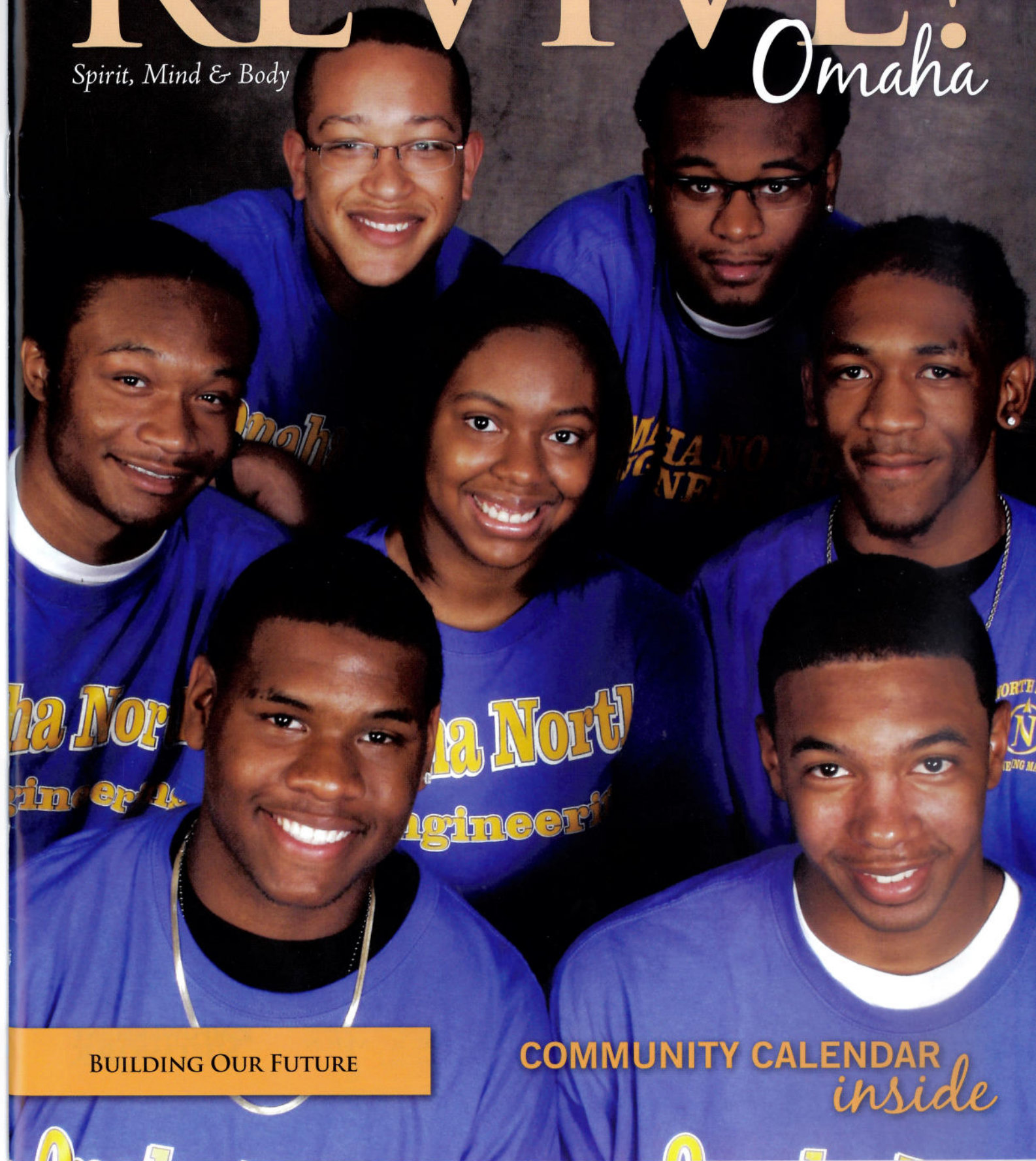


REVIVE!

Spirit, Mind & Body

Omaha



BUILDING OUR FUTURE

COMMUNITY CALENDAR
inside

BUILDING OUR *future*

By Janice Gilmore



“I, too, believe in the power of dreams. I believe that if we all work hard and attempt to hurdle all obstacles set before us—we can realize our dreams.”

*Quote by Evelyn Ashford
Athlete and Olympic Gold Medalist*

Every person who reaches out to help and encourage young people has embraced that concept quoted by Evelyn Ashford. And when young people dream and

strive to be the best that they can be it makes for a beautiful inspiring story.

In the fall of 2008, Anthony Williams, faculty member at Omaha North High Magnet School in the Engineering department had a dream. He wanted to start a junior chapter of the National Society of Black Engineers (NSBE).

The NSBE mission is “to increase the number of culturally responsible Black engineers who excel academically, succeed professionally, and positively impact the community.”

In 1971, two undergrad students attending Purdue University had the idea of starting an organization that would strive to help improve the recruitment and retention of black engineering students. The Black Society of Engineers (BSE) on Purdue campus after much work and networking eventually evolved into NSBE by 1975.

NSBE has more than 26,000 members with 300 chapters on college and university campuses. It has 99 active NSBE Jr. (pre-college) chapters and Williams saw no reason why North High Magnet couldn't have a chapter of their own. With the help of Dr. Terri Norton from the Peter Kiewit Institute and support of North High School administration, and some staff members, Williams was able to recruit 12 African American students interested in Engineering. They chartered the North High Jr. Chapter of the National Society of Black Engineers.

But Williams was so completely motivated that he wanted his students to attend the convention in Las Vegas. He approached Principal Gene Haynes, Curriculum Specialist Janis Christensen, and Engineering Dept. Director, Dr. Lee Kallstrom with his idea. With their blessings, Williams contacted individuals and businesses and raised the \$14,000

needed in one month. The young people attended the convention and came back truly inspired.

They were so excited that they recruited more students and had 28 students registered in the fall. Throughout the year they focused on academics, volunteering and mentoring, and begin to fundraise for the 2010 convention that took place in Toronto, Canada at a cost of \$22,000. Fourteen young people and 3 chaperones were able to attend the convention in March.

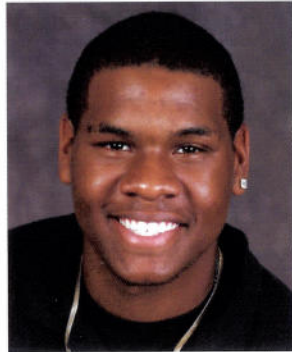
The NSBE Jr. program at North also have programs that include curriculum materials, Pre-College Initiative conference, NSBE Bridge Magazine, resume building, and Engineering Fridays. Engineering Fridays is a mentoring program at Skinner Magnet. One or two Fridays per month NSBE Jr. students mentor 5th and 6th grade students at Skinner Magnet. This program was facilitated with the help of Skinner staff members, Dustin Driever, Pat Miltner, and Tanya Mitchell.

At the end of this school year, North High Magnet had its first annual NSBE Jr. graduating seniors reception where nine seniors were recognized all of which are going to pursue engineering, math, and science degrees in college. The seniors were recognized for being awarded near 1.1 million dollars in scholarships.



North High Jr. Chapter of the National Society of Black Engineers

2010 Graduate
Members of NSBE Jr.
Congratulations
from Revive! Omaha



Ja'Rel Bibbs

Parents: Angelia and Eavon Turner
Plans to attend school while in the Air Force. Planned field of study is Mechanical Engineering.

"My mother encouraged me to be a high achiever by continuing to go back to school to get her master's degree. Her dedication to success helped me to continue to also strive for success."



Rashad Erwin-Ingram

Parents: Tracy Erwin and Barry Ingram
Plans to attend University of Nebraska at Omaha. Field of study is Mechanical Engineering with a minor in business management.

"My parents have held me to high standards all my life and have motivated me to do well to help give back to my people."



Matei Jackson

Parents: Tasha Jackson and Max Davis
Plans to attend University of Nebraska at Lincoln. Field of study will be Mechanical Engineering and General Sciences.

"My parents encouraged me to be a high achiever. My mother instilled in me that all success is achieved through hard work and dedication."



Tre 'Von McKay

Parents: Coeta Hampton and Charles McKay
Plans to attend Morehouse College
Field of study will be Dual Degree Physics and Civil Engineering.

"My mother has always been a strong influence to live a life on a path to success. She is a college graduate and has shown me how much a college education can do for you."



Willie Stennis

Parents: Gloria Vinson and Willie Vinson
Plans to attend University of Nebraska at Lincoln. Field of study will be Mechanical Engineering with minor in Bio Medical Engineering or major in Bio Systems Engineering and Minor in Biomedical Engineering.

"My parents are always encouraging and supportive."



Raquel Sturdivant

Parents: Merrick and Carleen Sturdivant
Plans to attend University of Nebraska at Omaha's Peter Kiewit Institute. Field of study will be Computer Science and Information Systems Management.

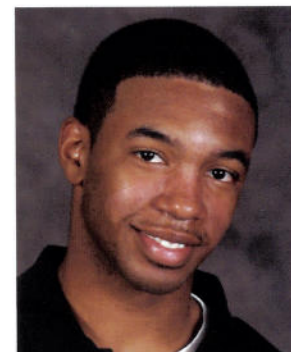
"My parents have always encouraged me to do the best I can do in all that I do. They are very supportive."



Abram Walker

Parent: Sharon Wilson
Plans to attend Wayne State College in Wayne, Nebraska. Field of study will be Construction Management.

"My mother has always been there for me. At a young age I realized her importance in my life and therefore knew that I need to do everything possible to reach a high level of success."



Kenneth Williams

Parent: Harolene Bailey
Plans to attend Southeast Community College. Field of study will be Civil Engineering.

"My mom was hard on me but I knew it was for a good reason and it has brought me this far and still will take me further."



Alexander Wynn

Parents: Daryl and Marla Wynn
Plans to attend Creighton University. Field of study will be Biochemistry.

"My mom and dad always gave their all to help me achieve whatever I desired to be or do. They constantly helped me when I had problems with school, church or social aspects of my life."

When asked what part faith and spirituality played in their lives, the following are a few of the heartfelt comments made by the graduating students:

Kenneth Williams

"Faith and spirituality is the foundation that I stand on, without it I couldn't be who I am."

Raquel Sturdivant

"My parents reared me in the church and because of that I know that it was nothing but God that brought me this far. I continue to pray for success everyday and believe that with God I will go far."

Willie Stennis

"Faith and spirituality is in every aspect of my life. When something is built on a foundation like that, it will last forever. Matthew 6:33 says 'But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness and all these things shall be added unto you'."

Rashad Erwin Ingram

"My faith has made me a stronger and wiser person. I feel that God has helped me motivate myself. My faith has shown me the value of family."

Abram Walker

"My faith has taught me that believing, dreaming, prayer and hard work can get you to a very successful and happy point in your life."

These young people also realize that it is very important to be selective of the people who you surround yourself with. The following few comments give advice they would give other young people interested in putting together a strategic plan for moving forward in a successful manner:

Matei Jackson

"There is no failure in not accomplishing your goals. The failure is in not having a worthy goal to reach for. Stay on the right path, set goals and reasonable milestones for yourself and most of all have faith in yourself."

Alexander Wynn

"Strive to follow your dreams no matter what other people may say. Stay true to yourself even if no one else cares. If you can dream it, make a plan to move forward and then you can definitely achieve it. And remember, the wrong crowd will always want to make you one of them because they have failed in achieving their dreams. They would like to take as many people as possible down with them and ruin their dreams."

Tre'Von McKay

"Something I would like to tell other students is to always work hard, it will pay off. The years in high school are very important, start strong when you enter and it makes it easier as you pursue your diploma. Always respect and listen to your counselors, teachers, and administrators because they are a large factor in determining your success."

Raquel Sturdivant

"Stay focused and work hard, do not allow others to hold you back from your dreams. The 'in' crowd may be cool now, but once you graduate from high school none of that matters. You need to have a plan for your life."

Abram Walker

"Stay active in school and the community. I have many hours of volunteer experience in the community. When you help out a lot of people it gives you a better feeling about yourself, ultimately making you a happy and more productive student. Avoid temptation and stay around positive people."

Kenneth Williams

"Do more than just enough, excel and go forward. And when you've gone as far as you can go, go further."

Willie Stennis

"Stay focused and understand that more opportunities present themselves when you stay positive and on the right path."

These young people are definitely deserving of our admiration. They are not only a credit to our community but tremendous role models for other African American youths. We would also like to give a tribute to their parents who have invested so much love, hard work, encouragement, and sacrifice to produce such quality human beings!