



"Lifting As We Climb"



A QUARTERLY PUBLICATION OF THE AUSTIN CEN-TEX CHAPTER OF NABA

Fall 2008

Volume 1

Issue No. 2

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## NABA Mission

To address the professional needs of its members and to build leaders that shape the future of the accounting and finance professions with unfaltering commitment to inspire the same in their successors.

# 45 Students Participate in Accounting Career Awareness Program

NABA's Accounting Career Awareness Program (ACAP) completed its 16th year at The University of Texas at Austin with 45 high school students participating in the weeklong program.

Thanks to the generous support of Ernst & Young and the UT Austin McComb School of Business, the high school students were able to spend July 13 – 18 living on UT Austin's campus, all expenses paid, learning about the diverse careers in accounting from working at one of the Big 4 to the FBI.

The students came from cities all over Texas including 8 from San Antonio, 6 from Austin, 4 from Brownsville, 4 from Laredo, and 2 each from Houston, Orange, Round Rock, and Sugar Land. To participate the



students had to have a grade point average of 3.2 or higher, come from an economically disadvantaged family or will be the first in their family attend college. Austin Cen-Tex Chapter member Florence Atiase, who is a lecturer in the accounting department at the McComb School of Business, coordinated the curriculum.

ACAP began in 1980 when NABA recognized the need for a program that would direct African-

Americans and other minorities towards the accounting profession. Recognizing that preparation for a professional career begins in junior and senior high school, NABA designed a pilot program that would be informative, yet go beyond words. Accordingly, the one-week residency concept was developed. It's continued growth is due to the strong support from partners like Ernst & Young.

## President's Message

We are off to great start in the NABA Fiscal Year of 2009 (FY09)!!! Our Accounting Career Awareness Program (ACAP) hosted the 16<sup>th</sup> annual camp at the University of Texas at Austin, we had our 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Member & Guest BBQ at the Brentwood Oaks Family Life Center, we held our 1<sup>st</sup> CPE session with the KAZI Radio 88.7 Summer Fest in the Monarch Event Center, participated in the 1<sup>st</sup> annual Austin Area Back-To-School Parade beginning at the Delco Center, held the 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Southwest Western Region Student Conference (SWWRSC) Pre-Conference meeting for our NABA students at the Carino's Restaurant, participated in the Men & Boys Conference at LBJ High School, and many emails about other personal/business development, networking, and job opportunities. Our next quarter promises more of the same. Activities such as the SWWRSC at the Westin Park Central Hotel in Dallas, Texas on 10/16 – 10/18, our



Roger Davis, President  
Austin Cen-Tex Chapter

quarterly general body chapter meeting in the Huston-Tillotson University A-L Building Conference Room offering a hour CPE session featuring NABA member Florence Atiase on 10/25, the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Black Professional Organizations' Networking Mixer in the Carver Museum on 11/13, members volunteering to Financial Literacy efforts with the Fi-

nancial Literacy Coalition of Central Texas (FLCCT) & Foundation Communities (VITA), and hopefully a happy and healthy holiday season for all to follow. Of course, it cannot be the greatest FY09 without you becoming or renewing your NABA membership asap. NABA dues are \$120 for professionals, \$65 for academia professionals, \$20 for college students, and free through our College Pipeline Initiative (CPI) for paid FY08 college students becoming professionals in FY09. If you have not done so already, please pay your NABA dues on-line using our local website at [www.nabaustincen-tex.org](http://www.nabaustincen-tex.org) and clicking on the "Membership Application" button and remember to printout a copy of your payment confirmation after submitting. On behalf of our local chapter officers, we look to serving and working with you in the upcoming year! God Bless!!!

## 2008 ACAP Students

Angeli Aguilera, Lopez High School-Brownsville  
Alexandra Arambula, Incarnate Word-San Antonio  
Lizet Arellano, Lyndon B. Johnson High School-Rio Bravo  
Krystel Bremauntz, Sharyland High School-McAllen  
Christopher Buenrostro, C.C. Winn High School-Eagle Pass  
Ross Carrington, Clifton J. Ozen Magnet High School-Beaumont  
Chris Clement, Stony Point High School-Round Rock  
Mitchell Cruz, Harlandale High School-San Antonio  
Casie Denton, Pearland High School-Pearland  
Seher Dholakia, Kepner High School-Sugar Land  
Rachel Duran, Lago Vista High School-Lago Vista  
Adriana Elizondo, Gladys Porter High School-Brownsville  
Stephen Font, Lawrence E. Elkins High School-Sugar Land  
Andrew Garcia, Poth High School-Poth  
Ernest Garcia, Sidney Lanier High School-San Antonio  
Sabino Gonzalez, J.B. Alexander High School-Laredo  
Daniela Gonzalez, United South High School-Laredo  
Jennifer Hernandez, Uvalde High School-Uvalde  
Harun Hersi, Alief Taylor High School-Houston  
Justin Johnson, McCollum High School-San Antonio  
Yunjeong Kim, Chisholm Trail Academy-Burleson  
Tiffanie Kung, Cedar Park High School-Cedar Park  
Francisco Loreda, Gladys Porter High School-Brownsville  
Andrew MacNeill, Austin High School-Austin

Eboni Murrell, Madison High School-San Antonio  
Yessica Oliva, La Joya High School-Sullivan  
Tiffany Perez, Los Fresnos High School-Los Fresnos  
Megan Phares, West Orange Stark-Orange  
Andrea Robles, South Houston High School-Houston  
Veronica Rodarte, McCallum High School-Austin  
Jose Rodriguez, Johnny G. Economedes High School-Edinburg  
Alyssa Rodriguez, John Jay High School Sci. & Eng. Academy-San Antonio  
Tyson Ross, Stephen F. Austin High School-Austin  
Yvonne Saldivar, Raymondville High School-Raymondville  
Dulce Sanchez, Porter High School-Brownsville  
Monica Sanchez, Stony Point High School-Round Rock  
Savannah Sanchez, Harlandale High School-San Antonio  
Crystal Sepulveda, Santa Rosa High School-Santa Rosa  
Edward Sherfey, St. Augustine High School-Laredo  
Reina Shewakramani, J.B. Alexander High School-Laredo  
Erika Trevino, Pharr-San Juan-Alamo High School-San Juan  
Leola Tyler, West Orange Stark High School-Orange  
Dionca Tyus, Akins High School-Austin  
Blake Villa, Douglas MacArthur High School-San Antonio  
Andrew Weissgaber, Trinity Christian Academy-Frisco  
Michael Williams, St. Stephen's Episcopal High School-Austin

## New NABA National President

Walter J. Smith, CPA, was recently elected 23rd National President and Chief Executive Officer of the National Association of Black Accountants, Inc. (NABA), the nation's premier organization for minority professionals in the business related fields of accounting, auditing, consulting, finance, information technology and tax. Smith's two-year term began July 1, 2008.



such a talented group of national board members," said Smith, vice president of Financial Reporting at Prudential Financial Inc. in Newark, New Jersey.

"Our energy and drive over the next two years will be centered on galvanizing our organization and our stakeholders. As a maturing organization approaching our 40th anniversary, we will remain true to our brand and our past while increasing the investment in our future. There is no brand quite like ours."

Smith has been a NABA member for over 20 years, and

recently completed his second two-year term on the NABA Board of Directors. He is a Lifetime Member, and recently received the 2008 NABA Award for National Achievement in Industry.

"40 Years, One NABA" is the vision and theme under which Smith will lead NABA. "I'm very excited to lead NABA and to lead

## NABA Prepares Students For Conference

*By Tara Brooks, Vice President, Student Affairs*

The annual Student Pre-Conference seminar was held on Sunday, September 14th at Carino's Restaurant.

Our keynote speakers were Rochelle Johnson and Eric Bell. Rochelle is a senior in the MPA program at the University of Texas at Austin with an anticipated graduation date of December 2009. She spoke of her experiences in attending the Southwestern Regional Student Conference and the opportunity it allowed her. Eric Bell, a native Austinite and a Sr. Corporate Recruiter at the Farm Credit Bank of Texas, gave a presentation on career preparation. His motto is "I am an Originator not a Duplicator and always a Trailblazer"

## Austin Cen-Tex Chapter Wins

### Rising Star Award at National Convention

The Austin Cen-Tex Chapter won the Rising Star Chapter Award at NABA's 37th Annual National Convention. The chapter was honored for its significant growth in membership and innovative programming. Chapter president Roger Davis accepted the award at the convention which was held in Atlanta, Georgia. The 38th National Convention will be held in New Orleans, June 16-20,



Western Region President Sheila Taylor-Clark and Austin Cen-Tex Chapter President Roger Davis

## "40 Years, One NABA"

Student, faculty, and liaisons represented at the conference hailed from Huston-Tillotson University, Texas State University, and UT-Austin. Some of our professional executive board members were also in attendance. As a result of attending the seminar, students attending will be considered for possible recruitment. The seminar proved to be a great networking opportunity as well as a learning opportunity. One student can be quoted as saying "I really enjoyed the dinner meeting yesterday. It was great to be able to connect with representatives of NABA on all levels and eat good food."

[www.nabaustincenTex.org](http://www.nabaustincenTex.org)



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### Austin Ledger

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NABA members are encouraged to submit information for the newsletter. Please email information for the newsletter to hopeton@econpers.com

Austin Ledger is published four times a year by the Austin Cen-Tex chapter of the National Association of Black Accountants  
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## Preparing Small Businesses to Access Capital

Sixteen entrepreneurs attended the "Preparing Small Businesses to Access Capital," on August 23. The seminar was sponsored by the Austin Cen-Texas Chapter as part of its Power Lunch Series.

The seminar was moderated by NABA Board member Hopeton Hay, and featured speakers were Arlen Munoz, Wachovia Bank; Jamie Noyola, PeopleFund; and Shirley Sheffield, BigAustin. The seminar focused on the importance of financial statements to the loan application process.



Panelists Hopeton Hay, Arlen Munoz, Shirley Sheffield; Jaime Noyola

## Calendar of Events

### October 16 - 18

Southwest-Western Region Student Conference  
Dallas, Texas

### October 25:

Austin Cen-Tex Chapter general meeting  
CPE Course: Financial Statement Analysis: (Following general meeting)  
Huston-Tillotson University  
900 Chicon St.

### November 13:

4th Annual Fall Black Professional Organizations' Networking Mixer

### January 19, 2009

MLK Celebration - NABA Booth  
Huston-Tillotson University  
900 Chicon St.

### January 24, 2009:

Austin Cen-Tex Chapter general meeting  
Huston-Tillotson University  
900 Chicon St.

### February 28, 2009

Heritage Day Celebration - NABA Booth  
Huston-Tillotson University  
900 Chicon St.

### April 24, 2009:

4th Annual Awards & Scholarship Luncheon

### June 16-20, 2009:

National Convention  
New Orleans, Louisiana