

**BOOKER WASHINGTON INSTITUTE NATIONAL ALUMNI ASSOCIATION OF
NORTH AMERICA**

**REPORT OF THE NATIONAL PRESIDENT'S TRIP TO
TUSKEGEE, ALABAMA, USA**

**A. Zaccheus Payne, National President / BWINAANA
9/23/2012**

The National President, A. Zaccheus Payne left Minnesota on Friday, September 14, 2012 for Atlanta, Georgia. The Principal of BWI Mr. Mulbah Jackollie and BWINAANA Maryland Chapter President John Fahnbutu joined me in Atlanta for the final journey to Tuskegee, Alabama.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES OF VISIT

Goals:

1. To be part of discussion aimed at fostering the already existing trilateral relationships among Tuskegee University, Phelps Strokes Foundation and the Booker Washington Institute with the goal of enhancing staff development program in preparation for the Booker Washington Institute of Technology (BWIT); and,
2. To be a part of the already existing discussion between the Maryland Chapter of the BWINAANA and Phelps Strokes Foundation for the construction of a Phelps Strokes Educational Resource Center (PESRC) on BWI. The BWI Administration and BWINAANA National body played a major role in this discussion guaranteeing / making known their approval of the project, supports, commitments and involvement in the project.

Objectives:

1. To negotiate with Tuskegee University through its President Dr. Gilbert L. Rochon for training of academic, industrial and technical professors at the Master levels or above for BWIT (Phase One);
2. To assess the implications of studying at Tuskegee University such as fees / tuitions, tenure, cost of living and other conditions associated with the studies in preparation of the capacity building proposal for BWIT;
3. To discuss the methodology of identifying potential granters to fund the capacity building process (Manpower development, infrastructure and specialized tools and industrial heavy duty equipment) for BWIT; and
4. To confirm approval of the BWINAANA National and BWI Adm. for the construction of PESRC on BWI and formalize their support and commitment to the project.

Arrival:

The BWI delegation comprising of Principal Mulbah Jackollie, BWINAANA National President A. Zaccheus Payne and BWINAANA Maryland Chapter President John Fahnbutu arrived on the campus of the Tuskegee University, Tuskegee, AL at 8:00pm

local time on Friday, September 14, 2012. The delegation was met on arrival by Dr. Thierno Thiam, Special Assistant to the TU President for Global Initiatives.

Date	Activities	Outcome(s)	Comments/Tasks
Saturday, 15-Sept-12 12:300 pm	Met with Dr. Rochon, President TU and Robin Washington Banks (Great Granddaughter of Booker T. Washington), photograph, toured campus and initiated informal discussion.	President & staff very receptive; Robin accepted the invitation to be part of the BWINAANA Dallas Convention.	
Saturday, 15-Sept-12 2:15pm	Met with President Rochon and Retired Col. Charles Williams, Chairman Tuskegee University Board of Trustee	Chairman received the delegation with delight. When will the bill creating BWIT will be approved	President and Chairman await passage of bill creating BWIT in January before any action or commitment
Saturday, 15-Sept-12 4:00pm	Recreation: Golden Tigers of Tuskegee University Vs Lee University	Golden Tigers won 49 : 17	
Sunday, 16-Sept-12 11:00am	Met with Pape Samb, President / CEO Phelps Strokes Foundation. We were formally introduced by the President of TU	Mr. Samb was receptive and said he glad to meet with us especially with the national leadership involved this time.	
Sunday, 16-Sept-12 1:00pm	Had lunch at the President resident along with Mr. Pape Samb and Ambassadors of Global Youth Initiative	Fruitful round table discussion amongst the parties: BWI, BWINAANA, PSF and TU	
Sunday, 16-Sept-12 9:00pm	Meeting with Phelps Strokes President / CEO to discuss about the Phelps Strokes Educational Resource Center (PSERC) on BWI exclusively	All parties (BWI Adm., BWINAANA National, BWINAANA-MDC and PSF) re-pledged commitment to the project	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. BWI Adm. to ensure the availability of land. 2. BWINAANA (Maryland & National) to develop project proposal including drawing and estimated cost. 3. BWI family (Adm. & Alumni Assoc.) to provide manpower for construction
Monday, 17-Sept-12 9:00 am	Final meeting to summarize everything	MOU documenting each party role and commitment to the PSERC project. Further negotiation relative to staff training awaits the final passage of the bill in January, 2013.	

OBSERVATIONS AND SUGGESTIONS:

The visit to Tuskegee University (TU) was aimed at rejuvenating the long standing relationship between BWI and TU dating as far back as 1924. The warm receptions from the president, Dr. Rochon, Mayor Omar Neal – Mayor of Tuskegee and key staff members of TU symbolized their enthusiasms to maintain the relationship with BWI. TU tends to offer excellent opportunities for initiating the development of Administrative and technical staff for BWIT owing to her reasonable tuition and fees and ideal emphases on training the head, the heart and the hands – the center goal of BWI education. Exchange of professional staff on a short-term basis was part of the discussion.

There is a need for follow-up visit to concretize the relationship, develop and sign the memorandum of understanding (MOU). The MOU will detail fees / tuition payment plans, contributions of parties to the MOU, techniques of recruitment of would-be staff members for the college, locating of funding, phase-out strategies, among others.

The identification of sources of funding is where the Phelps Stokes Foundation comes in. While funding is indeed a challenge, the PSF guaranteed that with the passage of the bill creating the BWIT in January, 2013 and the preparation of a relevant proposal, she will prevail on some of her donor partners such as USAID and other granters to support the initiative.

However, a follow-up trip with PSF in order to sign the MOU relative to starting the construction of PSERC on BWI was agreed on and modality, venue and schedule for such meeting is being worked out and discussed. Let it be known that this is a work in progress.

Submitted by: *A. Zaccheus Payne*

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National President / BWINAANA

