

Societies Offer Blacks More Than Jobs

By Teresa Williams
Ink Staff Writer

From journalism to nursing, black students at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill are realizing the importance of belonging to pre-professional societies. These societies are often the niche that students are looking for, providing not only internship possibilities, but even more important, a support network made up of their peers.

Toni Hale, a senior business administration major from Westbury, NY, is just one of a growing number of black students on campus who belong to such organizations. A member of the Black Business Student Alliance since her freshman year, Hale said the organization has provided her with the opportunity to experience learning outside of a classroom setting.

"It's different to be black and be in the Business School to begin with," Hale said. "You have different experiences, so having the opportunity to share those experiences with young people and to network is great."

Currently, there are six minority pre-professional societies that black students can turn to in order to come together with others in their respective fields for academic and social support.

The following is a brief synopsis of these organizations and what organization members say about them.

Black Business Student Alliance (BBSA)

The Black Business Student Alliance is an organization for minority undergraduates who are interested in business, economics, or industrial economics. BBSA president Carlos Pauling said the alliance provides "an outlet for all black business students to have something to identify with."

Unlike other business organizations on campus on campus, BBSA allows its members to be a part of a smaller group that caters directly to their needs as blacks striving to be a part of the business world.

"This is an extra bonus," said Pauling, a junior business major from Homewood, Ill. Pauling said that BBSA members function as a family. They depend on each other for advice, which has been one of Pauling's biggest benefits from the BBSA.

In addition to advising younger members as to what business teachers are most helpful, and what course combinations are best, older members serve as experienced models. The BBSA provides study groups, tutoring sessions and a quiz file for academic aid. Any student interested in joining BBSA can contact Carlos Pauling or BBSA adviser Jeff Cannon at 962-3027.

Pre-Professional Health Society

The Pre-Professional Health Society was formed to provide

students an awareness of different health careers. It also functions as a means of fellowship for its members.

Third-year student and society president Brian Massey, says that he has benefitted most from the organization "by developing leadership skills, and organizational abilities."

Meanwhile, William Evans, a first-year student and secretary of the society says that his biggest benefit has been developing communication skills. Evans also said that once you join the society you meet so many others in the same field of study. The Pre-Professional Health Society meets at 6 p.m. every other Wednesday in the Sonja H. Stone Black Cultural Center. Anyone interested can attend a meeting or contact Brian Massey at 914-3523.

Black Law Student Association (BLSA)

The Black Law Student Association is an organization, which functions to provide academic and social support for black students enrolled in UNC's law school. Third-year law student and BLSA member, Michael Mitchell said that through BLSA, a student feels that he or she belongs at the law school.

"It is a cohesive unit for black students to feel at home," he said. "There are obstacles and problems confronting black students that whites don't understand."

With some black students feeling excluded, BLSA tries to help students adjust to the rigorous demands of the school. Each year, the organization sponsors an annual Minority Law Day, a Spring Cabaret and an Open House. Any interested students enrolled in law school can contact Michael Mitchell at 966-2560.

Carolina Association of Black Journalists (CABJ)

The purpose of CABJ is to promote Journalism as a career for black students. An organization such as this one is necessary because it "gives [minorities] a chance to see other minorities who are already in the field," said Melchee Tate, a



BBSA PRESIDENT CARLOS PAULING

senior journalism major and president of CABJ.

Through the organization, future journalists are introduced to available opportunities for blacks in such careers as news-editorial, advertising, broadcasts and public relations.

In addition to an annual Black Alumni Banquet the organization sponsors each year, CABJ also sponsors speakers, workshops and job fairs, which provide journalism students with the opportunity to make contacts in their fields of study.

Through her involvement with CABJ, Tate said she has gained a better perspective on what she as a black person can do. The people with whom she has come in contact as a result of her membership in the organization, have given her various words of wisdom that she's now ready to take out into the world.

Tate suggests that students who are just slightly interested in journalism, should get involve with CABJ. All interested students can contact Melchee Tate or the Journalism school office at 962-4080.

School of Public Health Minority Student Caucus

There are so few minority students in the School of Public Health, and for this reason there needs to be some form of academic and social support for those students. The School of Public Health Minority Student Caucus provides such support.

Monica Bynoe, who will graduate from the School of Public Health this year, serves as president of the caucus. Bynoe said that during their two years in the School of Public Health, minority students can easily get frus-

trated "with the way the larger system is handling minority issues." As a result of these frustrations, Bynoe said, "The Caucus provides a forum for which things can be changed."

To join the School of Public Health Minority Student Caucus, interested undergraduate and graduate students are asked to contribute \$5 and \$10 per year, respectively. The caucus meets every two weeks.

UNC Association of Minority Student Nurses

The Association of Minority Student Nurses provides minority students with a common awareness of health care issues.

Makeba Booker, who is president of the association, realizes the importance of support among association members. Booker, a last year nursing student, said that the few minorities in the Nursing School need to support each other.

Currently, of the 250 students, only 15 of them are minorities. Those who belong to the association help each other through study sessions by serving as role models for each other and by being mentors.

Booker said that some of her greatest benefits from being involved with the Association have been study session and internships. She said that it is important for minorities to express their interest in nursing school early.

Anyone who is interested in the UNC Association of Minority Student Nurses can contact Dr. Lorna Harris in Carrington Hall at 966-7768.

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