

Leaders reflect on BSM's evolution

Presidents gather for 40th anniversary

BY ANTHONY MCPEEK
STAFF WRITER

The Black Student Movement brought 16 of its about 40 former presidents back to campus for a Saturday luncheon to reflect on the organization's past and to talk about its future role.

The presidents' lunch and forum Saturday, along with a formal banquet later, was part of BSM's 40th anniversary celebrations.

Including the presidents, about 75 current and past BSM members attended the luncheon in the Upendo Room, said Racine Peters, BSM vice president.

"This is the first time this has ever been done by the BSM," Peters said of the two events. "It speaks very highly of the strength of our network."

In the first half of the luncheon, the presidents talked about what had been most memorable during their time as BSM leaders.

The experiences of the different presidents told an evolving story of BSM spanning generations.

Cureton Johnson, president from 1969-70, talked about facing the Chapel Hill police and the National Guard when it came to campus during the BSM-led 1969 food service workers' strike.

He said most of the members in the original group of PSM probably

didn't want to come back to campus because of their experiences.

Gloria Shealey, co-president from 1975-76, talked about the difficulty of getting funding for the organization.

"You would think that we were going to the government to get federal dollars to be shipped over to Iraq or somewhere," she said of the complex funding process.

Securing funding is still an issue for the organization. Archie Ervin, BSM's adviser and associate provost for diversity and multicultural affairs, brought up the subject of the group's dwindling funding, which decreased from \$30,000 to \$13,000 per year in the past decade, members said.

Kristi Booker, president from 2001-02, said BSM alumni would be willing to help out as much as possible. "We would love to hear from you and be as involved as you need us to be," she said.

When it was current president Derek Sykes' time to share his experiences, he said he felt honored and almost unqualified to be there.

Changing the direction of the meeting, Jacqueline Lucas, president from 1976-77, posed the question of whether BSM as an independent organization is still needed.

"It's almost like the BSM and the issues we go through are cyclical," she said, adding that the organization



Former BSM presidents, including John Bradley (left), Lindsay Reed and Gloria Shealey, met on Saturday to celebrate BSM's 40th anniversary.

would always be necessary as long as America's dominant culture does not treat minority cultures equitably.

All participants seemed to agree that an organization like the BSM is still crucial for UNC.

Rena McPherson, president of BSM before Sykes, said the organization still helps serve as a watchdog.

In 1968, BSM stirred campus when it made 22 demands to the University administration. Those included creating a Department of African- and Afro-American Studies and dropping the SAT

requirement for black students.

Brandon Hodges, president from 2005-06, said the group could not be limited to the original 22 demands it made.

He also said the luncheon Saturday was his most memorable moment with BSM because he finally met the people who helped make UNC better for black students.

"I'm going to remember this forever," he said.

Contact the University Editor at udesk@unc.edu

County implements outdoor burning ban

BY JEFF WOODALL
STAFF WRITER

In reaction to the widespread drought, Orange County has placed a ban on outdoor burning.

The ban was created in response to a statewide statute regarding outdoor burning.

The N.C. Division of Forest Resources called for a statewide open-burning ban Feb. 14, along with the cancellation of all burning permits. Under the new law, no burning is allowed 100 feet or more from an occupied dwelling.

The statute was put in place after 423 fires across the state the weekend of Feb. 8 resulted in the destruction of 10,146 acres.

Orange County reacted to the statute by banning all fires, regardless of distance from a building.

If caught violating the law, residents will have to pay a \$100 fine and an additional \$120 in court fees.

Orange County Fire Marshal Mike Tapp said dry conditions were a factor in creating a stricter ban.

"We have a lot of homes in the county that are in highly wooded areas," Tapp said. "That makes the potential for property destruction really high when cold fronts are continually coming through with high winds."

Along with the dry conditions that assist in fast-spreading fires, the lack of the county's water resources is also a concern when considering the potential for local fires. Many rural fire departments use ponds and other local sources

for water.

"All it takes is a little spark with there being no moisture anywhere, and we just don't have the water to fight fires," said Braxton Foushee, secretary for the Orange Water and Sewer Authority board of directors.

Additional provisions to the state law include that no campfires or bonfires be used even if there is a metal or stone ring and that no leaves, branches or any other plant material be burned.

The Orange County Fire Marshal's Office stresses that residents should take precautionary steps to alleviate the possibility of starting a fire and letting it spread.

"People should keep leaves and other dry debris at least 30 feet away from their homes and businesses," Tapp said.

Certain businesses might be burdened by the inability to burn certain items.

"Certainly contractors will be hurt, with chipping being a more expensive way to clear land, and farmers could be affected in similar ways," said Brian Haines, the public information officer for the N.C. Division of Forest Resources.

Haines said the ban will be lifted only after the dry conditions end and water tables return to normal.

Contact the City Editor at citydesk@unc.edu

Fundraiser aims to provide clean water

BY JAKE RATLIFF
STAFF WRITER

The 16th annual Triangle Water for Life Event brought local philanthropists together Saturday to help provide clean water to the developing world.

Proceeds from the event went to WaterPartners International, a nonprofit organization co-founded and directed by UNC alumnus Gary White.

"Every seven seconds, one person in the world dies because of unsafe water," White said.

WaterPartners International does not just dig wells for villages in developing countries — it also coordinates with the villages to which it provides facilities, said

Steven Byers, director of development and communications for the organization.

"The cornerstone of what we're all about is sustainability," he said.

WaterPartners teaches the villages in which they set up safe water systems to manage their new resource by electing committees for themselves to maintain the wells and treatment facilities.

Byers added that WaterPartners requires that women take part in the process, empowering them in what are traditionally male-dominated societies.

"We take it for granted. We turn on the spigot, and it comes out," said Pat Garner, an attendee who won a piece of artwork in the

auction.

"It makes you feel good to be surrounded by people who understand this problem."

Since its founding in 1990, the organization has provided safe water facilities to 165,000 people in the developing world, 100 percent of which are still working today, said Mark Elliot, volunteer chairman of the planning committee for the Water for Life Event.

"It's something that just ought to be done," Byers said. "We're not talking about having water pumped into their house, just water available to be accessed."

Charlie Engels, a UNC alumnus and extreme runner who traversed


4,500 miles across the Sahara Desert in 111 days, spoke at the event to help raise awareness.

"What I like about water is I can see it, feel it and taste it — and I can see the results of what I've done to help," he said.

Engels and his run across the Sahara are featured in a documentary produced by Matt Damon that is scheduled for release in May.

The fundraiser was held at the Carolina Club and featured a dinner, a raffle and an auction of donated items. WaterPartners will host another event today in Charlotte.

Contact the State & National Editor at stntdesk@unc.edu



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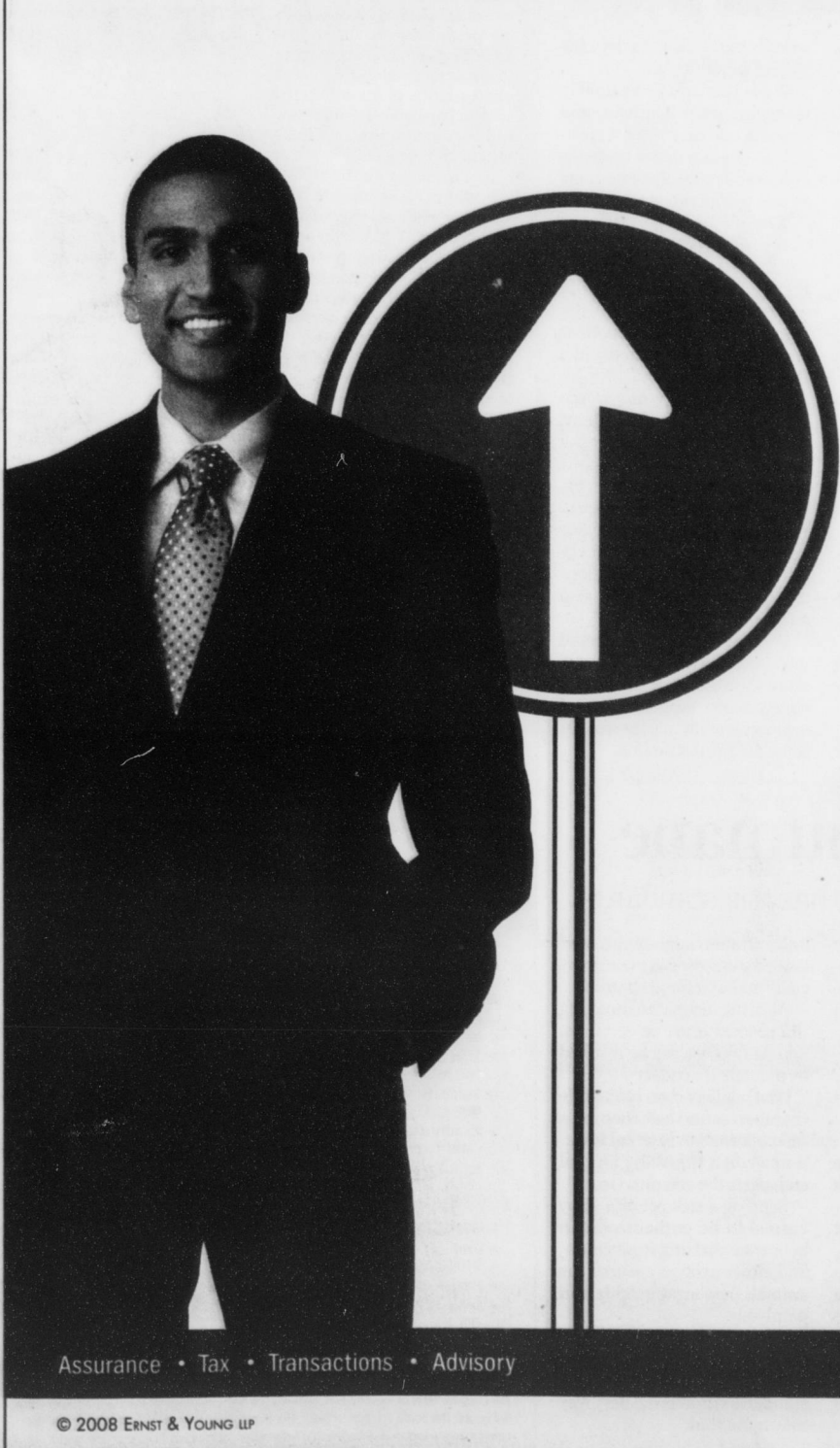
Celebrate Peace Corps

Join Peace Corps Deputy Director Jody Olsen in celebrating Peace Corps Week and honoring the over 1,000 UNC alumni that have served as Peace Corps Volunteers.

Monday, February 25

Class of 2000 Lounge
Student Center
UNC - Chapel Hill
12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m.

For more information, contact:
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