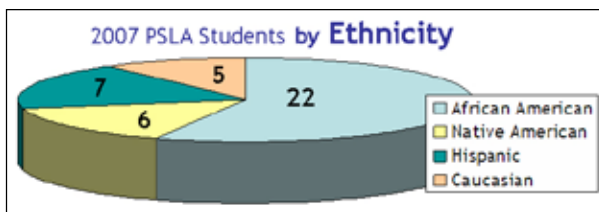




Academy Ends on High Note, Adds New Mentors

PSLA 2007 was an enormous success, due in large part to generous donations from our many sponsors and outstanding support from our host, Dean Fred Siegel and his superb George Washington University staff. GWU's Mount Vernon Campus, located in the center of Washington, DC, was the ideal venue for the Academy. It allowed easy access to a variety of educational tours and offered the tranquility of a small campus environment.

This year, forty exceptional students graduated from the Academy. The class represented 24 academic institutions from across the nation. Our already impressive curriculum was enhanced by excellent presentations by our sponsors, noted educators, former students and volunteers. The class also enjoyed tours of DC and visits to Capitol Hill and Mount Vernon.



We offer particular thanks to those supporters, sponsors and alumni who joined us for our Academy *special events*. During the *Leadership & Mentoring Roundtable*, Jeniffer Harper-Taylor, Vice President, Siemens Foundation, expressed the essence of our Academy objectives—challenging the scholars “to prepare now to lead, and don’t let anyone outwork you.” Echoing similar views, our *PSLA Career Day* host, Willie Tate, Bank of America Senior Account Manager, encouraged each student to take advantage of the Academy experience, saying, “You will meet people at the Leadership Academy who will willingly help you prepare to enter the workforce.” A host of other guest speakers and presenters continually reinforced their sentiments throughout the Academy.

We were especially delighted to have many former interns join us again this year. Hosting the *Alumni Luncheon*, sponsored by former interns, Howard Jean, '04 PSLA, commented, “We are pleased to give back to the Academy. Your support to us continues to make a difference in our lives.”

Our mentoring efforts continue to improve. This year we added several new mentors to the PSLA Mentoring Network. Students left the residential academy with an assigned mentor, committed to supporting them throughout the coming year and beyond. While welcoming the students and guests to the Bank of America-sponsored *Scholarship Dinner*, Joe Johnson, Director, Bank of America Private Bank, reiterated his organization’s support of PSLA, stating, “Bank of America is proud to be part

2007 Mentors

Tracey Armstrong, CIBER Corporation
 Gen George Bowman, US Army Retired
 Dr. Phyllis Buchanan, DuPont
 Carl Butler, USDA
 Esan Eakter, Enlightened Corporation
 Antwayne Ford, Enlightened Corporation
 Anita Heinrich, Enlightened Corporation
 Benita Hodge, USDA
 Erica Holloway, MTS Technologies
 Timothy Howell, Tyson Foods
 Howard Jean, Call Me Mister Graduate
 Roz Jeffries, PEG, Inc.
 Joe Johnson, Bank of America
 Dr. Janice Kelly, Columbia University
 Barbara Knight, DuPont
 Dr. Earnestine Psalmonds, National
 Science Foundation
 Andre Rogers, Enlightened Corporation
 Jeanette Simon, DuPont
 Willie Tate, Bank of America
 Mulenga Tembo, ViewSet Corporation
 Natalie Tracy, US Army



PSLA Class of '07

continued on page 2

ACADEMY ENDS ON HIGH NOTE, ADDS NEW MENTORS*continued from page 1*

of this great program and I look forward to being a member of the mentoring network.”

During the annual PSLA *Business Etiquette Dinner*, the Alliance Partners gave our **2007 Leadership Award** to Enlightened Corporation for their long time support to PSLA. In presenting the award, GEN (Ret) George Bowman, Alliance Board Member, thanked Antwayne Ford and Andre Rodgers, Enlightened executives, “for going above and beyond the call of duty to develop tomorrow’s leaders.” Accepting the honor, Ford acknowledged, “PSLA is the best investment we can make for our company. We are proud to be part of and totally committed to this outstanding program.”



Antwayne Ford, President, Enlightened, Jim Paige, Executive Director, PSLA, and Andre Rodgers, CFO, Enlightened

Again this year, we welcomed additional universities and scholars from affiliated programs to include the College Assisted Migrant Program (CAMP), Minorities in Agriculture Natural Resources & Related Sciences (MANRRS), and the Thurgood Marshall College Fund (TMCf). Kristen Thin Elk, Sinte Gleska University, commented, “PSLA is a wonderful program and is really needed in the Native American community.” Similarly, Loyd McClary, TMCf scholar, shared his thoughts: “PSLA is a great experience for me. This far exceeded my expectations and definitely prepares me to enter the national workforce.”

As in past years, the *final project* was an excellent summary and corroboration of the curriculum objectives—teamwork, innovation and critical thinking. Working in small groups, students developed a business plan and marketing strategy for a “new product” for each of our major sponsors—DuPont, Pioneer Hi-Bred, Enlightened and Siemens Foundation. Serving as chairperson for the PSLA Senior Review Panel, Artencia Hawkins-Bell, Raytheon Corporation, said, “This is a great exercise for the students. We can give them real world feedback on their work—just what they will need in the workplace.”

On graduation night, Steven Couch, MANRRS scholar, speaking on behalf of his fellow classmates, thanked the PiE Alliance Partners: “We are all so very thankful for what you are doing for us; our goal is to make you proud of us as we become the leaders of the 21st century.”

In closing this year’s Academy, Alliance Partner Dr. Phyllis Buchanan encouraged each scholar to “build on the Academy experience and prepare today to lead tomorrow.” She thanked all the supporters, sponsors and volunteers, commenting, “This year’s class was the best ever and we look forward to 2008.”

—COL Jim Paige, Executive Director, PSLA

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COL (Ret) Jim Paige	Nancy McKeithen	Roz Jeffries	Janise Harrell
Dr. Phyllis Buchanan	Ben Strole	Howard Jean	Joseph Stafford
	Ashley Wells		

Bowne & Company Supports PSLA

By BEN STROLE

2007 PSLA Team Leader

This year, the Pioneer Student Leadership Academy received a generous financial donation from Bowne and Company, a multibillion dollar, international financial, marketing and business communications firm that services customers around the globe.

In a phone interview during the Academy, Wendell Sherrell, Bowne’s Senior Director of Human Resources, discussed a variety of topics, including his views on leadership, mentoring and the company’s decision to support PSLA. Sherrell opened the interview by sharing his philosophy on the value of supporting leaders. “Developing and mentoring young leaders is always a good return on our investment,” he said. “As the 21st century workforce changes, corporations need a new pipeline of talent to compete on the world stage.”



Wendell Sherrell

Regarding advice he would give to students who are preparing to be future leaders, he said that it’s critical for people to leverage their strengths and weaknesses in every aspect of their lives. In doing this, they should focus on the things they do well, and concentrate on and develop their passions. “Students should take full advantage of the opportunities they have to differentiate themselves from the pack,” said Sherrell. He also shared that having a strong spiritual life has been critical in his success.

Though he was unable to attend PSLA in person, Sherrell sent Kai Williams, his Atlanta area HR Manager and Director of Recruiting. She graciously assisted the Academy staff with student registration, logistics and transportation. “Clearly, we benefit from PSLA,” acknowledged Kai. “These are the types of programs and venues where we find new talent for our growing workforce.”

In concluding the interview, Sherrell said that Bowne is committed to supporting innovative programs like the Pioneer Student Leadership Academy and pledged the company’s continued support.

The “Fantastic Five” Leadership Tips

By WASSIM GHANEM
Prairie View A&M University

Hercules Randolph III from the Naval Sea Systems Command, Director of the International Security Assistance Office, said he wishes he'd known at an earlier age about the key lessons that prepare students to enter the workforce and become successful leaders. With over 25 years of professional experience, Randolph offered the '07 PSLA scholars his “Fantastic Five” essentials for success:

1. Be twice as good as your colleague at what you do.
2. Have a plan that guides you to your goal.
3. Learn the art of networking, and build those relationships.
4. Work hard and go beyond the expected to produce work that cannot be refused.
5. Learn continuously.

Raised in South Carolina with a strong work ethic, Randolph cited the importance and influence that mentors had on his values and ambitions. It is his wish to impart the same to students.

As a starting point, Randolph described the link between college majors and employment opportunities at NAVSEA. By sharing with students information on NAVSEA and internship opportunities there, he has already begun to extend himself as the mentor he would like to be.



Hercules Randolph III

Be Ready to Lead

By TALVIN BANKS
St. Paul's College

“Leadership is a full-time job; start preparing today,” said GEN (Ret) George Bowman, PiE Alliance Board Member, to the class during the *Leadership & Mentoring Roundtable*. With 34+ years of military experience, he certainly had a lot to say to the young scholars.

GEN Bowman advised the students to “always shoot ahead of the duck,” a military euphemism for “plan ahead.” Detailed planning, with flawless execution, is a great leadership principle, he shared. “In the workplace, employees expect and deserve good leaders and good leadership,” he continued. “Be ready to lead them.”

Keeping America on Pace

By HERCULES RANDOLPH IV
University of Maryland, Eastern Shore

“America could be left behind in the rippling wake of the Age of Information and Technology.” That was a key message of presenter and long-time PSLA supporter Mulenga Tembo, President and CEO, ViewSet Corporation.



Mulenga Tembo, President, ViewSet, chats with an intern.

Tembo asked the interns about the importance of the boom in technology. A popular answer from the students was Internet blogging and the power invested in people in that format. The discussion ultimately brought to light that America may not be keeping up with its own technological demands, let alone the demands of the global population.

The workshop forced interns to figuratively take a look at their reflections in the potentially blank computer monitors of their futures. Tembo suggested that perhaps it's not that technology is “moving too fast” but that “America is not moving fast enough.” This became even more evident as intern Angel McKnight asked, “But what about the people without access to computers?”

Tembo was accompanied by Steve Yates, ViewSet Technical Director, and Ram Nayak, Summer Intern, whose principal duty is to manage the PiE website (www.pioneersineducation.org).

The Art of Team Building

By ASHLEY WELLS
2007 PSLA Team Leader

“Building the right team for success is an art,” said Dawn Stokes, president and CEO of Texas Driving Experience (TDE), a Dallas-based, multimillion-dollar enterprise. “Our mission is to help corporations build their leadership teams,” she told the interns on the first day of the Academy.



Dawn Stokes

The TDE curriculum is designed to help corporate employees build trust, develop problem-solving skills and, most importantly, learn and appreciate the skills of others. Acknowledging that PSLA has a similar purpose, she challenged the interns to make good use of their time at the Academy.

Stokes was joined by her colleague and long-time PSLA supporter Kevin Paige, of Kevin Paige Art, who told the interns that the Academy is an opportunity to build lifelong friendships. Both advised the class to “stretch your potential to achieve your best.”

Leading in the Real World

By TIMOTHY TRACY
Augusta Technical College

In his presentation to the PSLA on June 7th, Ken Merin, Executive Director of The Charles Hayden Foundation, discussed the challenges of today's world leaders. "Leaders of today," he said, "must act 10 times faster than leaders from the past because of modern technology's ability to accelerate events and network people around the world." He went on to explain how the role of leading relates to each of us—our lives, the cities we live in and our culture.



Ken Merin

"People lead for different reasons," Merin told the group. He questioned us on how we had developed into good leaders, how our community viewed us, and why we had chosen to attend the PSLA. Throughout the workshop, we compared the different types of leaders we had become as we had matured. "Most of us are seen as leaders back home," said Elvia Gonzalez, a 2007 PSLA intern.

Merin told us that as we take on leadership roles, the world around us will influence the ways in which we build our reputations and motivate us in achieving our goals. The challenges we take on in college will help us to develop our leadership skills and expand our understanding of ourselves. In closing, he advised us to make the most of our time at PSLA.

Doing Business the Enlightened Way

By LLOYD McCLARY
South Carolina State University

Enlightened Corporation, a Washington DC-based information technology firm and long-term supporter of the PSLA, shared with the Pioneer interns "how business operates." Led by Ameena Layous and Donna Carter, the presentation covered the full spectrum of doing business, including office management, marketing, operations, human resources and finance. Anita Heinrich, Enlightened Office Manager, gave an overview of the "little things required to make the train run"—parking, keys, access cards, logistics, communications and supplies.

The team, collectively, shared their views on Enlightened's philosophy of loyalty and integrity in all they do. In closing, they encouraged the interns to read *The 48 Laws of Power* by Greene and Elfers.

A Day on Capitol Hill

By KRISTEN THIN ELK
Sinte Gleska University

This year, the PSLA class of 2007 had the opportunity to visit our nation's Capitol. Thanks to the gracious support of US Congresswoman Corrine Brown, we were given a guided tour through key portions of the Capitol complex.

Starting in the Cannon Building, our tour wound through the connecting tunnels and onto the House Floor. We were intrigued by the many artifacts, paintings and sculptures throughout the Capitol. As an American Indian, I was personally touched by the painting of Pocahontas being baptized, with her family standing by her side. I will share that image with members of my tribe.

Since 1852, the Capitol Rotunda has been used as place to pay public tribute to our nation's distinguished leaders. Eleven US presidents, along with Rosa Parks, the third private citizen to be honored there, have lain in state in the Capitol Rotunda.

For a few minutes, we sat in on a session of the House of Representatives. Seeing firsthand how Congress works was an unforgettable experience. A few interns were able to visit with Congresswoman Brown in her office. A Pioneer in Education supporter, she was warm and gracious in welcoming us, and shared her views on a wide range of topics, including the value of education.

