



**News From Black Data Processing Association
Northern Delaware Chapter
2009 Best Managed Chapter
2009 Most Developed Chapter**

In this Issue:

**Six Scholarships
Awarded during the
Northern Delaware
Annual Banquet** Pg 1

Membership Corner Pg 2

**Introducing the
2010-2011 BDPA
Northern Delaware
Board of Directors** Pg 3

**From the Presidents
Desk** Pg 4

**Northern Delaware
IT Showcase
Winners On Tour** Pg 4

**Six Scholarships awarded during the Delaware Annual
Scholarship Fundraiser Banquet and Educational Showcase**

By Karen L. Smith

During the 2nd Annual BDPA Northern Delaware Scholarship Fundraiser Banquet & Educational Showcase six (6) Delaware Students were awarded scholarships based on academic excellence and demonstrated leadership. BDPA Northern Delaware awarded its traditional scholarships to two students this year. The 1st place recipient was Cherise Poole from Pencader Charter High School. The college or university she will attend is not yet decided however she has decided to major in computer engineering in the fall. She has an entrepreneurial spirit and would like to own her own business in the future. Ms. Poole was awarded a \$1000 scholarship. The 2nd place scholarship was awarded to Kirsten Triplett also a Sr. at Pencader Charter High School. Ms. Triplett is still in the college/university selection process. Ms. Triplett was awarded a \$500 scholarship.

Thanks to the generous contribution of the Oracle Corporation and the National BDPA Office a donation of 50,000 has been set aside to award scholarships to students associated with the BDPA Chapters across the United States. Two Delaware students will receive a portion of that scholarship. The two students identified are Frederick Smith III and Whitney Wilson. Frederick has won 1st place in the 2008 and 2009 IT Showcase competition. He is a college sophomore studying Geographical Information Systems. Whitney Wilson is a High School junior at the Charter School of Wilmington and plans to study Bio-Medical Engineering in college. The exact amount of the award will be announced in January 2010.

As a result of a donation from Harbor Consulting, two additional \$500 scholarships were awarded to Naaman Cephas, a freshman at DelTech Community College and Marcus Smith, a junior at Pencader Charter High School. Mr. Cephas won 1st place during the 2009 National High School IT Showcase program and Marcus Smith was the 2nd place winner.

BDPA Northern Delaware remains committed to the goal of advancing careers from the classroom to the boardroom. Donations are already being accepted for the 2010 Scholarships.



James Sills congratulates the winners of the 2009 BDPA Northern Delaware Scholarships. Cherise Poole (right) 1st place winner; Kristen Triplett (left) 2nd place winner.



Dr. Donald French (left) Executive Director National BDPA presents the Oracle Scholarship to Frederick Smith and Whitney Wilson. Also pictured Denise Holland, National BDPA President, Perry Carter, NBOD Member, Karen Smith, BDPA Northern Delaware President



Harbor Consulting sponsored scholarship winners Naaman Cephas (left) and Marcus Smith (second from right) congratulated by the Northern Delaware Chapter President Karen Smith and IT Showcase Advisor/National VP Strategy & Planning Frederick Smith Jr.

BDPA Northern Delaware Membership Corner



Membership has its Benefits!

Given the number of responsibilities that you juggle on a daily basis, joining a professional organization may not be among your top priorities. After all, professional membership often entails get together and what businessperson has time for more meetings and activities?

But such thinking can cause you to miss out on the numerous benefits that membership in a professional association offers. Whether you join an industry specific group or a neighborhood based association, you'll make valuable professional contacts and gain access to a wealth of useful information.

Networking Opportunities.

When you join a professional organization, you'll deepen existing business relationships and make new contacts on a regular basis. Such networking goes beyond the exchange of business cards. As you attend periodic meetings, become active on a committee or take a prominent leadership role, you'll forge lasting ties with others who have common professional interests and similar business concerns.

Every 2nd Tuesday, prior to the start of the BDPA NDC Program Meeting there is an opportunity to network.

Education. Many professional associations offer their members the chance to update their knowledge of business and trade basics or acquire new skills through seminars, workshops, break-out sessions at conferences and online courses. **The BDPA IT Institute**

supports the IT professional by increasing technical competence, maximizing leadership potential utilizing an academic partnership with Auburn University's Distance Learning Program. The Institute offers online certification programs supporting the entry-level IT Associate, the mid-level IT Professional and the advanced-level IT Master.

Support System. Members of professional associations can often take advantage of formal coaching or mentoring relationships with more experienced business people who provide guidance and useful insights. Even on an informal basis, such relationships can be a source of answers and solutions when you're facing a challenging situation in your business. At the very least, the feeling that you have a support network behind you can boost your confidence when problems arise. **Executive Protégé Program**, provided by Technology Information Technology Senior Management Forum (ITSMF), assists in the development of individuals interested in attaining Senior and Executive level leadership positions in Information.

Free or discounted publications. Membership in many groups includes a free subscription to the organization's magazine. **Career Diversity, BDPAToday and the BDPA Journal are just a few of the available publications.**

Conferences and seminars. Members are often given priority registration for their organization's convention and may receive discounts on conference fees or special rates on related expenses, such as hotel reservations and car

rentals. **The 2010 National BDPA Technology Conference will be held in Philadelphia, July 28th – 31st. Are you getting the most out of your membership with BDPA? BDPA Northern Delaware?**

Joining a professional organization is beneficial for your own professional development and the future of your career. The connections you'll make, the resources made available to you and the ideas and advice you'll discover represent an outstanding return on what amounts to a modest, manageable investment of time, money and effort. It could turn out to be one of the best things you could do for yourself and your business. **BDPA membership is \$75. A small investment for a HUGE return. Wont you join Today?**

*Join or renew
your membership today
www.bdpa-de.org*

Welcome New and Renewed Members

New
Andrew Scott
Jennie Scott
Andrea Scott
James Sills
LaDon Terry-Graham

Renewal
John Abdul-Mughnee
Estelle Cephas
Jeanne Dangerous
Lovis Daniels
Bob Epps
Kevin Evans
Kolette Johnson
Vanessa Jones
Terica Price
Angela Waterman



Webmaster joins the BDPA Northern Delaware Team



Robert Clayton was a member of BDPA during the 1st attempt to create a Wilmington Chapter years ago. When he discovered that a chapter was alive and active in Delaware he did not hesitate to contact us to renew his membership. Robert did not hesitate to provide feedback on how difficult it was to find information about the Northern Delaware chapter through our website.

He also communicated that he offers web design and development support to non-profit organizations and churches. Shortly after renewing his membership Robert volunteered to help enhance and maintain our website as well as provide knowledge on web development to our students. Robert has already begun working with the communications team which is lead by Estelle Cephas as a part of the VP Membership Management services. Robert is a valuable and welcome addition to our team. If you are skilled in the area of communications and/or web development please email vp_membership@bdpa-de.org. Look forward to enhances to our website to better serve our members, supporters and sponsors.

Introducing the 2010 - 2011 BDPA Northern Delaware Board of Directors



Karen Smith A results-oriented professional that has provided collaborative solutions that resulted in the award winning BDPA Northern Delaware organization will retain the seat of **President** for another term. Ms. Smith lead the initiative to found a chapter in Delaware She and has served as President since its charter in November 2007. Her professional success has been based on the ability to effectively influence and manage within a variety of complex business, technical, and service-based environments for the purpose of accomplishing critical organization objectives. Mrs. Smith holds a Master of Science in Organizational Leadership. In addition to serving at the local level Mrs. Smith will continue to serve as a board member on the National BDPA Board of Directors. Ms. Smith is a long time advocate for education in the State of Delaware and brings a level of leadership required to continue to support the mission and vision of BDPA Northern Delaware.



Wale Ashiru will bring his experience as a Certified Public Accountant with functional/technical knowledge of Accounting acquired during his 15 years of diversified accounting and auditing experience to the BDPA Northern Delaware Board as the **VP Finance**. Mr. Ashiru has five years experience as a Network Administrator with two software firms and worked in several capacities both as a team lead and member on project analysis, design and implementation. Wale has volunteered his services with BDPA Northern Delaware and was instrumental in supporting the organizations receipt of its 501(c)(3) status.



Estelle Cephas will return to the board of Directors in the role of **VP Membership Management**. Ms. Cephas is also one of the founding members of BDPA Northern Delaware. She has served on the board in the role of VP Membership Management since the organization was chartered in 2007. Under the leadership of Ms. Cephas the BDPA Northern Delaware membership has doubled. With her continued leadership we anticipate additional growth in 2010 - 2011. Ms. Cephas is a Sr. Technology Manager at JP Morgan Chase Card Services in Wilmington, Delaware. She is a highly motivated professional with more than 20 years of combined resiliency management, project management, supervisory, and technical experience. Her demonstrated skills have resulted in creative solutions that meet organizational challenges, head on. An effective team player with strong communication and interpersonal skills.



Frederick Smith Jr. has served as the 2009 National BDPA VP Strategy & Planning as well as the BDPA Northern Delaware VP Finance during the 2008 – 2009 term. Mr. Smith is one of the founding members of BDPA Northern Delaware and will be returning to the Board of Directors as the **VP Strategy & Planning**. Mr. Smith brings a vast amount of academic knowledge as he holds a Masters of Science in Engineering, a MBA Finance, and he is a Black Belt Six Sigma. Mr. Smith professional experience includes responsibilities for organizational growth and development, professional mentoring, sales and marketing. In addition to his roles on the National and Local boards Mr. Smith served as the 2008 and 2009 Advisor for the Delaware IT Showcase program which has secured 1st place honors during both years.



G. Michelle Wallace brings management and project leadership skills to the BDPA Northern Delaware Board as the **VP Member Services**. Ms. Wallace has strong analytical skills related to financial processes and technical infrastructure. She will bring her relationship management skills to the role of VP Member Services. In addition, Ms. Wallace, will bring a long list of volunteer experiences related to corporate based and community based non-profit organizations. Ms. Wallace talents include both professional and academic successes as proven by her MBA in Technology Management and her Six Sigma Green Belt. Ms. Wallace has also been trained in the area of Total Quality Management.



Andrew Scott will join the BDPA Northern Delaware Board as the **VP Student IT Education & Scholarship (SITES)**. Mr. Scott's extensive professional history includes over 10 years as an Account Manager/Project Manger in the Client Relations Department in the 2nd largest electronic financial institution worldwide, 8 years of experience as a Human Resources Manager with a Fortune 100 company and New York City government, and 9 years of experience as a Public Affairs Manager in the U. S. Armed Forces. Mr. Scott holds a MBA Management & Quantitative Decision Making and is a PhD Candidate in Business Administration. His focus will be on our student programs but we anticipate his contributions will support the mission of BDPA as

a whole.

From the Presidents Desk



As we celebrate the end of 2009, I am pleased to report that the results of our labor have been phenomenal.

The focus on becoming operationally sound in 2008 were successful as demonstrated by our win of the "Best Managed Chapter" award. The Northern Delaware chapter was also awarded the "Most Developed Chapter" award which I attribute to the overall contributions we have made to the BDPA mission. For example, our ability to schedule and host monthly program meetings focused on professional and IT development and our 50% membership growth. You have heard me speak of our student programs with great pride in the past. I do consider the success of our students the

greatest success of 2009. Our students secured 1st place in the collegiate National IT Showcase competition. The Delaware high school students swept the competition by securing 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place at the National IT Showcase competition. The success is thanks to the support of our corporate sponsors and member volunteers. During 2010 we will focus on moving into phase III of our organizational growth. The focus will be on continued growth of our organizational strength, broadening of our brand and continued corporate support, expansion of our student programs, and redefining our professional adult programs to be focused on the needs of our IT stakeholders. The 2010 Board of Directors has already begun to focus on the moving our organization

even further. The topics on the table include expanding our student program to include a Regional IT Showcase program in partnership with the University of Delaware, sponsoring a HSCC program, Corporate Advisory Council and winning Chapter of the Year award. In order to make all of this possible we need you! None of this is possible without our member volunteers! Do not hesitate to be a part of the IT Framework in Delaware. Remember "Today is the Day, The Momentum is Here, and BDPA is the conduit!"

Happy New Year!

Karen Smith
President
BDPA Northern Delaware Chapter
president@bdpa-de.org



2010 National
Conference
July 28th – 31st
Philadelphia, PA
Register at
www.bdpa.org

BDPA Northern Delaware IT Showcase Winners On Tour?

By Karen L. Smith

So perhaps "On Tour" would be a bit of a stretch. The truth is there are so many questions by several of the competing chapters regarding the IT Showcase program after Delaware swept the 2009 competition. As a result the Delaware IT Showcase winners were invited to present during the Philadelphia Annual Banquet and they are invited to present during the New York 2010 Black Family Technology Week event in February.

If you attended the Delaware Banquet and had the chance to meet the students and see their posters you would understand why they are receiving invitations to take their show on the road. The posters on display do not tell the story as they are simply an artifact of the students research. The

true value is in the verbal presentations by the students.

The National IT Showcase is the last step in a very long process that begins with the selection of a subject and a 10-15 page research paper. The guidelines of the paper do not differ for the high school students, as they are preparing for college and are encouraged to write as though they are already there.

The students that have participated in this program in the past have demonstrated innovative thinking during a time when the educational system often teaches mathematics and science as though it was simply the answers to a test.

We have just starting the 2010 program. 2010 will be Delaware's 3rd year as IT

Showcase participants. Our continued participation helps to honor the National BDPA mantra "Advancing Careers from the Classroom to the Boardroom". If you are a high school student or a college undergraduate and you want to be a part of next years tour please join the program by contacting the BDPA Northern Delaware office (see below information)

If you are an IT Professional and technology has become commonplace, business as usual, or run the engine, then get involved with the program as a volunteer. The energy, excitement, and innovative thought process demonstrated by the students will rekindle your technology flame. You may even find yourself feeling like you did when you first discovered your IT Talent.

SITES Contact Information:
Andrew Scott
Frederick Smith III
Delaware@bdpa.org
302-282-3661



Naaman Cephas & Whitney Wilson attend the Philadelphia Annual Banquet (above). Marcus Smith receives Thank you from Judea Yardlane New York Chapter President for presenting during their 2009 BFTAW Event.

