



NAAWLI NEWS

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Congratulations to the Class of 2009!



Photo caption: Keynote speaker, Sybil Wilkes, co-host of the Tom Joyner Morning Show (top row, center, in red dress) congratulates new Fellows of the National African American Leadership Institute at their graduation celebration in Dallas.

We are proud to welcome 19 exceptional women to our sisterhood! Having completed the leadership program and community service projects within their communities, they have earned a distinction worthy of high regard—designation of the NAAWLI Fellow.

Demetria D. Alford
Yevonessa Clark
Robin Fontenot
Rachele Hollingsworth
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Suzanne Kaigler
Angela Scott
Geraldine Shelton
Tangie Tolbert

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Contributions to NAAWLI are tax-deductible and may be sent to the mailing address above or online @ www.naawli.org.

For inquiries regarding the newsletter or future submissions, please contact: DeLisa Rodney, Alumnae Representative at Delisa_rodney@yahoo.com Or (309) 662-6390

The 2010 application will be available online August 1, 2009. Deadline for submission is October 1st!

Spirit of Giving

The State Farm Good Neighbor Grant™ Program

Did you know that through the Good Neighbor Grant Program, the State Farm Companies Foundation awards a \$500 grant on behalf of each eligible State Farm associate, agent or retiree who volunteers a minimum of 40 hours a year to an eligible nonprofit organization? This is an excellent way to support a deserving nonprofit in which you are affiliated. NAAWLI is an eligible organization and welcomes your volunteer hours and contributions! Not a State Farm employee? Contact your employer about similar programs that may be available.

Service Matters

"The Great Commission is not an option to be considered; it is a command to be obeyed." – J. Hudson Taylor

2003 NAAWLI Fellow Tania Martin takes tremendous inspiration from those words. Tania has embarked on an incredible journey which has taken her from the walls and ceilings of Corporate America to the rich wholeness of ministry. In her own words, Tania describes a life-changing experience that led to her involvement with the Cross Cultural Ministry.

"When God called me away from my corporate career in 2006, I was earning the most money I have ever earned in my entire life--\$90,000 per year. I had also just received a promotion to Duty Contracts Director. I was 32 years old and on the fast track to becoming one of the few black women executives in our corporation.

All of my aspirations and desires for this goal changed as I began to grow in my relationship with our risen Christ. A quiet discontentment grew within me about my life and my purpose. My job became more of a chore and I did not see purpose in what I did day in and day out. Who was I really impacting, what was I accomplishing? I knew intellectually the material benefits of my job: that I managed contracts that built systems that could be potentially save lives. But, was this my ultimate purpose?

During this time I was a regular volunteer for my church and began to feel a strong leading to make a shift into full time ministry. In March 2006, I followed that leading of the Lord and resigned from my corporate position, took a significant pay cut, and began working for my church. My two years with the church served as a time of preparation for the next assignment God had for me. Shortly after starting to work for the church, God began to reveal to me that this was not my final assignment and increased my desire to live and serve cross-culturally. My passion for missions began with my first short term missions journey in 2004. Jesus is the greatest leader who has ever walked the earth, and now I am following Him as He leads and living incarnate among the people of Ukraine that I might win some for the Kingdom of God."

NAAWLI cites CSX for its spirit of volunteerism and contribution to participants' leadership development by recognizing it as NAAWLI's 2009 Sponsor of the Year!



Connections

NAAWLI Fellows are connected to all areas of business, politics, and service. 2007 Fellow Twila Mouttet served as a Texas State Delegate for then presidential candidate Barack Obama at the 2008 Democratic National Convention.

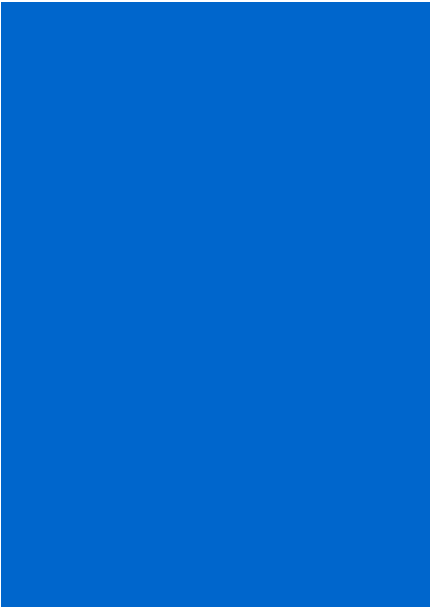
Twila is shown below with President Obama during his trip to Corpus Christi, Texas in March 2008.



Bragging Rights

Beverly Wright, 2007 Fellow, has been recognized as a 2009 Minority Business Leader Honoree by the Dallas Business Journal. This award honors those who make a difference in their profession, business, and local community. Beverly was selected from a very competitive field of nominees and we are proud to applaud this achievement!

Leslie Williams, 2003 Fellow, has been re-elected to the Board of



Directors for the University of Michigan Alumni Association with a term ending in 2010. She has been an active member since 2004.

Delores Lenzy-Jones was selected for the 2009-10 Executive Leadership Council's Pipeline Program. "Strengthening the Pipeline: Critical Factors for Successful Leaders" is a distinctive leadership developmental initiative offered by the Executive Leadership Council's Institute for Leadership Development & Research (Institute). The Institute provides executive-level seminars, peer mentoring and coaching, networking with top corporate executives, and leadership opportunities to help high potential African-American business leaders achieve stellar performance and recognition. The 50-member class consists of participants primarily from Fortune 500 companies. Delores also recently completed her Certified Internal Auditor's certification and is beginning the third term on Dell's BRIDGE Networking Group Board of Directors.