

# NAMME

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## Message from the President

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NAMME members,

To date, two of the four NAMME regions have held their spring conference. I was fortunate to attend the Western Region's Conference and they did an exceptional job. I made arrangements to attend the Southern Regions conference but could not do so because of a family emergency. I am confident that the Southern Regions conference was equally exciting. I trust that I will receive feedback to substantiate that fact. It is my intent to attend the Northeast and Central Region Conferences.

In short time, many of the students that we have all had a hand in recruiting, nurturing, counseling, supporting and encouraging will reach the climax of their education, "graduation". I hope that you will all be able to reap the benefits of your labor by attending graduation and sharing in your student's accomplishments and jubilation. In turn, I hope and pray that the students do not forget lessons learned, give back to the community, remember where they came from and ultimately who and whose they are.

Job well done!

I'll see you all Las Vegas. Don't forget to make your reservations early.

Respectfully,

*John L. Cottrell*

John L. Cottrell, President  
National Association of Medical Minority Educators, Inc.

### New Program Chair

Please be advised that Wilma Skyes-Brown, NAMME President-Elect will assume the National Program Chair responsibilities. Wilma should be a natural fit, given the fact that she is currently serving as the program chair for the Southern Region Spring Conference and from what I have been able to glean, she and her committee are doing an excellent job. Thank you, Wilma, for stepping in and assuming this very important responsibility.



### K-12 Initiative

Efforts to secure UNLV facilities for the High School,/College Development and Recruitment Fair are no longer a viable alternative. The change of venue is due to scheduled renovations leading up to the conference. There is no concrete way of knowing when the work will be completed. Another facility called the Cashman center is currently being investigated. At present, the space is available and it is equipped to meet our needs.

### National Conference Theme

Please note that Wilma Skyes-Brown has determined a theme for the 31<sup>st</sup> NAMME National Conference. The theme is "Creating Coalitions to Increase Diversity Education, Community, and Political Action".

Wilma's theme is timely and appropriate given the current funding climate, or lack thereof, and the essentialness of continuing underrepresented recruitment efforts forged by so many.

### Board Insurance

Michael Ellison has identified an insurance policy for the NAMME board and officers. The policy is with Philadelphia Insurance Co.

To Jane Parker and Michael Ellison ,thanks for your assistance in helping to protect NAMME.

### National web-site

John Patterson has been working diligently to update the National web-site. Look for the site to be up-dated shortly.

### Communications

Aileen Edwards Harris is currently investigating the cost for duplication of membership cards. Cost estimates are being reviewed and a decision on the printing company will be resolved shortly.

### Membership Incentive Program

A poll was conducted of the NAMME Board to ascertain the pleasure of the body with respect to implementing a membership incentive program which was proposed by Aileen Edwards-Harris. The proposal, in brief, will reward any member who recruits two new members in the same fiscal year with a reduction of \$25 from their membership dues. Although there was consensus on the merit of this activity, there was a question of who would absorb the \$25 cost. Steve Ellis, Southern Region Director proposed that the cost incurred be proportional (\$15 national, \$10 regional) to reflect the normal revenue split which is 60/40 national.

I welcome your feedback if you have not already expressed your opinion.

### Building Diversity in Medicine-The Information Working Group

The Association of American Medical Colleges will be hosting a meeting on Friday, March 24, 2006, in Washington D.C. at the AAMC Headquarters. The meeting will assemble a host of health profession organizations and associations for the purpose of establishing collaborative efforts that are mutually beneficial to those involved in the plight of increasing underrepresented students in the health professions. Marc Nivet, immediate past President of NAMME, will represent our organization.

### Essay Poster/Contest

At present, NAMME is seeking appropriate district approval from the Clark County School District for student participation in essay/poster contest competition as well as attendance at high school/college development and recruitment fair. Dr. Marlene Zychowicz, Equity & Diversity Education Indian Education, (one of our local planners) has been given all of our documents and is intervening on our behalf to have our activities sanctioned by the Clark School District. After the approval, we anticipate activities will move swiftly and entries received and judged before the departure of students for their summer break.

### Procedural change for disbursement of monies

Dorothy Dobbins, Budget and Finance Chair proposes a newer electronic option as opposed to the present procedure which requires the submission of a requisition for expenditures which is out-dated. The new electronic form which is formatted to be completed online will be used in place of the multiple copy form. Each Budget and Finance Chair will be given a "series code" for assigning numbers, i.e. National would use a 1000 series, Western would use a 2000, etc. Committee chairs, officers or whoever is requesting permission to expend funds would complete the form and submit it to the B&F Chair who would assign a number and budget category. The completed form would then be emailed to the President/Regional Director (or in the case of the national expenditures from the operating budget to the Treasurer) for their approval. Once approved by the President/RD, the form can be then returned to both the originator and any other individuals requiring a copy with a single email.

Dorothy's justification for the proposed procedure change is that it would eliminate the need for mailing documents to multiple people and greatly reduce the amount of time and paperwork for everyone involved. It would also provide the B&f Chairs with a more convenient and concise method for maintaining documentation of expenses. When hard copies are required, the form can be printed, and the procedure would be followed as outlined. Dorothy welcomes your feedback.

Thanks, Dorothy, for your initiative and creative thinking towards improving our operational efficiency.

### Overview of the NAMME Western Conference

On March 2-4, 2006, I had the pleasure of attending the Western Region Conference. The meeting was held in Seattle, Washington. Throughout the three days of conference activities, we enjoyed excellent weather. The temperature was pleasing and spring was in full bloom. The city was hilly like San Francisco, and everyone treated us like we were family.

The conference proceed as follows:

### Thursday, March 2, 2006 Opening Plenary Session-"In House Open House"



The Western Region conference began with "A Town Hall Meeting to Discuss Educational Strategies for Successful Recruitment and Retention of Underrepresented Students in the Health Sciences." Dr. Millie Russell gave the welcome, proceeded by Dr. Charles Alexander with Opening Remarks. Moderators for the discussion were Dr. Priscilla Bradshaw and Dr. Douglas Jackson. We had a very lively and informative session. Representatives from the various institutions and health disciplines shared their formula for success at their respective schools. Common ingredients echoed by the successful programs were culturally sensitive faculty, ability to make class work relevant to the student, meeting the students where they are, supplemental instruction, and institutional support.

Friday, March 3, 2006

Workshop I

Emile Pitre, Associate Office of Minority Affairs, Barry Minai, Director, Instructional Center; Cynthia del Rosario, Assistant to the Dean, Graduate Opportunities and Minority Achievement Program; and Steve Woodard, PhD Director, Early Identification Program and Associate Director, McNair Program

Workshop II-

Was conducted by Dr. Nanette Judd, Director and Ms. Karen Sakamoto, Learning Specialist and Coordinator of Student Development; University of Hawaii John A. Burns' School of Medicine's ImiHo'ola Program: The Student Development/Retention Program for Native Hawaiians and Underrepresented Population at the John A Burns School of Medicine

The representatives identified and discussed common areas of challenge for students, i.e. Academic Weakness, Unpreparedness, Poor Study habits, and Personal Problems.

They proceeded to articulate remedies for the student's challenges such as Advising, Counseling, Professionalism, Mentoring, Financial Collaboration and Monitoring students. All of the presenters did an excellent job on presenting their materials and providing their perspectives on addressing student needs.

NAMME Business Meeting

The regular order of business was followed and officer reports rendered. Major points of interest are that the Western Region plans on having a joint regional conference with the Southern Region in 2007. The target cities are San Antonio or Dallas, Texas. Additionally, Phoenix, Arizona or Honolulu, Hawaii are under consideration for the 2008 conference.



On Friday, March 3, 2006, Dr. James Flowers of MFM Medical Enterprise provided a presentation on preparation for the MCAT. Components of his presentation were as follows:

Friday, March 3, 2006, continued

- Comprehensive MCAT Specific Science and Math Content
- Verbal Reasoning and Essay Writing Skills
- Specific Test Taking Skills
- Comprehensive Student Assessment
- Individual Student Study Plans
- Repetition, Monitoring, Feedback, Discipline, Motivation
- Electronic media.

Dr. Flowers' presentation was very informative. He has devoted considerable time, research, and analysis in the formulation of a tool that is student friendly and easy to navigate. I was particularly impressed with the feature that allows the students instant background information/clarification of unfamiliar terminology.

The merit of Dr. Flowers' MCAT materials are already transparent for a number of the NAMME members who have committed to Dr Flowers' MCAT Program.

Dr Flowers is a past and current member in the NAMME Western Region. I encourage the NAMME membership to support our member.

Friday March 23, continued



Friday, March 23, continued



On Friday, March 3, 2006, we participated in the Western Region Spring Conference Banquet. The theme was "Intensifying the fFame of our Torch"

Opening Remarks were given by Dr. Charles Alexander, followed Dr. Nanette Judd's introduction of the speaker. The keynote address was given by Dr. Maxine Hayes, State Health Officer for the Washington State Department of Health.



Dr. Hayes spoke about health disparities, contributing factors and proactive measures to minimize this problem. It's noteworthy that Dr. Judd referenced quotes from two notable figures in history that captured the severity of the health problem in our society. She quotes that "nowhere are the divisions of race and ethnicity more sharply drawn than in the health of our people –Bill Clinton and Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. said "Of all the form of inequality, injustice in the health is most shocking and the most inhumane.



At this juncture Dr. Millie Russell introduced a host of individuals, sixteen in total, who were honored for their vintage service, rendered long-term, and helping to blaze the trail for students of color in the biosciences at the University of Washington.

John Cottrell announced the NAMME Awards recipients, Dr. Charles Alexander and Dr. Millie Russell respectively.

Saturday, March 4, 2006

On Saturday, March 4, 2006, the Pre-Health Professions Recruitment Fair was conducted. The event was held at the University of Washington Campus HUB East Ballroom





During the course of the recruitment fair, a very unique interactive idea was employed. The student participants were challenged with an opportunity to solve a crime scene investigation. Participants were given a scenario of an individual named Jerry who fails to show up for work. Concerned co-workers visited his house and saw it was a wreck. Later a couple noticed Jerry lying in a wooded area, and a red wagon a short distance away. The students' mission was to solve the crime of who killed Jerry. The students were provided three crime scenes and forensic scientists to help guide them with their mission. The goals of this event were to help the participants learn about health science-related careers, how they could lead to a career in forensics, to test participants skills at solving a crime scene investigation and ultimately to have fun. Winners received an I-pod shuffle, MPS Player, and a portable DVD Player



Grand Prize Winner



At the close of the recruitment fair, Dr. Millie Russell took a group on a tour and to dinner in the City Market area.

## Legislative UPDATE:

## Title VII and VII Reauthorization Meeting



On Feb 2<sup>nd</sup> Sterling M. Lloyd, graciously agreed to represent NAMME at a meeting convened by ADA, organizations and national associations to discuss Title VII and VIII Reauthorization. Further, the intent was to review the current status of the legislation, determine a work plan for groups interested in collaborating on recommendations and identifying common ground on areas of interest.

Sterling reported that the meeting was predominately attended by Washington based association staffers i.e. Medical, Dental, Nursing, etc. One of the goals was for the organizations to present a united front for increased and future restoring of cut funds. Of concern was no sufficient hard data to support the benefits of the Title VII and VIII Programs

We appreciate Sterling's actions in the absence of Lisa Greenhill who has done an excellent job in keeping us abreast of the legislative up-dates

#### Documenting the Impact of Title VII Cuts

Per the request of Erica Froyd, Tuesday, January 31<sup>st</sup>, NAMME members who are Title VII grantees were asked to document the impact of the cuts on their programs. This data will be used to build a case for restoring Title VII funding. Thanks to all who contributed in this effort.

#### NAMME-National meeting-September 20-24, 2006 WESTIN CASUARINA HOTEL AND SPA Las Vegas

Hotel information-NAMME has reserved a block of room at the discounted conference rate of \$149.00 per night, subject to applicable state and local taxes. The Westin Casuarinas Hotel is now taking reservations. A one night deposit is required per room to be guaranteed with a major credit card. The room rate is based on single/double occupancy. Be sure to mention the National Association of Medical Minority Educators, or NAMME when making the reservation to receive the discount. Reservations can be made by individuals calling the Hotel directly at 866-837-4215 or (702) 836-5900. The on-line reservation website is Stargroups. The reservation cut off date is Friday, August 25, 2006.

MAKE YOUR PLANS AND WE WILL SEE YOU IN VEGAS

QUESTIONS? E-mail [horrellb@missouri.edu](mailto:horrellb@missouri.edu), NAMME Planner

