

Tracy African American Association Newsletter



****Education is a brick for
“Building the Dream”**

New Officers

TAAA officers were sworn in by City Manager, Leon Churchill, Jan. 7th at the TAAA installation ceremony. The officers were charged with carrying on the goals of the Tracy African American Association. The message of leaning on each other for guidance and support was conveyed. Reliance on each other fosters a stronger organization and community.



*From Left to right:

Membership Chairperson

Frew Tibebe was born and raised in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. He currently works as a real estate professional, and serves as a volunteer board member for Ethiopia Reads, an organization that strives to develop a reading culture in Ethiopia.

Juneteenth Chairperson

Nate Terry is the Sales Manager with Imara Mortgage and Realty in Tracy and a Public Relations Manager for his church, St. Matthews Baptist Church in Livermore, CA.

Education Chairperson

Paul Hall is Director Student Services and Curriculum, Tracy Unified School District, 2007-Current.

Vice President

Pastor James Young Sr. is founder and pastor of His Image Ministries, in Tracy, CA. He is also the Northern California Regional Director of the Shield of Faith Fellowship of Churches.

*Extended biographies can be viewed at our web site www.taaa.net
** BSU theme for the MLK Breakfast

Activities Chairperson

Serena Ivey-Gizaw is a native New Yorker, now residing in San Joaquin County. Serena is active in the Modesto chapter of the Make a Wish Foundation, as well as a participant in the Ethiopian Read Project.

Former Education Chair
Margie Forehand has
assembled a Martin
Luther King Exhibit at
the Tracy Library.



Going to College

A Message for our young folks.

Going to college is not boring. Going to college is not nerdy. Going to college is not just for the other kids. College is for every student. It will give you a broader foundation for any vocation you may want to tackle.

A college degree is a public declaration of your potential. This is an academic demonstration that you have what it takes to adjust to the various challenges employers are facing globally. College shows your potential for adding to the financial success of any company.

Students need to know college is the starting point every employer understands and can use as a common denominator. Companies will hire people who are capable of keeping up with the most current skills, technologies, and procedures that will help their company stay competitive. College graduates are hired because they are trained and they can be trained further within a corporate structure. College graduates are ranked high on the hiring list.

A high school diploma is one tool for the future. A college degree will give you instrumentation to handle business of the future.

Going to college is not boring, it is exciting. Going to college is not nerdy, it is a smart move. Going to College is not just for other kids. College is for all high school students who want to be part of the landscape of the future.

**Monthly Meetings are: George Kelly Elementary School
Time : First Saturday of the Month 8:30AM-10:30AM
Voice Mail (209) 249 6644
Check Web Site Last Minute Changes**

Visit Our Web Site www.taaa.net

Education is a thread in the fabric of success.

Reflections of TAAA Through the Eyes of Mr. Tolbert Young

Tolbert Young, reflects on his early memories with the Tracy African American Association. The first time I went to a TAAA meeting was at Howard Bakers house. Other times we met at the Sutter Tracy Community Hospital. In the early days there was no main meeting location. The other members that I met was Jimmy Atkins, Lee Nelson, Gail and Mel LaGasca. There were more but the names do not come to me at this moment.

Many of the original members of the association no longer live in Tracy. Many of the folks have gone different ways so it would be nice to get them together. So many people have moved out of the area. We are a mobile society. This has an effect on communities as well as organizations such as the TAAA.

One of the things that was done in the beginning was to liaison with the BSUs West and Tracy High schools. One of TAAA's main goal was to tutor students. I wanted to tutor students in math and sciences. However the tutoring program did not get off the ground. Hence the formation of the scholarship program took center stage.

Of the many programs that TAAA wanted to implement, awarding scholarships to high school seniors became our priority.

The TAAA Juneteenth celebration event, did not get started in the beginning. We were feeling our way around trying to decide the different directions to go. Many of us came from other states like Louisiana and Texas where Juneteenth was a big celebration. So we decided to use it as a cultural component of the TAAA. This celebration is one that can be shared with the whole community.

The Juneteenth project took a lot of time. We were also trying to grow as the organization. Trying to develop different cultural events such as Kwanza and fund raisers. We wanted to do more work than we had people to handle it.

The TAAA started going to Oakland Coliseum to work the concession stands. This was one of the first fund raising events to fund our scholarships. All the members that participated left energetically in the morning and came back in the evening very tired. Working the concession stands is really hard work. The members still had to go to their jobs Monday morning.

Coming Events

- **Juneteenth on June 9, 2012 - Dr. Powers Park**

Tolbert Young

Retired from the Army after earning his B.A. and M.S. degrees during his 20 years of service. He also worked 15 years with the NRC as a Nuclear Engineer.



Feedback From Austin King Jr.



Austin King, recipient of a 2011 TAAA scholarship offers some insights to his initial freshmen term at San Jose State.

Communication skills are a must in the college arena. Many of the classes have computer related aspects to their courses. You may have to take part of the course work on line. Some classes have all their lectures on line.

There may be some team work involved with some assignments and the only way to communicate with the other students on your team is on line. Many are taking the same class some may be assigned that class in early morning other may have the same class at night.

Knowledge of both MAC and PC is needed. Course work may be delivered in both forms and it is up to the student to disseminate the material in the manner the course demands. Microsoft Office components are used. Word, Excel, Power Point are required for completing assignments.

Other computer programs may also come into play depending on your major. The engineering major has a requirement for the use of a CAD program. (computer aided design)

Staying focused is more important than anything. Choosing a schedule and staying with it. Knowing your goals and staying on target with assignments.

Good communications skills, computer productivity and staying focused are standards that freshman should bring to the college table.

Visit Our Web Site www.taaa.net

Use the internet to connect to the Tracy Unified School District. Your child's future is at your finger tips. You can verify your child's requirements on line from home, work, or on the road. <http://www.tracy.k12.ca.us/Pages/MainHomePage.aspx>

