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BFSA Newsletter, December 2001

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Black Faculty and Staff Association Newsletter

December 2001

BFSA Holiday Get Together

The annual BFSA holiday get together will be held on Friday, December 14, 2001. The festivities will begin at 6:00 PM at Mary McKinney's house (Strafford Woods--10437 Sun Villa Blvd, Orlando). Mary's phone number is (407) 678-9961.

The cost of the event is \$5.00 (delivered to MASS, MH 145 or SFA, MH 120). Please RSVP by December 10, (GroupWise or Phone) to either Mary McKinney (407-823-2827) or Inez Ford (407-823-2716).

There will be a white elephant gift exchange, spades or tunk games, and plenty of food. The menu will include:

Ham
Fried Chicken
Yellow Rice
String Beans
Potato Salad
Collard Greens
Macaroni & Cheese
Corn Bread
Candied Yams
Red Velvet Cake and other
desserts
Ice Tea/Punch

A good time will be had by all. See you there!

BFSA/Student Reception

The BFSA/Student Reception held on November 7 was a huge success! This history-making event was an opportunity for Black students and Black faculty and staff to begin a meaningful dialogue. Kudos to Dr. Earl Wright III, Inez Ford, and Mary McKinney for organizing the event.

*Do you have items for the BFSA Newsletter?
Submit them to Marva Devonish at the Student
Union.*

BFSA Seeks A Slate of Officers for 2002-2003

At the last general meeting, there was a lengthy discussion of the need to identify ASAP persons who would be willing to serve next year as officers of the Black Faculty and Staff Association (BFSA). Although these officers would not officially begin their term until next fall, the BFSA bylaws require that new officers initially serve in "officer-elect" positions so they have an opportunity to gradually and effectively move into their positions (e.g., attend Executive Committee and other meetings to become familiar with procedures, accounts, etc.). The overall intent of having these "officer-elect" positions is to ensure that there is a smooth transition of leadership.

We are delighted that three staff (Vereta Powell, Bernadine Miller and Germaine Crow) have already indicated that they are willing to serve as officers.

We still need others who would be willing to serve as officers, most notably in the President-Elect and Vice President-Elect positions.

BFSA would like to identify at the January, 2002 meeting all of the people who have graciously volunteered to meet the organization's future leadership needs, especially as President and Vice President. **SO PLEASE... volunteer to serve. We need you to respond back NO LATER THAN Monday, December 3rd.**

Upcoming Events—More Next Issue

- MLK Celebration
- Death of A Salesman
- Black Art Exhibit
- BFSA Mentoring Breakfast
- ZORA Festival

Summer Internships Available for Minority Students

The U.S. Department of Commerce and ORISE (Oak Ridge Institute for Science and Education) are sponsoring internships for minority undergraduate and graduate students in the Summer of 2002.

APPLICATIONS DUE FEBRUARY 22, 2002.

The 10-week summer program is designed for students interested in Business, cartography, computer science, economics, engineering, geography, natural sciences, population studies, and statistics.

- Students will receive a stipend of \$400-PLUS per week (depending on academic and internship field).
- Travel costs for distances greater than 60 miles will be reimbursed.

To be eligible for an internship, you must be enrolled in an undergraduate or graduate program at an accredited U.S. college or university. Must be a U.S. citizen or permanent resident alien.

Applications are available at the Office of Multicultural Affairs, MGC Room 204, X 3651.

It's What on the Inside that Counts

Once upon a time a daughter complained to her father that her life was miserable and that she didn't know how she was going to make it. She was tired of fighting and struggling all the time. It seemed just as one problem was solved, another one soon followed.

Her father, a chef, took her to the kitchen. He filled three pots with water and placed

each on a high fire. Once the three pots began to boil, he placed potatoes in one pot, eggs in the second pot, and ground coffee beans in the third pot. He then let them sit and boil, without saying a word to his daughter. The daughter moaned and impatiently waited, wondering what he was doing.

After twenty minutes he turned off the burners. He took the potatoes out of the pot and placed them in a bowl. He pulled the eggs out and placed them in a bowl. He then ladled the coffee out and placed it in a cup. Turning to her he asked.

"Daughter, what do you see?"

"Potatoes, eggs, and coffee," she hastily replied.

"Look closer", he said, "and touch the potatoes." She did and noted that they were soft.

He then asked her to take an egg and break it. After pulling off the shell, she observed the hard-boiled egg. Finally, he asked her to sip the coffee. Its rich aroma brought a smile to her face.

"Father, what does this mean?" she asked. He then explained that the potatoes, the eggs and coffee beans had each faced the same adversity-the boiling water. However, each one reacted differently. The potato went in strong, hard, and unrelenting, but in boiling water, it became soft and weak.

The egg was fragile, with the thin outer shell protecting its liquid interior until it was put in the boiling water. Then the inside of the egg became hard. However, the ground coffee beans were unique. After they were exposed to the boiling water, they changed the water and created something new.

"Which are you," he asked his daughter.

"When adversity knocks on your door, how do you respond? Are you a potato, an egg, or a coffee bean?"

In life, things happen around us, things
happen to us, but the only thing that truly
matters is what happens within us.

--Unknown Author