



WELCOME NIGHT REPORT

As the number of new and returning Graduate and Undergraduate students from African diaspora is increasing, the organizing committee of QAD (Queen's Africa Day) thought it was good to keep the network vibrant to facilitate the planning of future events such as the QAD and others. Therefore, a Welcome Night took place on Wednesday November 04 from 5.00 to 7.00pm at the Grad Club located at 162 Barrie St, Kingston, ON K7L 3K1. There was no formal agenda since it was an opportunity for students, faculty and staff from African diaspora and the Queen's community in academic research and teaching pertaining to Africa and African Diasporic studies to get introduced and discuss the past and future events. However, the schedule below was used as guidelines:

1. Quick presentation of all the participants
2. QAD: brief presentation of the past, most recent and discussion of future events
3. QASN. brief presentation
4. Field study in Africa and other related events
5. General discussion about concern on racism in the campus and other. Also see the links below

<http://www.queensjournal.ca/story/2015-10-16/lifestyle/a-brown-face-in-a-white-place/>

During the meeting, all the various students and network association at Queen's such as ACSA (African & Caribbean Students' Association), QBAS (Queen's Black Academy Society), and QASN (Queen's Africa Study Network) were briefly presented. The representative of QASN, Raynold Alorse reminded that QASN was still looking for members to sit on the committee. The distinction between QAD and the associations aforementioned was discussed. QAD is a committee that was put in place to organize the QAD event. Therefore, the committee is constituted by members of these associations as well as scholars, researchers and faculty members at Queen's. In preparation of future events, the members of the QAD committee called for more students in the committee and to help in the events' organization. To facilitate the communication, people requested that day that QASN as a network organization should make regular updates on their social media platform (Facebook) to share related information to other

associations and beyond. The idea of a field course to be organized in Africa was briefly presented as well as the article of the Journal talking about racism at Queen's. The following periods for the next QAD event, March 2016, November 2016 and March 2017 were discussed with no consensus. The majority of the attendees thought that it was good to continue promoting the event among students (graduate and also undergraduate) and get them more involved in the committee. This will facilitate selecting an appropriate period for the next event. A snack was offered free to participants with the generosity of Stephanie Simpson and Adrien Djomo.

If you are interested to be part of QAD committee, please send your interest to one of these members:

Andrew Grant (andrew.grant@queensu.ca), Adrien Djomo (djomoa@queensu.ca), Stephanie Simpson (ss33@queensu.ca), Edward Nkole (nkole@queensu.ca), Maria Krause (maria.krause@queensu.ca), Alvine Kamaha (9ack1@queensu.ca)