

THE ALUMNI CONNECTION



VOLUME 6, ISSUE 3

JULY 2012

The Urban Alliance

Special Points of Interest:

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SUMMER NETWORKING TIPS

Many of you are currently participating in a summer job or internship. This means you have the ability to successfully network with those you come in contact with. Consider the following tips to get you making those long-lasting connections that may prove helpful later.

1. **Get Outdoors:** Many are under the impression that networking can only occur at a formal business event. This is far from the truth! Say yes to outdoor events this summer and strike up conversations. Chances are, people are more relaxed in an outdoor setting. Read [here](#) about a recent story of two teenagers who met Virgin Group founder Richard Branson and

pitched their business idea to the billionaire at a charitable event. The result? Branson and co-founder of Insight Venture Partners invested \$1 million dollars in their website idea! You better believe that those teens were prepared to network!

2. **Do Your Homework:** Chances are your workplace is working on a project. Learn all you can about it. Research the topic, sit-in on meetings if you can, and learn who is participating in the project so if you get a chance to speak with any of them, you can speak knowledgeably about the project and impress them. Plus, when you write follow-up notes after you leave the workplace and return to

school, you can ask specific questions about the project. This will demonstrate how invested you are in the organization's mission.

3. **Nurture the Relationships You Already Have:** Don't forget to remain in contact with people in your network. Connect them with people you think they could benefit in meeting, invite them to an outdoor event, or write them a note to update them on your recent ventures.

4. **Volunteer:** Review your resume and determine if there are any "holes" in your experience. In other words, determine the areas that you may need to "beef up". For (Continued on page 2)



19 year-old **Stacey Ferreira**, co-founder of MySocialCloud.com pictured with Billionaire and Virgin Group founder **Richard Branson** at a social event for a charitable event where Ferreira and her now 21 year-old brother, **Scott Ferreira**, successfully pitched their business idea and secured a \$1 million dollar investment from Branson and another investor

2012 CIP UPDATE

This summer, UA placed 60 interns at over 40 jobsites with its partnership with SYEP. The first day of work was June 25th, and UA Alumni are working across Washington, DC at jobsites that include Verizon, Bank of America, Washington Nationals, Congressman Eleanor Holmes Norton, Ka-boom!, USAID, Street Law,

Higher Achievement, and more! Read about the following current CIP Interns to learn what they hope to achieve during their respective internships.

Vanessa Banks '09
University of the District of Columbia student
Internship: Bank of America - Capitol Hill
"From this experience, I hope to improve my ability to communicate with every-

one more freely. I have that ability, but sometimes I am hesitant when I do speak to strangers. In the future when I am a social worker I know this experience will be a tremendous benefit because I will be working with all types of different people. I know this experience will give me even more confidence in myself as I reach out to others. I want to be

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THE ALUMNI CONNECTION

Call to action: Alumni Ambassadors Needed

The Alumni Ambassador program allows upperclassmen Urban Alliance Alumni to connect with first-year Urban Alliance Alumni at colleges and universities across the country. Ambassadors support academic, professional, and career needs by the sharing of resources and guided advice. Serving as an Ambassador is great way to give back to UA and build your résumé at the same time! If you are interested in serving as an ambassador this next school year or would like to be mentored by an ambassador because you have recently enrolled in a new school, contact the Alumni Services at alumni@theurbanalliance.org.



Email
alumni@theurbanalliance.org
 to join the Alumni
 Ambassador Program today!

CIP UPDATE (CONTINUED)

*"I want to be confident
 in what I do, and I
 want others to be
 comfortable with me."* -
 Vanessa Banks '09

confident in what I do, and I want others to be comfortable with me."

Revon Pauling '09
 Fayetteville State University student
 Internship: Higher Achievement

"I hope to gain not only hands on experience but background experience of what it actually takes to be a part of

an organization that is built on helping individuals (youth) achieve goals."

Reggie Tarver '09
 Elizabeth City State University student
 Internship: House Studios DC
 "I hope to gain hands on experience using industry standard recording equipment and software such as Pro Tools HD 10 and Logic Pro. I also

hope to further acclimate myself in the progressive environment and ever-changing culture of the music industry. I want to become more familiar and knowledgeable about the mixing process of a song."

Good luck to Vanessa, Revon, and Reggie with your professional endeavors this summer!



Take your networking opportunity outdoors on a lovely day. Treat the person you want to network with to a cold drink or coffee outdoors. Chances are, they'll be more relaxed to chat than in the workplace.

SUMMER NETWORKING (CONTINUED)

example, if you hope to become a lobbyist one day and your resume doesn't show that you have helped in lobbying efforts, volunteer for an current campaign or for an organization that needs people to lobby their mission. Volunteering can lead to networking opportunities. Contact the Alumni Services department to help you determine those "holes" in your resume and to help you determine how to fill them by emailing them at alumni@theurbanalliance.org.

5. **Initiate the Gathering:** If there is someone you don't know to well or perhaps you have had limited conversations and you want to get to know him/her better, initiate a gathering. Make sure to make it clear that you are wanting to learn more about their role in the business or want to ask them questions about their career path so that there is no misunderstanding regarding your intentions. Being a young employee, veteran employees expect for younger people to refer to

them for wisdom. Invite them to a cold drink at a coffee shop, to an outdoor lunch, or make sure to sit next to them in the lunchroom.

Don't forget to have your business cards with you at all times! Don't have one? Create your **FREE business cards [here](#) (you pay for shipping and handling, between \$7-\$30).**

Sources:
[Top Tips for Summer Networking](#) and [Top 10 Summer Networking Tips](#)

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT: YOUNESE MEKONNEN '10

"I am hoping [my internship] experience will drive me towards making the right decision in the long run." -Younese Mekonnen '10 when discussing his current summer internship

Younese Mekonnen '10 is currently entering his third year at the University of Maryland at College Park. Like many students, he made his decision to attend this excellent institution based on its proximity to family, home, its credentials, and cost.

At school, Younese is majoring in Aerospace Engineering and considering to minor in business. After his undergraduate studies, he intends to enroll in graduate school but is still deciding whether his field of study should be math or physics. For this reason, Younese thoughtfully sought out his own internship as a math intern at the University of Maryland. His position requires him to assist incoming first year students through their math courses. He hopes that "this experience will drive [him] towards making the right [professional] decision in the long run".

When asked how he obtained such a coveted internship, Younese answered, "I acquired this position through a professor who taught Calculus during my freshman year but was later promoted to the Math Coordinator of the Academic Achievement Program." He recognizes that had he not established a close relationship with his professor, he very well may not have been chosen for this position. When asked how he maintains his relationships, Younese shared, "I occasionally send emails to my mentors regarding job opportunities or send them my regards during the holiday season. Mostly, I have kept in touch with the physics instructor because he has influenced my career path in many ways." There is no doubt that Younese understands the importance of not only cultivating relationships but also

nurturing them because one never knows how those people could potentially have a lasting impact in one's professional life, as proven in his recent acquisition of his current summer internship.

Younese's is already preparing for life after graduate school. He states, "I see myself traveling abroad to progressing nations ... assisting them in developing airplane maintaining stations and assembly lines. I have no intentions of working for money but instead for joy in allocating my spare time to philanthropic endeavors in progressing nations."

Congratulations to Younese for another successful internship experience! UA Family wishes Younese the very best in his professional aspirations!

BALTIMORE ALUMNI REUNION RECAP

The Annual Baltimore Alumni Reunion took place on July 13th at UA's Baltimore Office. The Baltimore Program Staff used this informal event to catch up with graduates from the program while Alumni used this time to hear updates from one another and network. Want to attend the next event? Make sure you are connected to UA Alumni updates on upcoming events via [Facebook*](#) or [Twitter](#).



Above: Baltimore Executive Director Catherine Eztevez and Stephanie Amponsah get a recap of Disrael Sylsvester's summer fellowship in California



Left: UA staff Aileen Xenakis and Wendy Dixon-Dubois share a laugh with Baltimore Alumni Shauntia Fowlkes '11 and Joe Gilmore '11; Right: Program Manager Stephanie Amponsah catches up with Anthony McKinney '11, Erin Ward '11 and her fiancé

*Make sure to be logged on to your Facebook account when clicking on this link.



Employing Youth. Inspiring Excellence.

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THE URBAN ALLIANCE FOUNDATION

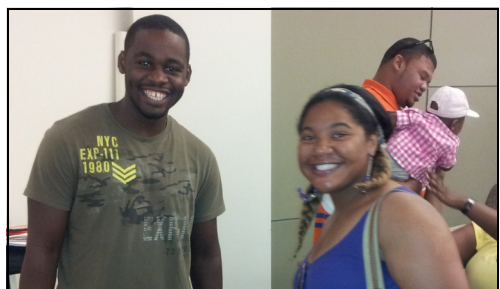
Urban Alliance Foundation, Inc. is a 501 (c) (3) organization and our mission is to empower under-resourced youth to aspire, work, and succeed through paid internships, formal training, and mentoring. Founded in 1996 by a small group of business leaders to create employment and educational opportunities for economically disadvantaged youth, we serve youth throughout the District of Columbia and since fall 2008, Baltimore City. Through three distinct programs, the High School Internship Program, Alumni Services, and Curriculum Outreach, we provide resources to our youth to successfully transition from high school to college or career training, and ultimately to the working world. To learn more about Urban Alliance, visit www.theurbanalliance.org.

DC & BALTIMORE ALUMNI PANEL EVENTS

On June 29th, UA DC Alumni **Don Lawson '11, John Hamilton '09, Owen Blagrove '11, Mbachur Mbenga '11, Monica Green '11, Yemi Betiku '11, Oluwafemi Falade '11, and Samantha Palmer '07** participated in a panel for current Interns at George Washington University. Later, on July 13th, Baltimore Alumni **Erin Ward '11, Joe Gilmore '11, and Brian Coles '11** served on the panel for their fellow Alumni. Both panels addressed the transition from high school to college, time management and study skills, balancing academics and campus social life, working on campus and internships, the benefits of Alumni Services, and the Alumni Ambassador program. After the Baltimore Panel and Networking Lunch, Alumni assisted with the Interns' Public Speaking Challenge practice by offering feedback to each Intern

Even the panelists learned something new from other panelists! DC Panelist and Alumna **Monica Green '11**, who is currently interning at The Center for Association Leadership (ASAE) and a sophomore at Norfolk State University, said, "I learned about the different online work sites that different schools use and found the panel discussion very enlightening." Baltimore Panelist and Alum **Brian Coles '11**, who attends Morgan State University, shared that he found the discussion regarding the importance of saving money very noteworthy.

Thank you to all our panelists who participated!



DC Alum Antonio Sanders '09 chats with future VSU classmate and future DC Alumna Jovanna Turner '12



DC Alumni Panelists left to right: Don Lawson '11, John Hamilton '09, Owen Blagrove '11, Mbachur Mbenga '11, Monica Green '11, Yemi Betiku '11, Oluwafemi Falade '11, and Samantha Palmer '07



From left to right: Alumni Services Coordinator Shanita Conley, Baltimore Alumni Panelists Brian Coles '11, Erin Ward '11, Joe Gilmore '11, and Alumni Services Manager Jazmyn Singleton

TAKE NOTE!

- DC Alumni Reunion will take place Thursday, July 19th. Call 202-459-4300 or email alumni@theurbanalliance.org for more information.
- UA will not produce an August issue of *The Alumni Connection* but will return this September with its "Back-to-School" edition to discuss financial literacy, updates on new happenings with UA, and provide a recap of the DC Alumni Reunion. Stay tuned!