



*The mission of
ALANA
is to improve the
academic success,
retention,
transfer
and
graduation
of students through
structured support
and
mentoring relationships.*



The **ALANAGram** is published
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Welcome to the 2005–06 academic year!

Returning Mentees and Mentors, we hope your summer was exciting and restful and that you have a renewed outlook for the coming academic year. New Mentees and Mentors, we are excited to have you as part of the ALANA community and hope your transition to college and the program are smooth.

ALANA has an open door policy—please drop by and visit us on the third floor of the library, Accokeek Hall, room 338. We have ten computers and study space for your convenience. Come take advantage of these added benefits as both space and computers are hard to come by on the campus especially with all the construction going on.

We have a new name for our newsletter, the ALANAGram. The Gram will be published each semester and will highlight program activities, student/mentor accomplishments, and program information.

As the ALANA staff looks forward to a new school year, we are excited to introduce initiatives to enhance student success and strengthen mentoring relationships. These include Laying Tracks—A Structured Freshman Experience, a Mentor/Mentee Meet and Greet activity, a cultural trip to New York, a Year-end Cruise on the Potomac, and improved follow-up expectations. But before we move forward, we would like to highlight and celebrate a few past successes.

2004–05 Highlights

- Awarded two Prince George's Community College Foundation Grants for ALANA's heritage and campus tour of Atlanta, GA, and *Men Moving Forward* purchase of educational resources
- Awarded two Student Services mini grants for *Meeting in the Ladies' Room*, "A Time to Exhale" retreat and charter fees for Chi Alpha Epsilon, an honor society recognizing scholarship among students who began college in developmental coursework
- Eight peer mentors successfully completed training and were certified as Bacchus Gamma Peer Educators
- Five students attended the 6th Annual Youth and College Leadership Summit
- Received program commendations from Middle States Review Team for *Men Moving Forward* and *Meeting in the Ladies' Room*
- More than 30 new Mentors joined the ALANA program

Student Success News

5 Transfer Students

Michaela Afful Capitol College
LaToya Boseman Howard University
Anthony Hamilton Johns Hopkins
Edmund Walton Cleveland State University
Revelle Woolfolk Bowie State University

4 Graduates in Fall 2004

Tonya Brinson-Woodson
AAS Business Management
Krystal Covington
AA General Studies
Kokouvi Guegue
AA General Studies
Peter Ibe
Computer Science, Info. Sci.

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13 Graduates in Spring 2005

Kuiana Adam

AAS Early Childhood Studies

Michael Allen, II

Certificate Transfer Studies

AA General Studies

Beverly Barnsfield

AAS Business Management

Monica Felton

AAS Business Management

Michael Gatts

AA General Studies Psychology

Kathy Parker

AA General Studies

Anthony Hamilton

AAS Electronic Engineering Tech.

Karen Jackson

AS Business Administration

Renee Littles

AAS Forensic Science Technology

Certificate Forensic Science Tech.

Karnieshala Martinez

AA General Studies

Erika Mazyck

AA General Studies

Brandon Soulé

AA General Studies Pre-Pharmacy

Edmund Walton

AA General Studies

Platinum Achievers

Fifty-five students have completed all of their developmental classes and are now in credit classes in good standing. Their names are engraved on a plaque and displayed in the ALANA Office.

Academic Excellence

(Dean's List requires a minimum 3.25 GPA. Refer to page 158 in the college catalog for other requirements.)

- 23 on Dean's List for spring 2004
Kiwani Pickens had a 4.0 GPA.
- 3 on Dean's List for summer 2004
- 31 on Dean's List for fall 2004
Meho Jasarevic had a 4.0 GPA.

Academic Achievement

In the spring and fall 2004 semesters, an additional 28 students had a 3.0 GPA or higher.

What's new for the 2005-06 academic year?

Laying Tracks—A Structured Freshman Experience

A two-semester learning community type program designed by SSS/TRIO to assist new students who tested into one or more developmental courses with acquiring the tools to become successful college students, complete developmental classes and successfully move on to credit coursework. This will be accomplished by the Laying Tracks participants enrolling in the same sections of selected courses, tutoring, intrusive advising, and mentoring.

Mentor/Mentee Meet and Greet Luncheon

A "by invitation only" luncheon on September 29 is for new students in the program. This event is a chance for them to meet their mentors, get acquainted with other mentees, eat, and hear from a panel of mentors and mentees who will share their mentoring relationship experience and orientate them to the ALANA program.

The Reading Round Table

The ALANA program is starting a new activity to encourage our students to read and enlighten their minds about the world around them. We have designed an activity called The Reading Round Table which will be set up in the ALANA office. Every two weeks there will be a new article or reading that will be available for the students to read. Each reading will have a short quiz that will test for comprehension and critical thinking after the student has read the information. At the end of the two weeks the student who answered the most questions correctly on the quiz will receive a small prize. No notes or reading material can be used to take the quiz. The Reading Round Table will begin early October. Please stop by the ALANA office for more details.

ALANA HUGS—A Community Service Outreach Activity

In previous years, the ALANA Experience has been involved in a community service activity during the holiday season—a sponsored Toy Drive whereby students, faculty, and classified staff participated by donating a toy for children affiliated with PGCC's Children's Developmental Clinic.

In lieu of the Toy Drive, last year ALANA sponsored a new program called "ALANA HUGS" (Holiday Unity through Giving and Sharing). The criteria used for selecting a student for this program is:

- Nominations are made by a Retention Services staff member
- The student must be an active participant in one of the 4 retention programs: Disability Support Services, Student Support Services, Vocational Support Services, The ALANA Experience
- The student must have a financial need (Pell Grant, crisis situation, etc.)

Only one student per program will be selected (dependent on the amount of gift certificates collected). All eligible candidates are entered for a random selection drawing. Once the gift certificates are received, they are equally divided and presented at an appropriate time to the selected students.

Gift certificates were solicited last year from the following stores: Target, Wal Mart, Kohl's, Giant Food, Safeway, Shoppers, Super Fresh, Food Lion, K.B. Toys, Toys R Us, and Prince George's Community College Book Store. More than \$540 in gift certificates was collected and divided.

We hope we can again delight in making four students and their families happy for the holidays. For more information, contact Mary Brooks.

Odyssey Lunch Cruise

An end-of-the-year Odyssey Lunch Cruise down the Potomac River in May will wrap up the Mentor/Mentee activities for the academic year. This first-time activity will replace our traditional year-end Barbecue. More information will be available spring semester.

Successful initiatives are back!

Meeting in the Ladies' Room (MLR)

Women supporting women for academic and life success continues its monthly forums and outlet for women to explore issues concerning women, share unique experiences, build support, network, enhance self-concept, and identify strategies and barriers to academic success. The highlight of last year's meetings culminated with 21 students, staff, and a community representative attending "A Time to Exhale" retreat at Rocky Gap Resort in Maryland. This serene location provided the perfect backdrop to further explore careers, money management, health and wellness, and stress management.

All sessions are open to ALANA and SSS/TRIO women. We are also open to guest presenters. If you have a topic you'd like to discuss with this dynamic group of women, please don't hesitate to let Janice Watley or Shelley Caldwell-Bennett know.

MLR meets every third Friday, from 12–2 p.m. in the ALANA Resource Center. The session topics for fall 2005 are:

- September 16 Try it on First, Is this Career a Good Fit?
- October 21 What's Your Body Image?
- November 18 Money Matters

Men Continue to Move Forward (MMF)

ALANA's *Men Moving Forward* program has successfully completed its second full year of workshops and activities. In its two years of existence at Prince George's Community College, the program has worked with over 100 men, and has a 78% fall 2003 to fall 2004 retention of men who actively participate in program activities. These activities have included monthly skill development workshops, a campus-wide voting rally, peer mentoring, critical thinking discussion groups, feeding the homeless, lunchtime basketball, and participating in local community activities. During the 2005–2006 school year, the program plans to continue in these activities in addition to many more. There will be at least six new workshops and/or discussion groups, and we plan on starting the school year by gathering a group of men to participate in the highly anticipated Millions More Movement on October 14 and 15 to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the Million Man March. A Men's retreat is also being planned for the spring.

Men Moving Forward continues to seek students, staff, and faculty members who want to develop skills and/or support men in becoming leaders and productive citizens in their communities. If you are interested in finding out more information or joining *Men Moving Forward*, please contact Chad Adero at 301-322-0181.

Heading to the Big Apple—ALANA's Cultural Field Trip

ALANA is planning its annual cultural field trip to take place in New York City this year. We will head to the Big Apple over Presidents' Day weekend, February 17–19, 2006. The trip will be a two night, three day event.

Activities planned while in New York City include touring the Statue of Liberty, visiting the United Nations, taking a tour of historic Harlem, seeing a Broadway play, and shopping time in Manhattan. Tickets for the trip will likely go on sale early in the fall semester. Stop by or call the ALANA office to get the latest information on the trip so you can reserve your seats ASAP. The cost for the trip and itinerary should be finalized by late September. There are approximately 50 seats available and they will be sold on a first come, first serve basis.



ALANA Fall 2005 Activities

- Tuesday, September 27** 2–4pm
Men Moving Forward
TV Studio, Accokeek 313
- Wednesday, September 28**
University of MD College Park
Campus Visit
- Thursday, September 29**.... 12:30–2:30pm
Mentor/Mentee Meet & Greet Luncheon
ALANA, Accokeek 338A
- Thursday, October 6** 2–3pm
Job Search and
Career Decision Making Workshop
ALANA Resource Center, Accokeek 338A
- Tuesday, October 11** 6:30–8pm
AOBA Scholarship Reception
Marlboro Gallery
- Thursday, October 13** 3pm
Madden Tournament
ALANA Resource Center, Accokeek 338
- Wednesday, October 19: Mid-term**
- Wednesday, October 19** 2–4pm
Men Moving Forward
TV Studio, Accokeek 313
- Friday, October 21** 12–2pm
Meeting in the Ladies' Room
"What's your body image?"
ALANA Resource Center, Accokeek 338A
- Wednesday, October 26**
Towson State University Campus Visit
- Thursday, November 17** 3–4pm
First Things First: Preparing your
Resumé, Cover Letter, and References
ALANA Resource Center, Accokeek 338
- Friday, November 18** 12–2pm
Meeting in the Ladies' Room
"Money Matters"
ALANA Resource Center, Accokeek 338A
- Thursday & Friday, November 24 & 25**
College Closed, Thanksgiving Holiday
- Wednesday, November 30**
University of MD Baltimore County
Campus Visit
- Thursday, December 1** 2–4pm
Men Moving Forward
TV Studio, Accokeek 313
- Wednesday, December 7** 1–3pm
ALANA Holiday Party, Marlboro Gallery
- December 10–16: Finals**



Don't Forget! *SuccessNet*, Tues. & Wed., Nov. 7 & 8, 10–2 pm, and the *Job Fair*, Wed., Nov. 9, 10–2 pm, both in Largo Student Center.

Outstanding Accomplishments—ALANA's Best!

Man of the Year—*Ellis Baylor*



ALANA's 2004–05 Man of the Year, Mr. Ellis Baylor continues to exemplify the new title and award. Ellis completed his last semester with straight A's and has stepped up his commitment to participate in ALANA activities as well as other college programs. He has expressed his desire to maintain a 4.0 GPA in every semester at Prince George's Community College and to help others around him succeed academically. Currently majoring in general studies, Ellis plans on transferring to the University of Maryland College Park where he will pursue a degree in Elementary Education. His long-term career goal is to earn a M. Ed and a PhD in Education Administration to become a principal in an area school.

On being selected as Man of the Year, Ellis feels that he should conduct himself responsibly at the college and in his community, perform well academically, help others learn, and be an overall good role model for young people. He credits all of his work to his Lord and Savior Jesus Christ from which he draws all of his strength.

The ALANA program is proud to have Ellis Baylor as part of our program and wishes him all the best in his future pursuits.

Mentee of the Year—*Toni McCrimmon*



This past May, at the ALANA Awards Day ceremony, we were pleased to announce Mrs. Toni McCrimmon as the winner of the Mentee of the Year Award. Toni, a criminal justice major, has completed over 30 college credits with more than a 3.50 GPA. After she receives her AA degree from Prince George's Community College, she plans on transferring to the University of Maryland College Park. Her long-term career goal is to become a criminal investigator and work for a police department.

According to Toni, carrying the title of Mentee of the Year has a tremendous responsibility. She feels it is important that the Mentee of the Year keep up their grades, show others how to perform well in school, help and encourage students, give positive guidance and direction to peers, and share their success with others.

Toni credits much of her success to many people. She states the ALANA program has been there for her every step of the way in her college pursuits saying, "ALANA has helped me build self-esteem and keep me organized." Toni, nominated by her long-time mentor Janice Cason, manager of PGCC's Vocational Support Services, noted that Mrs. Cason has worked tirelessly by assisting her in completing assignments and studying for tests, as well as being a tremendous help in giving both guidance and support related to her personal life. She states that "Mrs. Cason kept an open door policy with me and worked many long hours to help me complete papers." But most importantly, she says the support she gets from her husband is phenomenal, explaining that his motivation, prayers, emotional support, and role as family provider allow her to focus nearly all her attention on school. Toni says her husband is her role model and hero.

The ALANA program would like to thank Toni McCrimmon for her participation in the program and wish her well in her academic pursuits.

Mentor of the Year—*Helen Stephens*



Congratulations to Ms. Helen Stephens, associate professor in the Educational Development Department, chosen as ALANA's 2004–05 Mentor of the Year. For the past seven years, Helen has volunteered her time above and beyond her regular teaching responsibilities. She says, "I wanted to make a difference in the lives of first-time college students with diverse backgrounds. I understand that for some first-time college students, college life on a large campus such as Prince George's Community College can be an overwhelming experience. At such times, being a mentor can help ease students' transition into college life by providing them with the academic support and encouragement needed to accomplish their educational goals, and to make college life an exciting, fulfilling, and successful experience."

Helen has made that difference with her mentee, Sonika Wright. In her nomination statement, Sonika wrote that Ms. Stephens is a good listener who is concerned, understanding, encouraging, available to give advice and provide help, or refer her to others who may be able to help with her studies. Due to Ms. Stephens' influence, Sonika has continued to pursue her goal of obtaining a degree in Early Childhood Education.

Again, thank you Helen Stephens for being a positive faculty role model for students to interact with outside the traditional classroom to enrich their educational experience. The contribution of your time, expertise, and desire to share your life with students is the very reason ALANA continues to impact student success through mentoring.