

President's Message



Welcome to the Toronto Chapter's inaugural newsletter. We aim to keep you – our members and stakeholders – abreast of chapter and related news as we continue our growth. As the first international NBMBAA chapter, we felt our newsletter kick-off should begin by introducing members of our executive team and highlighting our talented member base. I'm also very excited about our "Knowledge Transfer" section that helps you stay sharp and keep current on relevant thought leadership available from the world's leading sources. Enjoy the newsletter and be sure to let us know what you think.

Damon Knights, President

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Vision Statement

The NBMBAA (Toronto Chapter) vision is to leverage our global network to lead in the creation of economic and intellectual wealth for Blacks in Canada.

Mission Statement

As a professional membership organization of Black graduates with MBAs, advanced degrees, and entrepreneurs, we will increase the number as well as the diversity of successful Blacks in the Canadian business arena by:

- Providing innovative community programs to stimulate their intellectual and economic growth
- Building partnerships with key stakeholders who help facilitate this growth
- Increasing awareness and facilitating access to graduate management education programs and career opportunities in management fields

Upcoming Events

Thursday July 31, 2008
"Encouraging Courage to Get Unstuck"
6:30 pm to 9 pm
ING Leadership Centre,
130 King Street West

August 21, 2008
TSX Market Opening
8:30 am - 10 am
TSX Broadcast Centre
130 King St West
(Members Only)

August 21, 2008
Official Chapter Launch event
sponsored by CIBC
(Members Only)

September 17 – 20, 2008
30th Annual Conference &
Exposition
Washington, D.C.
"CATALYST FOR CHANGE"

Member Spotlight: Dennis Mitchell - Portfolio Manager



Dennis is a Portfolio Manager at Sentry Select Capital Corp., a Canadian wealth management company that manages more than \$6.5 billion in gross assets. He joined the company in 2005 and has more than eight years of experience in the financial industry. As part of the income trust portfolio management team, Dennis specializes in real estate

investment trusts (REITs) and infrastructure trusts. Dennis has appeared on Business News Network's Market Call (formerly ROBTV), where he serves as an expert on investments such as REITs and trusts. Prior to joining Sentry Select, Dennis worked as Business Trust Associate, RBC Capital Markets and Income Trust Analyst, RBC Asset Management. He earned an MBA from the Schulich School of Business at York University, and holds the Chartered Financial Analyst (CFA) designation

Chapter Leadership Team

Officers:

President
Damon Knights, IMBA

VP Fund Raising
Basil Brown, MBA

VP Operations
Rose Campbell, MBA '08

VP Community Relations
Vacant

VP Marketing & Strategy
Ivan Francis, MBA

VP Administration
Headley Bent, MBA

Secretary
Kari Davis, MBA

Treasurer,
Ike Kaja, MBA

Directors:

Academic Relations
Clarecia Christie

Fund Raising
Araba Carson, MBA

Career Development
Anthony Kimani

Conference
Omar Osman

Communications
Trecia McLennon, MBA

Branding
Melissa Dixon

Membership
Crystal Samuels, MBA '08

E-Marketing
Jelani Greene, MBA '08

Conference Update



The National Black MBA Association (NBMBAA®) will convene for its 30th Annual Conference & Exposition on September 17 – 20, 2008 in Washington, D.C. This year's theme is "CATALYST FOR CHANGE. Then. Today. Tomorrow." More than 12,000 attendees and 400 major corporations and organizations are expected to participate in four days of workshops, sessions and executive presentations geared towards enhancing professional development, recruiting and networking.

Some important information that will allow you to maximize on the experience: **DEADLINE FOR EARLY BIRD PRICES HAS PASSED. DEADLINE FOR PRE-CONFERENCE PRICES ARE AUGUST 15.**

The conference consists of programs designed to enhance professional development by facilitating workshops and sessions that benefit employees in their current role or advance their goals within the company. Ask your employer to fund your participation in this year's conference. Below is a sample letter to submit to your HR department requesting sponsorship for attending the Conference.

Current students in Canadian graduate programs benefit from a two day long career fair that hosts over 400 major corporations attempting to fill current vacancies. Your school may be able to fund your participation in this year's conference. MBA grads seeking opportunities in the US can also benefit from the job fair

Non members can save money by signing up for NBMBAA membership and paying the member price to attend conference as opposed to paying the non member price.

Continuing Education Units (CEU) are provided to leadership Institution attendees through Howard University and are supported by the International Association for Continuing Education and Training (IACET).

CATALYST FOR CHANGE

30TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE & EXPOSITION
SEPTEMBER 17-20, 2008
WASHINGTON D.C. CONVENTION CENTER

Executive Team Spotlight: Headley Bent, VP Administration



Headley Bent is Co-owner of Cross Border investments where he specializes in real estate and commodity sales. Previously, he worked with Black Entertainment Television Jazz in Washington D.C. as a Finance Manager. He currently co-hosts CIUT's "Being There", and has interviewed a range of people in sports and entertainment, including Grammy Award winner Percy Sledge.

Headley's diverse interests surpass broadcasting into sports and community organizations. A former Harry Jerome Awards volunteer, he boasts multiple academic awards himself as a two-time David Delahanty gold recipient along with a Montreal Association of Black Business Persons academic award.

This former All-American and All-Canadian track and field athlete is deeply passionate about reclaiming lost Black History and sports. Headley is on the executive of the Society of North American Hockey Historians and Researchers (SONAHR) and is a member of the Jamaican Canadian Diaspora organization.

Headley has an MBA from Romeoville Illinois' Lewis University with a concentration in International Business. He completed his undergraduate education at Montreal's Concordia University with a Bachelor of Commerce with a major in Finance and minor in Management Information Science (MIS).

Chapter Updates:

Buffalo Event:

The Mideast Regional Chapter of the National Black MBA Association held an Economic Leadership Conference and Career Expo on Friday and Saturday July 11 -13, 2008 in Buffalo, New York. The event consisted of workshops, national and regional presenters, networking, an evening of jazz and much more. The Toronto chapter was represented by Basil Brown, VP Fundraising.

CIBC Support for the 21st Kickoff Event

On July 16 the chapter leadership team presented to CIBC's Black Employee Network. The audience included Mr. Al Dodington SVP, Human Resources. CIBC will host the chapters' official launch on August 21st and is providing their prestigious 56th floor venue. Thanks to CIBC for their generous support

TSX Opening Bell:

We are happy to announce that our chapter will be opening the Toronto Stock Exchange on August 21st to coincide with our official launch event at CIBC. This is a high-visibility event for our group that will jointly take place with CIBC. We will provide member updates as the date draws closer.

Partnerships:

To date we have secured several partners that we would like to recognize and thank for their support of the Toronto Chapter: CIBC, Pitney Bowes, Aditya Birla Minacs, Ivey School of Business, Ted Rogers School of Business, Schulich School of Business and Rotman School of Management

Membership Update

Recently members were notified that subscriptions to Businessweek are included with membership dues. Please postpone payment of the \$3.00 fee till future notice as we are negotiating reversal of the payment. First time visitors to our event on July 31 will be eligible for a *draw of two tickets* to see **CHAKA KHAN** live in concert on Thursday August 7 @ The KOOL HAUS. Please RSVP at rsvp@nbmbaa.ca In addition we will be giving away a free conference registration on July 31 to one of our members

Knowledge Transfer:

This section of the newsletter will provide a summary or excerpts of a business book or thought leadership article that originates out of a business school, consulting firm or investment bank to help our members stay on top of relevant business issues and gain ideas that will position them "ahead of the curve."

This Month's Feature: **"The 21st-Century MBA"** from Strategy+Business by Booz Allen & Hamilton

This article addresses a key question for business schools and business leaders - should MBAs be risk takers who are richly rewarded for focusing on the bottom line? Or alternatively, should the next generation of leaders focus on team spirit and internal organizational development to increase shareholder returns given the context of recent scandals involving individual excess amid seemingly blind "short-termism"?

The answer proposed is aligned to several emerging trends in business education that respond to the self-interest status quo of the last few decades; they all advocate tying practice to a sense of broader or deeper purpose. Generally, these approaches involve moving from what might be called a "rules-plus-analytics" model of management education to a "principles-plus-implementation" focus. The new approach places emphasis on asking, 'What if we could manage in a responsible and skillful way? What would that look like?' It helps people recognize the value of profit and wealth as not only something to accumulate, but something to use in building new enterprises or solving new problems.

To move into a principles-plus-implementation model, business education must teach people to articulate and embody abstract principles, and to develop innate judgment for use in principle-based practice. This helps explain the increasing emphasis in many schools on individual self-awareness and on building social skills and psychological insights. Examples are provided from Rotman School of Management's Marcel Desautels Centre for Integrative Thinking at the University of Toronto and Northwestern University's Kellogg School of Management of expanded curricula. Each challenge students to use both their cognitive and their emotional approach to a situation, as well as the approaches of those with whom they wish to collaborate or whom they wish to influence.

The article ends by concluding that the students who embrace these new curricula are not only intellectually prepared and practically trained but personally empowered to do things differently. It is clear that they seek an education that supports their desire to break boundaries and to marry their drive for personal success with a wish to build a better world through business. At their best these new business leaders, grounded and trained in a more comprehensive manner than their professional predecessors, may dare to achieve more because their purpose is larger and they have capabilities to match their daring.

The full article can be read at the Strategy+Business website for free:

<http://www.strategy-business.com/press/article/08209?gko=b9ba9-1876-26908801>

Organizational Announcements - Members and friends

The Toronto Chapter would like to celebrate the successes of our members and our friends. If you have recently received a promotion, changed roles, opened a business, or graduated from an MBA program let us know. Please submit your name and a brief summary of your news to announcements@nbmbaa.ca