

THE BLACK WOMAN



BISA's Newsletter -- Official Source of Information

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*Black Women in Sisterhood
for Action, Inc.*

**"Reaching for Excellence Through
Continuous Achievement"**

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Special Articles:

- **BISA's 29th DBW Scholarship Calendar 2009 Now Available!**
- **Student Spotlight**
- *LaMechea Mallet*

- *Bryan Henderson*
- **Leaders Par Excellence**
- *Dr. Vernice Ferguson*
- **BISA Thank You Plaque**
- **BISA Expressions of Thanks**

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

**January-March
2009 DBW Annual
Exhibit for Black
History & Women's
History Months:**

- **MLK Library,
Washington, DC**
- **Oxon Hill Library,
Oxon Hill, MD**

**CELEBRATE BISA's
26th Annual Gala
Conference!
March 28, 2009,
Kellogg Conference
Center, Gallaudet
University,
Washington, D.C.**

Holiday Greetings and Special Thanks!

BISA extends **special** thanks and holiday greetings to its supporters: distinguished black women, scholars and families, members, volunteers, partnership institutions, and honored Combined Federal Campaign contributors. The year 2008 is BISA's 28th Christmas. It is a timeless celebration and a symbol of thankfulness for the many blessings that each of us received. Over the past 28 years, BISA built a solid foundation for its scholarship program and distinguished black women network.

Our scholarship program, of at least 75 scholars, continues on at least 54 campuses of colleges and universities in 22 states across America. Among our graduates are educators, lawyers, doctors, engineers, computer specialists, communication/media specialists, architects, business owners and physical therapists. BISA has videotaped **The BISA Story**, published 28 annual scholarship calendars, honoring 337 distinguished black women, and five volumes of its book, **Distinguished Black Women 1986-2005**.

We offer most sincere thanks for your support for over a quarter a century.

We look forward to maintaining our partnership with all of our loyal and dedicated supporters for many more years to come.

BISA is still on track. Our mission, over the past 28 years, has not changed. Our future leaders, our scholars, still need us. Together, we can make it happen! Education is key! Again, we thank you for your support. Happy holidays, from all of us to all of you.

Verna S. Cook, Ph.D.
National President



L-R: BISA scholars Isharon Reynolds, Marjory Turner, Distinguished Woman Kim Keenan, and Ericka Cottman.



L-R: Dr. Candice Parker-Autry, Alana Frazier, Dr. Verna Cook, Iris Drayton, Valeria Wilson, BISA member, Sabrina Williams, and Stacey Brown, BISA Member.



BISA Scholars at the BISA house for a workshop.

Leaders Par Excellence – Distinguished Black Woman (DBW)

Dr. Vernice Ferguson, one of BISA's distinguished women of 1986, was recently selected for a FREDDIE Lifetime Achievement Award sponsored by the health information organization Medimedia. This was the first time in the 34-year history of these awards that the top honor has been conferred upon a nurse. Known as the "Oscars of Health and Medicine," the FREDDIE recognizes outstanding contributions of individuals in the fields of health and medicine. Past recipients of the award include Bill and Melinda Gates, Christopher Reeve and Doctors Without Borders. The award ceremony was held on November 14, 2008, in Philadelphia, PA.

achievements have given nurses both in America and many other countries, a standard worth emulating.

For 12 years, Dr. Ferguson served as Deputy Assistant Chief Medical Director for Nursing Programs and Director of Nursing Services at the United States Veterans Administration (VA), the largest organized nursing service in the world, where she was responsible for a staff of 63,000, of whom 34,000 were registered nurses. The nursing personnel staffed 172 medical centers, 103 home care units, 227 outpatient clinics and 16 domiciliaries.



Dr. Vernice Ferguson
DBW 1986

of the American Academy of Nursing, Sigma Theta Tau, and the International Society of Cancer Care. She was named a "living legend" by the American Academy of Nursing.

Dr. Verna Cook, BISA's national president and her husband, Walter Brooks, were present at the award presentation.

During her career, she served as Chief of the Nursing Department at the Clinical Center of the National Institutes of Health. Ferguson has been awarded eight honorary doctorates and two fellowships. She is also past president

BISA and its entire family: members, distinguished women, scholars and families, congratulates Dr. Vernice Ferguson for her outstanding career accomplishments.

Dr. Ferguson, whose innovative leadership and outstanding professional



BISA Graduate LaMechea Mallett with her mother, Vada Mallett, and youngest brother, Brian.

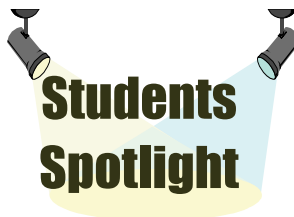
LaMechea Mallett

B.A. in Business Administration, Texas Southern University

Ms. Mallett graduated on December 13, 2008. Dr. Verna Cook and her husband, Walter Brooks, attended the graduation ceremonies along with LaMechea's family.

LaMechea says, "I want to thank BISA for instilling in me confidence, strength and knowledge on my path to success. This experience has made an everlasting impact on my life."

BISA congratulates LaMechea and her loving family.



Bryan Henderson, a Freiland senior scholar at the University of Maryland College Park, helped organize a coat drive with other students from the Department of Mechanical Engineering within the Clark School. They collected more than 100 coats from faculty, staff and students within the Clark School in one week. The students dropped off the coats to the WPGC (95.5 FM) Winter Coat Drive at Beltway Plaza Mall in Greenbelt, Maryland.



Bryan is a regional zone coordinator and president emeritus of the National Society of Black Engineers. Bryan says, "Being an engineering student, with the worries of classes, student clubs and more, it's easy to forget about the community that exists outside these walls. This is a great opportunity to show that we are community conscious."

BISA congratulates Bryan and his classmates for helping to make a difference in their community.

BISA's 2009 Scholarship Calendar of Distinguished Black Women



Congresswoman
Sheila Jackson Lee



Pamela K. El



Yvonne Johnson



Pamela Samuels Young



Shirley-Ann Robertson



Emma Fraser Pendleton



Rose McKinney-James



Darvi Mack



Theola Labbé DuBose



Marita Golden



Barbara Nichols



Joel P. Martin

For the past 22 years, BISA has been sharing with local and national communities across America honoring Black History and Women's History Months with an exhibition of photographs and vignettes of its distinguished Black women, past and present, featured in its Annual Scholarship Calendar.

The Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Library, Washington, DC, is the site for the annual educational exhibit of BISA's calendar of Distinguished Black Women (DBW) during the months of January through March. During the exhibition, copies of photographs and vignettes of the calendar women are made available for the general public. The same exhibit is in Maryland at Oxon Hill Branch Library.

The Distinguished Black Women (DBW) in the exhibits are: Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee (18th Congressional District of Texas); Pamela K. El (Vice President for Marketing at State Farm Insurance's corporate office); Yvonne Johnson (Mayor, Greensboro, North Carolina); Pamela Samuels Young (Managing Counsel for Labor and Employment Law at Toyota Motor Sales, U.S.A, Inc.); Shirley-Ann M. Robertson (Partner, Robertson and Robertson Financial Services Agency); Emma Fraser Pendleton (motivational speaker, author and educator); Rose McKinney-James (Managing Principal of Energy Works Consulting and McKinney-James & Associates); Darvi L. Mack (Director of Diversity & Inclusion at Weyerhaeuser Company); Theola Labbé DuBose (award-winning *Washington Post* reporter); Marita Golden (author, novelist, essayist, teacher of writing and literary institution builder); Barbara L. Nichols (CEO of the Commission on Graduates of Foreign Nursing Schools) and Joel P. Martin (President, Triad West, Inc. and Director of Education and Training for the annual FraserNet PowerNetworking Conference).

The BISA "THANK-YOU-PLAQUE"

In 2001, BISA mounted a 40 name perpetual walnut plaque in the BISA House, to raise funds for maintaining suitable office space and to administer its Scholarship Program. **Our goal is to raise \$100,000.**

From 2001 to 2007, BISA received \$40,000 from 40 generous donors at \$1,000 each to complete its first 40-name perpetual plaque in the BISA house.

BISA extends special thanks and salutes its generous DONORS!

In 2008, BISA mounted its second 40 name perpetual plaque to raise the remaining \$60,000 to reach its goal of \$100,000.

We will continue to accept contributions to help us reach our goal of \$100,000. We request your support to help sustain the BISA Experience for our youths, our future leaders. We will gladly accept smaller contributions, over time, that will add up to the full amount of \$1,000. Your name will be added to our **new Thank-You-Plaque** immediately after the receipt of your full pledge.

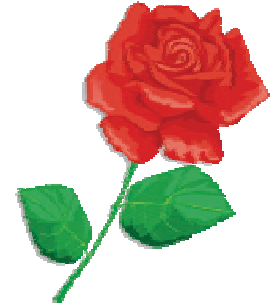
Please make your \$1,000 or more pledge to **BISA** and mail to: **BISA, P.O. Box 1592, Washington, DC 20013.** You may also telephone BISA with your pledge: (202) 543-6013 or fax your response to (202) 543-5719 day or night. **Your pledge is tax deductible. Again, we thank you for your support! Together we can make a difference!**

BISA
P.O. Box 1592
Washington, DC 20013

BISA Expression of Thanks!

Special long stem red rose in appreciation of your continuous support to BISA's scholarship:

- ❖ Lori Fouché
- ❖ Kathryn Freeland
- ❖ Frances Hooks
- ❖ Mona Parker
- ❖ Linda Cook Slaughter
- ❖ D.L. Thompson



<i>MARK YOUR CALENDAR!</i>
January-March 2009 - Distinguished Black Women Annual Exhibit for Black History & Women's History Months
BISA's Annual Gala Conference! March 27-28, 2009 at the Kellogg Conference Center, Gallaudet University, Washington, D.C.

