I am proud to be a member of the OSU African American Alumni Society. After achieving my Bachelor’s of Science degree in Hospitality Management through the College of Human Ecology, I thought I would never look back. My time here was not always peaches & cream, I have to admit. However, I have grown to look beyond my experience and have embraced this new philosophy going around our fair country called “Change.” In the words of our alma mater, “Time and change...!” It took time and a change of heart to understand that this great institution afforded me lot s of opportunities and exposed me to a wonderful network of Buckeyes. All of which have helped to make me the best I can be. That is why it is so important to get involved, give back, and get excited about being a member of the African American Alumni Society. This network is my way of giving back to those undergrads, behind me, who are yet in the struggle. It allows me to give my time to change the experience of those African Americans that still remain. I get excited about all the benefits of being a member. I was able to increase my network at the first All-Decade African American Reunion this past May. I was a part of the membership that voted the former Black Alumni Society be renamed the African American Alumni Society. I also have a constant connection to the Ohio State community. I have realized that I am leaving my legacy at Ohio State. So, I ask you, what legacy are you leaving?

We receive hearty support from President Archie Griffin and the Board of Trustees of the OSU Alumni Association. AAAS is aiding their efforts and strategic plan of becoming that biggest and best alumni network in the country. It’s time for CHANGE - -

-Daniel Nelson

Special points of interest:
- AAAS Tailgate
- Elections
- VP Member Spotlight
- Chat with the President
- Upcoming Events

Meeting info:
The Society meets on the third Tuesday of each Month, at 6:30pm, in the Longaberger Alumni House.

Make A Difference: Join an AAAS Committee

The OSU African American Alumni Society (AAAS) is looking for dedicated individuals to join the following committees. If you are interested in an AAAS Committee Chair position for the 2008-2009 year, the following positions are also available.

AAAS Committees:
- Reunion
- Webmaster
- Programs/Events
- Scholarship
- Membership
- Sponsorship/Fundraising
- Publicity/Communications

For more information or to submit your statement of intent for a chair position, please email us at osuaasociety@hotmail.com. Remember your gifts and talents help make the society stronger.
VP Member Spotlight

Join us in congratulating AAAS member, Will C. Thomas, Jr. for the publication of his book titled *You...A Philosophizing Human*. The book has a collection of thoughts, ideas, speeches, people responses, schoolwork, and feel good philosophies collected over a period of thirty years to show we all are philosophizing humans.

Will C. Thomas, Jr. is a graduate of OSU where he received a B.S in 1968, M.A. in 1971, and was a member of The Ohio State University football team. Mr. Thomas continued his athletic career as a free agent for the San Diego Chargers. In 2003, he was inducted into Semi-Pro Football Hall of Fame.

Understanding the importance of education, Will C. Thomas, Jr.’s career extended from the football fields to the classrooms where he served as a teacher and principal for the Columbus Public Schools and Lima City Schools, his hometown. “The idea behind the book is to inspire people and especially my family to read and to write,” states Will C. Thomas, Jr. He is a father of two sons and grandfather of five. Buy *You...A Philosophizing Human*. Today! Available at Borders To Order 800-AUTHORS (288-4677) or www.iUniverse.com.

OSU vs. OU AAAS Football Tickets and Tailgate

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!!! The 2008 OSU AAAS Football Tailgate will be held on Saturday, September 6, 2008 at 9:00 AM before the noon football game against Ohio University. The Frank W. Hale, Jr. Black Cultural Center will be reserved for the event. Cost for the event will be $80 ($66 for the game ticket, $4 for food and a $10 donation to the Black Alumni Fund) or $14 for the tailgate only.

The Football ticket distribution process has been changed to a lottery system. The AAAS has been allotted a total of fifty (50) tickets to the September 6th game versus Ohio University. These tickets may be purchased on a first paid first served basis and you must be a dues-paying member of the African American Alumni Society and dues-paying member of the OSU Alumni Association. Payment for the tailgate must be received by Friday, August 29, 2008. Please RSVP your attendance by email to osuaasociety@hotmail.com or by phone at 614-390-1118 by Friday, August 29, 2008. Tickets will be distributed at our tailgate event. Payment for the event can be mailed to the following address. Cash, check, or money order accepted only. Football tickets available while supplies last. All orders limited to two (2) tickets per member.

OSU AAAS
Attn: Daniel Nelson
1000 Hunt Valley Drive
Reynoldsburg, OH 43068

After August 29, 2008, payment for the tailgate only will be accepted at the door. We can’t wait to see you!!! GO BUCKS!!!

Thought Provoking Statement:

“If you spend half the time and energy it takes to complain, imagine how much of a difference you could really make.”

-Shakita Trigg
**Word from the Vice President**

Obligation. Whether you received your degree from OSU or not, the fact you attended an institute such as The Ohio State University sets you apart from generations of African Americans that never had such an opportunity. It is our obligation as the new and upcoming leaders to reach back and help future African American Buckeyes achieve. Never forget where you started and never forget those that have helped pave the way for you. Any movement and system change starts with one person motivating others. Encourage fellow alumni to join AAAS in our efforts to bridge the gap between alumni and OSU students, staff, and faculty. How are you fulfilling your obligations in your community? - Shakita Trigg, Vice-President

**Secretary’s Address**

My fellow OSU African-American Alumni Society Members, my name is Michael L. Smith Sr., and I'm the elected Secretary for the present term. I'm a graduate of OSU with a Bachelor of Arts in African-American History, and American History. I have my teaching license from Central State University, and currently work in the field of education. I'm a proud member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. I'm married to Victoria L. Smith, (a graduate of The Ohio State University), and have two children, Dr. Michael L. Smith Jr. DDS (a graduate of The Ohio State University, both undergrad, and OSU College of Dentistry), and Nakia N. Smith (Franklin University).

As the secretary, my goal is to make the society as visible as possible, by participating in programs that are attended by the mass community. Programs such as the OSU Spring football game, Black history programs on campus, and the annual African American Farewell celebration. In addition, programs in the community and in various cities such as the Jazz and Ribfest in Columbus, the Black Family Reunion in Cincinnati, the Circle City Classic in Indianapolis, the Labor Day Football Classic in Dayton, and the UNCF Walk-A-Thon are just some of the visible community programs that I feel we should participate in to recruit new members to help make the Society more visible

In closing, the secretary's responsibly varies from getting out reports to members as well keeping minutes of meetings, sending out information of the happenings of the society. If members have any event or upcoming program information, please submit details to me via e-mail to osuaasociety@hotmail.com. Thanks so much.

**Treasurer’s Statement**

As one of the original founding members of the African American Alumni Association (formally called the Black Alumni Association), I have a vision not yet completely fulfilled and a very simple request of each of you.

The vision: At all levels of decision making which affects the quality of life a person of color experiences at The Ohio State University, we should have a voice at the table representing our interests.

The request: 2008 is already a landmark year in the history of African Americans in America and on November 4th, it may become an even more significant landmark. STAY CONNECTED AND GET INVOLVED. YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE!!!!!! Things are happening within the political arena because of volunteers. The same principles apply to the African American Alumni Society. Let’s also make this a landmark year at OSU for African American involvement. We need to hear from you. We need your input. We need the collective wisdom of all our members. We need ideas. We need funding. We need volunteers. STAY CONNECTED AND GET INVOLVED. YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE!!!!!!

-H. Marvin Pickrum, Treasurer
Executive Board Nominations and Voting Updates

We are pleased to announce the following members have submitted a statement of intent for the following board positions.

Executive Board Positions:

- Paul Bayless for Member at Large
- Chioma Robertson Phillips for Member at Large
- Alicia King for Member at Large

Voting starts July 28th through August 5th by electronic email submission. An electronic form have been sent to the dues paying members of the Society only. All ballots must be submitted by August 5th in order to be counted.

If you have questions, please send an email to Shakita Trigg, AAAS VP, at osuacadociety@hotmail.com or call 614-762-3910.

Flashing cameras, VP Spotlight: You Could Be Next

Have news about a fellow alumni accomplishments or upcoming programs? Send detailed information to osuacadociety@hotmail.com. You may be the next member to be highlighted in the Vice–President’s VP Member Spotlight. The VP Spotlight will be in every issue of the AAAS Newsletter. It is intended to highlight the accomplishments of AAAS members throughout the country and beyond.

Visit our website at www.alumni-osu.org/aaas/ - See photos from the 2008 Reunion

Scholarship donations: Black Alumni Endowed Fund number is #600568

AAAS In the Community Calendar:

- **August 19, 2008.** Next AAAS General Body Meeting at the Longaberger Alumni House. Meeting start at 6:30pm.
- **August 30-31, 2008.** Buckeyes in Cinci (tent.) AAAS will be present at the Black Family Reunion in Cincinnati, OH. More details to follow soon.
- **Sept 6, 2008.** OSU vs OU AAAS Tailgate at Frank W. Hale Black Cultural Center
- **Sept 13, 2008.** AAAS will have a table during the annual UNCF Walk-A-Thon at Wolf Park on Broad Street across from St. Charles High School. Join us anytime between 7:45am to 2pm. Walk with fellow alumni for a worthy cause. Food, fun and entertainment.
- Alumni Welcomes New Buckeyes. AAAS will have a table during the Family Affair Celebration during Welcome Week at the Frank W. Hale Black Cultural Center during Welcome Week in September.