

**BWINAANA INAUGURAL
2008 SOUVENIR PROGRAM**

OCTOBER 18, 2008

**MELROSE,
MASSACHUSETTS**



**HOSTED BY THE
MASSACHUSETTS
CHAPTER OF BWINAANA
7:00 PM – 1:00 AM**

**BWINAANA
INAUGURAL/INSTALLATION
PROGRAM**

1. **Invocation - Romel Whyte
Sellu, National Chaplain,
BWINAANA or Proxy**

2. **Welcome/Introduction David
Deranemie, MA Chapter
President of BWINAANA**

3. **Introduction of Guest Speaker
Emmanuel Lawrence, National
Historian, BWINAANA**

**Guest Speaker- Leslie Norman
Cole**

4. **Introduction of Installation
Officer - Momo Vezele,
National Financial Secretary,
BWINAANA**

5. **Installation of Officer -Joe
Flomo Matthew, Former
National President,
BWINAANA**
6. **Inaugural Address,
Anthony N. Selli, National
President, BWINAANA,
Introduced by Ndebe H. Selli,
Son**
7. **BWI SCHOOL ODE**
8. **Liberia's National Anthem**
9. **United States National Anthem**
10. **Vote of Thanks -
Henry F. Charyoe, National
Vice President, BWINAANA**

11. **Benediction, Romel Whyte
Sellu, National Chaplain,
BWINAANA or Proxy**

12. **Grand March Led by Mr. &
Mrs. Charles Youn**

13. **ELECTED NATIONAL
OFFICERS:**

**Anthony N. Selli ---President
Henry F. Charyoe - Vice President
Comfort Henry ----Secretary
Romel W. Sellu ----Chaplain
Momo Vezele - -Financial Secretary
John Buckett - -Treasurer
Simeon Smith - -Social Secretary
Emmanuel Lawrence - Historian**

14. **David S. Ballah -- MC**



FRESHMEN BOYS DOMITORY

**BOOKER WASHINGTON
INSTITUTE**

**NATIONAL ALUMNI ASSOCIATION
OF NORTH AMERICA
(BWINAANA)**

**A BRIEF HISTORY OF
BWINAANA**

It was men and women with vision, working together for a just cause, that thought of establishing a national body in North America to which all graduates, former students, faculty, staff, administrators, and friends of the Booker Washington Agricultural & Industrial Institute of Liberia could belong. Among those men and women of vision were Delores Zor-Edwards, Emmett Jones, Emmett Fiawoo, Arthur K. Watson, Joe Isaac, Bennie D. Warner, Edith Carr, Daniel R. Henri, Vera Peal-Weah, Paul Mulbah, Samuel T. Rennie, Stephen A. Sawyer, Femon Padmore, Steven Kpou, Ceasar Gardiner, Roberta Gardiner and others.

The association was formally established at a meeting on May 26, 1991 during the sixty-second Founders' Day celebration in the Washington DC Metro area. The meeting was held at the Halfnor Park Community Center, 42 Oswega Avenue, Silver Spring, Maryland. Mrs. Delores Zor-Edwards, vice president, BWI Former Students Association of Washington, D.C. presided. Some members of the DC chapter at the gathering included, Mr. Joe Isaac, Mr. & Mrs. Emmett Fiawoo, Mr. & Mrs. Samuel Rennie, Mr. & Mrs. Daniel Ralph Henri and Mr. Robert Kilby. Those from the NY/NJ Chapter included Mr. & Mrs. Ceasar Gardiner, Mr. Emmett Jones, Mr. & Mrs. Femon Padmore, Mr. & Mrs. Arthur K. Watson, Mr. Momo Peters, Mr. Stephen Sawyer, and Mrs. Vera peal-Weah. Others from various places included Mr. & Mrs. Stephen Kpou from the PA Chapter, Mr. & Mrs. F. Amadu Sirleaf and family, and Dr. Bennie D. Warner, who provided the keynote Address.

The following interim officers, Mr. Emmett Fiawoo, General Secretary, Mr. Stephen A. Sawyer, Deputy Secretary, Mrs. Vera Peal-Weah, Secretary, and Mr. Daniel R. Henri, Treasurer, were elected to coordinate the efforts for the formation of a National BWI Alumni Association and for the convening of the first national convention. On January 11, 1992, the General Secretary, Mr. Emmett Fiawoo convened a meeting in Newark, New Jersey at the then

famous DEKONTE Social Club operate by another BWI Alumnus, Mr. Patrick Blake. Discussions for the first national convention and other matters were held at this gathering. The following chapters were in attendance: Rhode Island, Washington, DC, and the host chapter, NY/NJ. Mr. Alexander Massey was elected to chair the Constitution Committee and the first convention was scheduled for June 27, 1992 in Providence, Rhode Island.

At our first Annual Convention & Founders' Day gathering in 1992 in Providence, Rhode Island, we had five registered chapters and observers in attendance. The organization has since grown to thirteen chapters with an ongoing effort to establish several new chapters in various states. The organization is open to all graduates, former students, faculty, staff, administrators, and friends of BWI. The major goal is to fulfill our commitment to our alma mater by doing everything possible to keep the legacy of BWI alive.

The association has been very busy in the life of BWI in Liberia. Several financial projects have been undertaken in Liberia including the restoration of facilities on the school campus, assistance with the salaries and expenses of the school, provision of scholarships to deserving students at the school, Financial assistance to the BWI Alumni Association in Liberia, identification of scholarships at various US institutions for Liberians in BWI graduates, and, many other ongoing efforts. A Reconstruction Trust Fund, The R. Vanjah Richards Reconstruction Trust Fund, which was launched in 1991, is still active and open to contributions from the BWI family and the public in general.

BRIEF HISTORY OF BOOKER WASHINGTON INSTITUTE (BWI)

The establishment of the Booker Washington Agricultural & Industrial Institute of Liberia was a dream come true for the late president of the Republic of Liberia, Charles Dunbar Burgess King. During an official visit to the United States of America in 1924, President King was asked by a reporter to name any thing of significance that he would like to take back to his country. The President said, " If it were possible I would like to take Tuskegee Institute with me to Liberia." Even though it was not physically possible to transplant Tuskegee Institute of the United States to Liberia, President King's dream of a Tuskegee type institution in Liberia was fulfilled in 1929. In 1924, the year in which President King visited the United States, Ms. Olivia Phelps-Stokes, an American Philanthropist expressed her desire to finance an educational institution somewhere in Africa to be named in honor of Booker T. Washington, embracing the educational philosophy of Booker T. Washington, that of educating the mind, heart and hands. An educational concept, which involved theoretical and practical concept of learning.

The Phelps-Stokes Foundation was authorized to research the possibility of establishing an institution in Africa to fulfill the desire of philanthropist Olivia Phelps-Stokes. One of the researchers was James Longstreet Sibley, who later became the first principal of the Booker Washington Institute in Liberia. Researchers found out that President C. D. B. King had expressed his desire to take Tuskegee Institute with him to Liberia, which was founded on the educational philosophy of Booker T. Washington, in whose honor Ms. Olivia Phelps-Stokes would like to name the institution. Based upon the result of the study, Liberia was the first country targeted for the establishment of a Tuskegee type institution.

After few visits to Liberia by the Phelps-Stokes delegation to negotiate with the Liberian Government, amicable agreement was reached between Phelps-Stokes Fund and the Republic of Liberia to establish the Booker Washington Agricultural and Industrial Institute in Kakata, Liberia. The agreement

stipulated, among cardinal points, that the government of the Republic of Liberia will donate land upon which the institution would be built and US\$5,000 per year for ten years and Phelps-Stokes fund would budget an initial amount to finance beginning construction. In fulfillment of the commitment of the Government of Liberia to the agreement, 1000 acres of land was donated in Kakata, 41 miles from Monrovia, the capital of Liberia. The Phelps-Stokes foundation made an initial grant of \$10,000. In March, 1929, ground was broken in Kakata, where the Sibley Monument is presently located establishing what we know today as the Booker Washington Agricultural & Industrial Institute (BWI for short), our reverend Alma Mater. James Longstreet Sibley was named the first principal by the then Board of Trustees.

Principals Of BWI

- | | |
|-------------------------------|-----------|
| 1. James Longstreet Sibley | 1929 |
| 2. Louise P. Clinton (Acting) | 1929-1931 |
| 3. F. E. Charleston | 1931-1932 |
| 4. Fred G. Lessure | 1932-1934 |
| 5. Harold Bare (Acting) | 1934-1936 |

6. Claude Rupel (Acting)	1936-1939
7. Paul Rupel (Acting)	1939-1941
8. B. B. Coefield (Acting)	1941-1942
9. R. L. Embree	1942-1946
10. Waiter C. Wynn	1946-1952
11. William A. Hill (Acting)	1952-1953
12. Bernard F. Coleman (Acting)	1953-1955
13. George L. Smith	1955-1957
14. Moses K. Weefur, Sr.	1957-1972
15. Samuel J. Mentee	1972-1974
16. F. Amadu Sirleaf, Sr.	1974-1980
17. Harry Nayou	1980-1981
18. Daniel Jappah	1981-1984
19. T. Kudah Jarrett	1984-1990
20. F. Amadu Sirleaf, Sr.	1995-1996
21. Mulbah Jackollie	1996 -

***Copyright © 2000 - Home Of The BWI
Alumni Association Of North America - Joe
Flomo Matthew-Webmaster***



Professor Molly Mavis and Students of the BWI Electrical Shop



Radio Shop Professor and Students in Class



Business Administration Students in Computer Class



INTRANCE TO BWI CAMPUS



**STATUE OF PRESIDENT TUBMAN ON BWI
CAMPUS**



**STATUE OF PRESIDENT CHARLES D. B.
KING ON BWI CAMPUS**



COLLEGE OF BWI UNDER CONSTRUCTION



**DINNING HALL AND AUDITORIUM ON BWI
CAMPUS**



**STUDENTS AT THE FRESHMAN GIRLS
DOMITORY**

Enrollment at the Booker Washington Institute for academic 2006-2007 will top about 1000 students. Disclosing this in a telephone interview, the Registrar of BWI Ms. Gail Pony said of the number, about 300 to 500 are Freshmen. This number represents a huge increase compared to years past. Anticipating such an increase on campus, she disclosed that the BWI Alumni Association in Liberia is now negotiating with the UN military mission (UNIMIL) residing in the boys dormitories so as to provide additional living quarters, especially for the boys. Currently, UNIMIL occupies the entire boys dormitories, while the boys are residing in one of the girls dormitories. Ms. Pony said that the number of UNIMIL personnel have decreased, yet are still occupying the entire boys dormitories. She hopes UNIMIL will provide the necessary spaces for the boys.