and non-governmental units, focusing on increased transparency and accountability.¹

"Nevertheless, the most urgent reform starts with instituting preventative measures. They are usually more cost-effective and less divisive than focusing solely on criminal laws, detection, and prosecution, although the measures anchored in criminal laws can have a long-term deterrent effect when done with persistence and on a large scale."²

The following are some recommended actions, which could be modified or enhanced according to each country's immediate needs.

- Raising awareness: Organize

workshops and seminars among public officials, the private sector and civil society to educate them that it is not dangerous to fight against corruption and that corruption is a burden on business.

- Organize informal and formal education programs for children, for youths and most important for university students.

- Organize press conferences to sensitize both the private and the public sectors.

- Partner with other African countries by organizing workshops and seminars among the TI African chapters to discuss common problems and solutions.

- Assist with monitoring: TI chapters should partner with other local NGOs to monitor election campaigns, to determine the freeness and fairness of the election process and thereby ensure transparency and professionalism.

- Advocate for anti-corruption reform: Partner with other NGOs, business associations, members of parliament, government ministers and heads of central government to inform the judiciary and public administration

of the role of the media and international aspects of fighting corruption.

- Partner with the country's Chamber of Commerce to draft laws for conducting business that are simple to understand.

- Battle against HIV/AIDS: Public sector transparency is critical in the battle against HIV/AIDS. Partner with other international NGOs to address corruption and bribery in the fight to prevent and treat HIV/AIDS, especially the misuse or misappropriation of funds at the expense of people affected with the disease.

In conclusion, people in the government, private sector, and civil society in developing Africa come into contact often with corrupt practices and bribe solicitation, if not on a daily basis. The implementation of the rule of law and governance in sub-Saharan countries would be an effective tool in combating corruption and bribery.

Notes

1. Speech, by Nancy Zucker Boswell, Managing Director, Transparency International, USA
2. Speech, by Michael Korff, "Ethics in Government Workshops"

**INDEED,
CORRUPTION IS A
BARRIER TO THE
DEVELOPMENT OF
DYNAMIC
ENTREPRENEURSHIP
AND OF HEALTHY
COMPETITION FOR
PROFIT...**

A Black Professional in International Affairs Asks: Is Egypt Located in Africa or the Middle East?

by I. G. Campbell, Hill Staffer

As an African who migrated from the Caribbean and is now living in America, I have found it important to identify and consider the legacy of my ancestors. Coincidentally, my work with the U.S. House of Representatives recently landed me in Egypt. My curious mind could not help but investigate whether Egyptians identify themselves as African or Middle Eastern or whether this was a subject of mass concern.

As part of today's technologically savvy generation, in researching the answer, I went straight to Ask-Jeeves.com. This is what I found as per those unseen experts behind the all-knowing world of the Internet: "Egypt is located in the northeastern corner of **Africa**. It is bounded by Libya to the west, Sudan to the south, the Red Sea to the east, the Mediterranean Sea to the north and Israel to the northeast.... The Nile River is not only the lifeline of Egypt, it is also the longest river in **Africa**."

Egypt's earliest unified kingdom arose around 3200 B.C. However, by 6000 B.C. organized agricultural societies existed. Archeological findings demonstrate that primitive tribes lived along the Nile River long before the dynastic history of the pharaohs. Egypt's last native dynasty fell to the Persians in 341 B.C., and the Persians were later replaced by the Greeks, Romans, and Byzantines. The Arabs, who introduced Islam and the Arabic language in the 7th century, ruled for the next six centuries.

According to the Central Intelligence Agency's (CIA) Factbook, Egypt controls the Sinai Peninsula; it is the only land bridge between Africa and the remainder of the Eastern Hemisphere; it controls the Suez Canal, a sea link between the Indian Ocean and the Mediterranean Sea; it established a major role in Middle Eastern geopolitics; and it dominates Nile basin issues, in an area prone to mass influxes of refugees.



The Subcommittee on Africa of the International Relations Committee, officially has jurisdiction over Egypt; however, the Middle East Subcommittee handles most issues relating to Egypt. The U.S. Department of State lists Egypt under the Bureau of Near Eastern Affairs (NEA), and that bureau handles U.S. foreign policy and U.S. diplomatic relations with Egypt and a host of other countries. However, the State Department's background notes on Egypt read, "Egypt is the most populous country in the Arab world and the second-most populous on the African Continent."

After all of this research, I was thoroughly confused by the inconsistent sources about Egypt, and I determined that I should seize the opportunity to speak with Egyptians directly. The Egyptians I spoke with were at various levels of government, the military, and business, as well as hotel personnel and average people walking around Cairo, Luxor, and Giza. What I learned was not surprising—Egyptians know they are **Africans**, although they recognize that they are Arab and that they provide a link between the Arab world and the African continent. Their commitment to Africa is unmistakable, as is their commitment to their African past.

What I do find remarkable is the fact that some people deemed experts would rather believe that the Pyramids of Egypt are a phenomenon created by aliens than recognize that they were created by the Africans of Egypt. This is one of the rare cases where it is acceptable to argue that aliens exist. African experts in Egypt have been in negotiations to reclaim hundreds of pieces of their history that have been stolen from Egypt. More ancient Egyptian relics now reside outside of Egypt than are found in the museums in Egypt.

Egyptians are black, white, and brown, but they all agree that they are African. They have a rich history, and they recognize that their experiences are unique and that they have been able to maximize their presence in the region despite control by various empires.

Teaching Youth about US Foreign Policy

by Ryan Manzie Macauley, Student

The future of the world is in the hands of youth around the globe. Unfortunately, American students are not introduced to international issues or the experience of international governance. In order for the youth of today to become the leaders of tomorrow, they must learn more about their counterparts in different countries so that they feel some identification and increase their understanding of the culture and customs of others. This knowledge will improve their prospects in life and the prospects for a more stable international future.

In the public school curriculum, students are not introduced to the concepts “foreign policy” or “diplomacy” until they reach the end of their middle school years. At this point, students are supposed to have a general idea of who diplomats are and what they do to represent the United States. It is known that foreign policy is comprised of many policies of the federal government directed to matters beyond U.S. borders, involving relations with other countries.

Students in the U.S are educated differently than those in Europe, Asia, Africa and South America and have less time to determine what specific work they would like to pursue, such as becoming a lawyer or even a diplomat in the Foreign Service. It is a necessity that they have classes on topics such as foreign policy that will expand their knowledge of possible careers within the international community.

To prepare for what they would like to do in life, students must be exposed to different options and then decide on their careers. In Montgomery County, Maryland students fully understand the concept of foreign policy along with the principles of government in

general. Many people feel as I, that foreign policy should be a part of the curriculum for students of all states. I believe that the Secretary of Education should be petitioned to incorporate the principles of U.S foreign policy in the public school curriculum. This change would be mainly the responsibility of the schools, because they are the bridge between students and their future.

The lack of emphasis on international studies means that even policy makers are not knowledgeable enough about current issues. In our school system, I feel if more programs were made available to the public for little or no charge, more people would take advantage of opportunities in the international community. Some students, along with their parents, feel that more programs should be available. For instance, programs such as the Model U.N are good for students who are trying to get a feel for the diplomatic duties they might be responsible for. Annually, the African Development Forum, through the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, holds a one-week meeting to discuss the “State of African Youth” and other issues the continent faces.

If parents do not raise the issue of foreign policy, students will not have an understanding of or interest in such activities.

The media bears a heavy responsibility regarding the youth of today. On television, the continent of Africa is portrayed as a land of poverty and disaster, and southern Asian countries are shown as modern-day slave lands; violence between Israel and Palestine is shown as a daily occurrence. The media is a powerful tool that has continuously been used as a weapon against the beauty of third-world

countries in all aspects. Most American children spend a lot of time watching T.V., and children learn from what they see. If the media would show more positive images than negative images, children who will one day become adults would have more understanding and appreciation for other cultures and countries and thus more interest in global affairs.

Recently, [Live 8](#), a free concert promoting awareness of Africa was broadcast internationally. An estimated 1 billion plus people watched the concert. Millions of other young people would have watched this event if it had been marketed properly. However, the media pushes what it wants to promote which is mostly negative. The media holds one of the greatest influences over today’s youth, second to that of parents.

Another resource is the newspaper. Most people do not even read the paper, or they believe that the sports section is the only important part of the paper.

In the world of today it is crucial that the youth have positive role models and a safe environment, to give them the stability they need to pursue their dreams. But for the world of tomorrow, the media, the school system, policy makers and parents must provide the stability today. I encourage everyone who has an interest in the Foreign Service or anything to do with international affairs to pursue it to the fullest!

Louis A. McCall, BPIA VP for Education and Exchange

Louis A. McCall is the Coordinator for International Broadcasting and Public Diplomacy Evaluations for the Office of Inspector General of the U.S. Department of State and the Broadcasting Board of Governors. His unit is within the Office of Inspections. Mr. McCall now resides in Washington, DC.

Mr. McCall became interested in international affairs as a 14 year old boy when he read an article in *Ebony Magazine* about a black diplomat, Carl Rowan, U.S. Ambassador to Finland. He decided then and there that he wanted that kind of career. He started writing to the Department of State and struck up a correspondence with a black Foreign Service Officer, Eddie Williams, who has since become a syndicated columnist and a professor at the Harvard - MIT Joint Center for Political Studies. Mr. McCall took and passed the Foreign Service written and oral examinations as a junior at Northwestern University, where he received a bachelor of arts degree in

political science. He delayed his entry into the Foreign Service until he had attained a Ph.D. with a focus on international relations and worked two years (1973-1975) as an assistant professor at Ohio State University. He was a member of the class of 1990-1991 of the National Defense University.

He served as a Foreign Service Officer from 1976 through 1998. As a Foreign Service Officer he served at several overseas posts including Zambia, Sierra Leone, India, Australia, and Italy. His Washington assignments included the Nigeria Desk, Project Officer for the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation Forum, and Deputy Director of the Office of Australia and New Zealand Affairs. In his overseas capacity he has been the Deputy Principal



Louis McCall, BPIA VP for Education and Exchange

Officer in Consulate General Perth, Australia; Charge d'Affaires at Embassy Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei, and Consul General at the Consulate General in Florence, Italy, while also being accredited as Representative to the Republic of San Marino.

As a Foreign Service Officer, Mr. McCall also served as an Inspector in the Office of the Inspector General (1991-1993). After becoming a career member of the Civil Service in 1998, Mr. McCall has been a Deputy Team Leader in OIG's Office of Inspections and, from January 2001 to April 2005, has served as Assistant Inspector General in the Office of International Broadcasting Oversight, a position that was the principal liaison between OIG and the Broadcasting Board of Governors, an independent federal agency since October 1999. Since April 3, 2005, he has been Coordinator for International Broadcasting and Public Diplomacy Evaluations, which has a scope that goes beyond that of the Board to include the public diplomacy function led by the Department of State.

BPIA China Forum:
What are the Implications of the Recently Established US-China Dialogue for US Business?
 November 16, 12:00-2:30pm
 The Meridian International Center
 1624 Crescent Pl., NW
 Washington, DC 20009

Schedule of Events

- **September 27**—5:15 pm, Open Forum: UDC Latin American Association — Poverty Eradication Policies and Relations with the U.S.A., at UDC, Main Auditorium, Building 26
- **October 20**— 5:00 pm, Book Signing with Ambassador Edward Perkins at Africare House, 440 R Street, NW Washington, DC 20009
- **November 16**- 12:00-2:30 pm, BPIA China Forum: *What are the Implications of the Recently Established US-China Dialogue for US Business?* Meridian International Center, 1624 Crescent Place, NW Washington, DC 20009

SAVE THE DATE
October 20, 2006

BOOK SIGNING
BPIA and Henderson's
Global Voices &
Africare will be hosting
a book-signing with
Ambassador
Edward Perkins
from 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm
at: the Africare House,
440 R Street, NW,
Washington, DC 20009

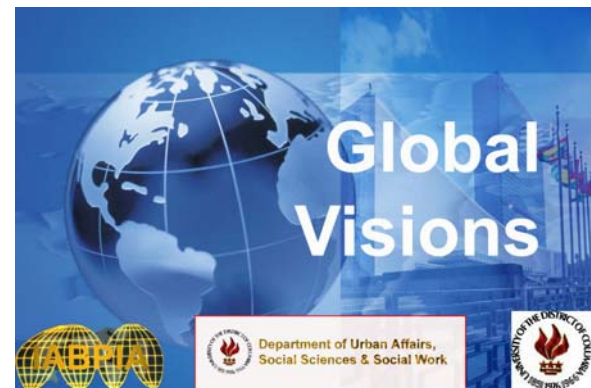
Upcoming Event: Global Visions TV Program

The first two episodes of a three part pilot program of Global Visions TV were recorded at the University of the District of Columbia (UDC) on September 21st. BPIA and the Department of Urban Affairs at UDC recorded "Diplomatic Perspective" with Ambassador **Ruth Davis**.

"Foreign Affairs and You" features an interagency panel of representatives from several foreign affairs agencies.

This program educates viewers on the breadth of opportunities and the variety of skills, interests, and entry points for a career involving overseas civilian service within the federal government.

These shows will air this fall on Channel 98, UDC TV. Please stay tuned for information on future programs with the host of Global Visions, **Louis McCall**, Vice President for Education and Exchange.





The International Association of Black Professionals in International Affairs

Black Professionals in International Affairs
7600 Georgia Avenue, NW
Suite #308
Washington, DC 20012
Tel: (202) 722-7717
Fax: (202) 722-7716

BPIA is a charitable and educational membership association established in 1989 to increase and enhance the involvement of African Americans and other people of African heritage in international affairs. Founded and operated for purposes of public education and charity, BPIA is a 501 (c)(3) organization, exempt from federal income taxes in the United States.

The association pursues program objectives in education, cultural exchange, human resources development, and economic development. Its activities include public information conferences and seminars, a periodic newsletter, professional networking activities, a mentors' forum, academic scholarships, and travel grants.

Membership in BPIA is open to all who support its purposes and objectives. Men and women of all nationalities, races, religions and cultures are encouraged to join the organization and bring to it the wealth of their life experiences and their individual abilities and talents.

BPIA was founded under the leadership of President Emerita Barbara C. Patterson, an international educator whose vision and energy have sustained the organization since its establishment in 1989.

VISIT US ON THE WEB

WWW.IABPIA.NET

BPIA Members in the News

Leroy Jackson (USAID RET.) and wife **Rebecca Vargas-Jackson**, M.D., are wrapping up their present stay in Djibouti. Leroy serves as the Chief of Party for the last leg of an AED primary school-level education sector project financed by USAID. With the present project ending after its present extension date of 31 October 2006, the Jacksons are looking for other opportunities to remain in the Horn of Africa. If you have any NGO or private sector opportunities for them to pursue, Leroy can be reached at LJ@leroyjackson.biz.

His personal cell phone in Djibouti is: country code 253, then 87-66-18.

Ronald Palmer briefed the Executive Committee of NCNW on International Affairs on October 29, 2005. He also lectured on Malaysian identity at NSA.

Mr. Ryan Manzie Macauley, an honors sophomore, has been accepted into the Academy of International Studies. The program is located at Winston Churchill High School in Potomac Maryland. The program offers students unique opportunities to develop their interests and expertise through challenging and rigorous coursework in the student's field of interest. Students in the Academy will meet with an Academy advisor to develop an area of dedicated research

study and participate in career exploration activities. Students will complete either an internship or volunteer work, or attend a model UN Conference. The International Studies Academy provides enriching experiences which will enable participants to develop a global perspective, connecting them to communities, groups, and cultures across the globe. Through internship, volunteer work, or model UN Conference students will gain life experiences in a multicultural environment, enhancing their global perspective.

Please contact BPIA to keep other members up to date on your activities and whereabouts!