

Alumni News

Great conversations over breakfast

On November 29, 2008 Ashesi hosted a fun-filled fundraising event with alumni, students and staff. Dubbed "Coffee Morning" the event gathered old friends and new together for a morning filled with sunshine, smiles and storytelling. It was great to see old friends, talk about work and life and think of ways to support Ashesi.

The venue, Cuppa Cappuccino, was beautiful and relaxing. The cake was divine and juice was free. Coffee mornings are a great way to get old friends together and have them support a noble cause. Alumni and staff present made donations towards the Princess Awoonor-Williams Scholarship Fund.

The Awoonor-Williams Scholarship Fund was founded in 2006 to honor the late Prof. Princess Awoonor-Williams, Economics Lecturer and former head of Ashesi's Business Department. The

Scholarship is awarded annually to students who experience financial hardship and show outstanding ethical character. According to Ms. Fatou Traore, "supporting the Princess Awoonor-Williams fund is supporting a legacy of concern for others." The event managed to raise over GHc 100.

In addition, Ashesi Alumni have set up a "short code" on all the existing mobile phone networks in Ghana to allow alumni to make donations to the scholarship fund via their mobile phones. A donation of GHc .25 will be made to the scholarship fund every time someone sends the text "give heart print" to short code 1761 on all networks.

Thank you to all who made the event fun by showing up. Let us continue to grow Ashesi's impact in Africa together.



Issue 3

Inside this issue:

Coffee Morning	1
Ashesi wins Educating Africa prize	1
Astrient-Ashesi Women's Forum	2
Career Smarts	3
Upcoming Events	3
Editor's Notes	4
Introducing the Ashesi Alumni Council	4
Ladies, dressing for success	5
Class of 2010 goes to Obuasi	6
Contact Us	6
Presidential debate-Ashesi style	7
Lessons from America's bold step	7
Support Ashesi	7
Alumni on-the-move	8
Christmas Events Highlights	8
PAW fund donor list	8

Ashesi wins EDUCATING AFRICA Ghana Country Award

Ashesi was this month awarded the Ghana country prize for the 2008 EDUCATING AFRICA Pan African Award for Entrepreneurship in Education. The award seeks to identify and celebrate the achievements of social entrepreneurs who understand the role education can play within their communities in creating posi-

tive social change.

Ashesi has over the last six years developed an innovative approach to tackling entrenched problems in education. We (donors, alumni, students & administration) are creating impact by achieving measurable results in our areas of influence.

Currently, close to 50% of Ashesi students receive financial aid or scholarships from the university. Students continue to be selected based on academic merit, leadership potential and need.

Points of Interest

- Ashesi wins Educating Africa Pan African Award.
- PAW fund donor list
- Alumni Council
- Editor's Notes

The EDUCATING AFRICA Pan African Award for Entrepreneurship in Education represents a small step forward in terms of drawing international attention to institutions such as Ashesi.

The award was sponsored by Teach A Man to Fish, see www.teachamantofish.org.uk an international non-profit organization working to improve the relevancy, quality, and availability of education in developing countries and Educating Africa, visit www.educatingafrica.com, a foundation that is committed to supporting sustainable cost effective education initiatives that empower students and the communities they represent.



The Astriant Foundation-Ashesi University Women's Forum

The Astriant Foundation supported by Ashesi University has developed the monthly Women's Forum as a component of its Women's Initiative and Ashesi's commitment to keeping alumni connected with the university.

The Astriant Foundation, founded in 2007 by Rashid Mayes and Karlyn Hunter, is a non-profit organization established to support the dissemination of technical knowledge, software and expertise in economically disadvantaged communities.

The foundation aids students who demonstrate acumen or potential in areas of social responsibility and entrepreneurship. Some Ashesi students who have benefited from their scholarship and fellowship programs include Kwei Quaye-Foli, Diamond Kpesese, Nii Ayertei Tettey, Ernest Appiah and alumnus Samuel Asumadu.

The Women's Forum serves as a platform for Ashesi students to in-

teract with successful business women and alumnae. It seeks to inspire and encourage the development of future female leaders by connecting them with today's highly regarded female change-drivers.

This inter-generational connection is accomplished through monthly interactive sessions which address different themes, including personal financial management, ethics in the work place, women's assertiveness in male dominated environments and personal brand management.

Samuel Asumadu, '08 works as the Managing Director of the Astriant Foundation. According to him, "The Women's Forum is one of the many initiatives Astriant and Ashesi can work together on."

Rachael Agyemang-Duah, says "the Women's Forum is a step in the right direction. I look forward to these monthly sessions because they are both invigorating and empowering. I always leave feeling

inspired about my life and all the great things I can accomplish. I also get to interact with all of these amazing women!"

Past speakers have included Ms. Allison Bethel, Knight International Journalism Fellow; Ms. Franka-Maria Andoh, Managing Partner, Creative Hospitality Ltd. And Ms. Tamah Israel, Managing Director, ANEW Wellness Spa.

By:
Sarah Mills



Career Smarts: 10 tips for showing grace under fire

Today's work world is fast-paced and deadline-driven. Many companies have not yet fully recovered from the economic downturn and are still operating on tight budgets and lean staff levels. Employees across the board are managing large workloads and long hours.

As a result, now more than ever, on-the-job success depends on your ability to **show grace under fire**. Here are 10 tips to help you become a peak performer when the pressure's on.

Go with the flow. Adaptability is an invaluable skill. If priorities change and your boss asks you to move from one project to another, embrace the new challenge and demonstrate your ability to learn on the fly. Remember: If you're always flexible, you'll never get bent out of shape.

Seek clarity. Don't be afraid of asking too many questions. If a hot assignment is dropped in your lap with little warning, it's to your advantage to clarify timelines, personal expectations and overall goals with your manager before starting work.

Prioritize and then strategize. Take a few moments to develop a game plan before diving headfirst into any project. By thinking tactically and constructing a road map on the front end, you can spot potential hurdles before they slow you down. A plan will also help you stay clear-headed throughout the process.

Don't procrastinate. Worrying about a project doesn't count as working on it. Rather than putting off your most pressing deadlines, hop to it. Getting these assignments out of the way first will lower your stress level and make your overall

goals seem more manageable.

Break it up. Take short breaks to relieve crunch-time tension. Collect your thoughts by going for a walk, stretching or briefly engaging in water-cooler chitchat. If you can't leave your workstation, close your eyes, take deep breaths and try to clear your head for a few moments.

Stay cool. Even the most affable and well-mannered people can become flustered and temperamental when under stress. Don't contribute to the tense atmosphere. Although it's not always easy, take criticism with a grain of salt on hectic days. Think before speaking and don't let anyone else's poor attitude affect your own.

Ask for help. Even with talent and a Herculean effort, some jobs simply can't be completed by one person. If you're doing everything possible to accomplish a task and still foresee a problem, ask for assistance. Identify duties that can be delegated and request backup from your supervisor. He or she would much rather divert resources to help you now than hear of a missed deadline later.

Fix your gaze. When operating on overdrive, it's easy to lose sight of big-picture goals and the fact that working hard now will help you achieve them. Keep your eye on the light at the end of the tunnel.

Turn downtime into prep time. After a high-intensity period passes, decompress by making note of the lessons you just learned. What factors, if any, caused you to fall off schedule? If leading a project team, how could you have communicated goals more effectively? Reflective thinking will help you streamline your pressure-handling processes and prepare you for the

next big brush fire.

Foster good office karma. It is always a smart move to build rapport with co-workers. If a colleague is on deadline and has an inbox piled to the ceiling, offer to help if you can. By lending a hand, you'll likely make an ally who'll return the favor the next time you're in a pinch.

To perform well when the heat is on and the stakes are high, you need focus, organization and steely resolve. Being optimistic and viewing challenges as opportunities for growth won't hurt either. Use the tips highlighted above to not just survive but thrive the next time you find yourself under the gun.

Source: Robert Half International Inc. is the world's first and largest specialized staffing firm with a global network of more than 330 offices throughout North America, Europe, Australia and New Zealand.

“Prioritize and then strategize.”

Upcoming Events

- January , 2009: **Women's Forum**, Ashesi's L.H.4., Building 3.
- March 2009: **Alumni Karaoke Night**, Champs Sports Bar.
- May 2009: **Alumni Homecoming**, Ashesi University.

Editor's Notes: Making Ashesi our business

Dear friends,

The **mission** of the Ashesi Alumni Association is to keep alumni connected with each other and with Ashesi. The Alumni Relations Office seeks to mobilize support for the University by providing valuable services and resources to members of the alumni family.

After eleven months of operation, the Alumni Office has gathered exciting concepts for new programs. We have learned new ways to be of service. We have learned how we can build a dynamic community of alumni and how we can engage more effectively in service to Ashesi.

We have been imagining a new beginning.

We will **improve** and **increase** communication channels between alumni and the other members of the Ashesi community. We hope to create a stimulating climate in which alumni want to stay connected and engaged.

We will offer you **new opportunities to serve** Ashesi. Volunteer talent can make incredible contribu-

tions to the success of Ashesi, but the "human capital" of the alumni body has only began to be tapped. Ashesi will highlight projects that emphasize scholarship, leadership and citizenship.

We will encourage you to **actively support** Ashesi financially by increasing both the percentage and total of alumni giving. Ashesi has never **needed** the **support** of its friends like it does now.

The Alumni Office recognizes the importance of generating the feeling of ownership when it comes to alumni donations and reasons to give back to Ashesi financially. We will **publicize** alumni who **donate** and challenge their friends to donate to Ashesi as well.

We want you to support Ashesi to attract and retain the **highest quality** students with the greatest chance of thriving from an Ashesi

education by signing unto the **Alumni Admissions Program**. You can identify local students who will fit well at Ashesi, interview prospective candidates and serve as a liaison in your former High School.

You can get innovative by designing programs that will **increase interaction** and **involvement** with current students.

It is important to increase **alumni visibility** on campus, and to work on innovative ways of combining alumni and student programming. Homecoming is an example of such involvement.

Let us make this exciting by taking charge.

We will continue to work hard to improve the traditional avenues of alumni involvement; workshops, coffee mornings and karaoke nights.

Let us live Ashesi's pillars of scholarship, leadership, citizenship by increasing our efforts of volunteerism, mentoring, concern and responsiveness. **Ashesi is our business.**

Best,

Sarah Mills

"Ashesi is our business."

Introducing the Ashesi Alumni Council

In the month of September, we formed our first Alumni Council. The Alumni Council supported by the Alumni Relations Office will provide a range of services to alumni, students and the administration of Ashesi University College.

The Alumni Council will foster communication between Ashesi and alumni and will facilitate input from alumni to the College in the devel-

opment of policies.

The Council is headed by **Yawa Hansen-Quao '07** and assisted by **Ada Ojukwu'05**, Vice-President; **Sarah Mills '07**, Secretary; **Angela Osei-Kufuor'07**, Treasurer and **Jessica Asiedu'07**, Class Representative.

The Council will be a leader among Ashesi's alumni organizations by providing an evolving range of

services to alumni, students and college administration by informing and influencing policies to further the mission of the university.

The Council, the governing body of the Alumni Association, will participate in a variety of activities to support students, alumni and the college.

Congratulations and good luck to our council members!

Ladies, dressing for success--how to look the part

My thinking when writing this article was about how I understand success. I have come to grasp the fact that success means finding a path that you absolutely love treading and that allows you to be yourself.

A couple of months ago, I bought a pair of jeans that I was very excited about. The price was right and it looked a little different. My eighteen year old niece when she saw me in them commented on how high the waist was. "No one wears jeans like that anymore." She said, making me feel rather derelict for a forty year old who thinks she is thirty.

However, I get rave compliments on these same jeans whenever I wear them. I always smile when I hoist it up to my belly button and remember what my niece said.

On my second day in Communications School, our lecturer who was one of the sharpest dressers on campus gave us a simple exercise. She asked us to pair up and answer a few basic questions about each other. 1) What job do you think they did? 2) What books did they like to read? I learnt that day that the first impression people have of you is based purely on your physical appearance. Nine out of ten of the answers people gave about their partners were wrong.

I was invited to speak at Ashesi sometime this month. On the day of my presentation, I wore a pair of faded blue jeans with a blue and white shirt. I also wore brown shoes and had a brown bag. Students thought I worked in fashion design; was a business executive; maybe owned a clothes shop and my favourite colour was blue. The facts are that I am a restaurateur and a writer. I love the colour brown and have owned my own business for eleven years. Two students were spot on with my favourite colour be-

ing brown and my favourite female author being Maya Angelou, one student got where I lived correct.

I read a lot of articles that tell women how to dress at a certain age and what lipstick colours to wear and how to use soft eye shadows to hide crow lines. Leaving the thirty something group of companies this year was not easy for me and I felt that it came with a certain responsibility in terms of how one projected one's self. I was now officially by Ghanaian standards a **maame**. Being a bit of an alternative person, I like to look different. I keep up with trends but I am not controlled by trends. I dress to suit my **personality** and the **personal brand** that I want to project.

I take what I do serious but I have a wicked sense of humour. I am creative. I am **trendy** but most importantly, I am **decent**.

It saddens me and creates much discussion amongst my contemporaries how young women these days dress. I was having a conversation with my friend who is a lecturer and she said to me. "Franka, a lot of our girls copy from the States and Europe, they dress like the girls on MTV base and want to look like gangster girls. Do you think that Bill Cosby's daughter dresses like this?" I shook my head.

I look at Michelle Obama with her beautiful structure and excellent taste in clothes and I see an intelligent woman who can stand her own even without this exceptional man by her side. I see those two little girls growing up to be the same.

I believe in stepping out each day looking the best I can. Even if it is sometimes a bit of an overkill. My daughter watches me closely each morning. It is important that I set

the right example.

"Ei Mummy you are showing off." She says to me.

And maybe I am, and why not? For me the clothes do not make me look good, I make the clothes look good. I dress to tell the world that hey, here I come. It has been a long road from being told at age twelve that I had a neck that was too long, a forehead that was too big and a mouth that was too small and I wear my scars with pride.

I have come to accept myself and learn what suits me and what does not. I decide how I want the world to see me; the world does not make that decision for me. I hope that we learn the **importance of dressing right**.

Discover what colours suit you. What hair style suits the shape of your face. Experiment with lipstick colours, be creative, a little adventurous with accessories. Learn when that mini skirt is acceptable and when it is not. Grow yourself in every sphere of your life. Be aware that sometimes less is not more.

"Grow yourself in every sphere of your life. Be aware that sometimes less is not more."

I cannot tell you what to wear and what not to. We are our own women, but in all I have said, I would like you to take this away. I have found out that it is the essence that creates the image. As important as the outward appearance is, it can be marred by discontent, insecurity and unhappiness. Being told I had all these negative aspects as a twelve year old was painful. It took me many years to accept myself, but that journey allowed me to travel deep within me and to truly know myself.

I learnt to love myself well, value myself and I willed myself to be what I had always wanted to be as a grown up woman; a beautiful person inside and out. With that acceptance came **confidence**, with the struggle came **humility** and with the **determination** as sure as night is night and day is day – came **success**.

I wish you all acceptance and inevitably, success.

By:

Franka-Maria Andoh

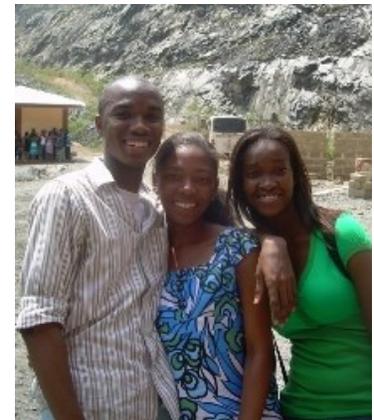
“ I have found that it is the essence that creates the image.”

Protective gear, laughter and an underground mine tour

Dr. Esi Ansah's Organizational Behaviour class traveled to the mines of AngloGold Ashanti, Obuasi. The intent of the trip was to help students understand and apply the concepts that they had studied and discussed in class. As a course requirement, each student was to write a term paper about of the core concepts of Organizational Behavior using AngloGold as a case study. Ms. Esther Malm, Teaching Assistant and Dr. Esi Ansah, the class instructor joined the Class of 2010 on the trip.

Upon arrival, the group was given a guided tour of the mine as well as insights into the operations of the company. They were shown samples of gold-bearing rocks and were informed about the various Corporate Social Responsibility projects AngloGold is involved in. "I found the tour of the mines most fascinating. I've never been 800 feet underground before." remarks Adwoa Tutu when asked about her impressions of the trip. The group also had the opportunity to see the underground school for miners and the mine sites.

The group interacted with miners and spoke with them about their experiences working in the mine and the working environment at AngloGold Ashanti. The students discussed concepts they studied in class such as workspace design, importance of valuing diversity and organizational communication. "This trip was tiring, yet very fun and educational" adds Nii Lantei Kumi-Bruce.



Contact Us

You can reach the Alumni Relations Office by e-mail at alumni@ashesi.edu.gh or by telephone on (021) 784.767 or (021) 777.902

We look forward to hearing from you!

Presidential Debate- -Ashesi Style

It wasn't on television and it wasn't stuffy either. It came after 3 weeks of intensive campaigning by candidates and campaign team members. Student e-mails were flooded with campaign messages and posters were clustered everywhere. The Ashesi Student Council Presidential debate was organized to enable students judge the ideas and ideals of the presidential aspirants.

Students came clad in their supporter's T-shirt and other paraphernalia. The debate was intense and interesting—a real battle of ideas. Everyone was excited, faculty and staff as well. Both candidates did well but if the noise level was anything to go by, one candidate must have done better than the other.

As dusk fell, hungry Labone mosquitoes dared to try and feast on their unwilling hosts—only to be slapped and squashed, adding to noise of the clapping and supportive calls.

The MCs were professional, managed to keep their cool and asked their questions in a fair and supportive manner. Did the Presidential debate affect the outcome of the elections?

Romeo Owusu-Aning is the new president of the Ashesi Student Council. Romeo attended St. Augustine's College before coming to Ashesi. He has supported Ashesi by conducting campus tours during orientation as well as putting together material for the Ashesi website. Romeo is the president of the African Renaissance Movement (ARM)—a campus platform that allows students to discuss and share ideas about the way forward for Africa.

Nana Ama Akosah is Chairperson of the Judicial and Electoral Committee (JEC) and will sit on the Ashesi Judicial Council (AJC). Nana Ama, last semester was chosen after a long and rigorous interviewing process to study for a semester at The prestigious Babson College, Boston.

Charles Agyeman Antwi, one of the 2008 Goldman Sachs Spring interns was elected Financial Secretary of the council. According to the president-elect, "It's great to be part of such an incredible team and I look forward to the year ahead."

By:

Nina Chachu

Isaac Bruce (Class of 2012)

Lessons from America's bold step - -voting right

With the whole world talking about the impending American elections, I couldn't help but carry conversations, opinions and arguments about how or why which candidate should or should not win into my dreams.

My preferred candidate for president is of course, Senator Barack Obama; and this has nothing to do with him being black. Senator Obama, to me, is an icon of hope for the minority. In this vein, I choose to compare the American people to the people of my home country of Ghana. America's strength is in its people and their ability to make the right choices.

Ghana? Do we have that kind of strength to do what is right? Do we think through issues properly before we make serious decisions such as the election of a president? Ghana has a lot to learn from America in that regard. This is not an attack on Ghana or Africa. It is call for us to be more disciplined regarding issues that affect our wellbeing as a nation. How often do we hear stories of leaders rigging elections or making last minute amendments to a constitution just to stay in power?

We can take a bold step, just like what the American people did and vote for the right form of change. Let us vote for a transformational leadership style. Let us vote for a leadership style that will create a responsible leader within every Ghanaian.

Peace, my country men and women.

By:

Appolonia Kumi (Class of 2008)

Support Ashesi University

- Sign unto the mentorship program and guide an Ashesi student through their time in college and life after.
- Assist Ashesi to recruit the best and brightest students by going on school visits, interviewing prospective students and volunteering at orientation.
- Facilitate seminars/workshops for current students.
- Donate to a general fund at Ashesi.
- Be a good ambassador for Ashesi wherever you find yourself-- live the pillars of scholarship, leadership and citizenship.

Alumni on-the-move

- Maame Dufie Cudjoe '05 - Zain, Ghana.
- Aba Ackun '06 - Barclays Bank.
- Lionel Nuno '06 - AmalBank, Ghana.
- Mawuse Bankas '07- Deloitte& Touche.
- Malcolm Senanu '07- London Bridge Business Academy.
- Nana Kwabena Koranteng'07- Melt Water Entrepreneurial School.
- Kojo Boama - IC securities
- Koku Kumodzi '08 - Teligent Wireless, Osu.
- Patrick Ayertey '08 - PriceWaterhouse-Coopers.
- Anida Acquah '08 - Ashesi University.
- Kofi Asare'08 - IC Securities.
- Loworki Ahulu'08 - Soft Sheen Carson.

Let's get Christmassy!!!

- Saturday, December 20, 2008

* **A night of 1001 laughs and music;** National Theatre. Time: **7:00** pm Cost: GHc 40

- Monday, December 22, 2008

* **Carol's Night;** Fiesta Royale Hotel Time: 7:00 pm

* **Piano Recital;** The garden, Josie's Cuppa Cappuccino. Time: **7:00** pm

- Wednesday, December 24, 2008

* **Live musical festival;** Pool side, Golden Tulip

Time: **8:00** pm to **11:00** pm

- Thursday, December 25, 2008

* **KSM as Afia Siriboe;** National Theatre.

Time: **4: 00** pm & **8:00** pm Cost: GHc 25

- Wednesday, December 31, 2008

* **Crossover Service,** KICC, Dominion Center, Spintex.
Time: **10:00** pm

2008 PAW Scholarship Fund Donors

- DreamOval
- Fatou Traore
- Senyo Akaba
- Araba Amuasi
- Denise Oduro-Konadu
- Matthew Taggart
- Nina Chachu
- Lionel Nuno
- Keren Asante
- Adjoa Asamoah Tabi-Asiamah
- Nii Amon Dsane
- Seyram Ahiabor
- Kojo Boama
- Koku Kumodzi
- Fred Deegbe
- Patrick Quantson
- Kofi Ocloo
- Charles & Yawa Hansen-Quao
- Abdul Latif Issahaku
- Joseph Hinnah
- Klaus Keku

Thank you for donating to the Princess Awoonor-Williams Scholarship fund this year.

Your donation will go towards supporting the tuition of a bright but needy Ashesi student.

We appreciate your generous support of our efforts to transform Africa one student at a time.

Happy Holidays!!!