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### **Group to help Black students**

Janie Jones, outreach coordinator and corporate recruiter for the University of Michigan-Dearborn, is the new president and executive director of Multicultural Affairs for the Michigan African American Student Network.

MAASN was created to act as a hub for students and supports the enrollment, retention and success of the African-American and multicultural students enrolled at UM-Dearborn.

“Our goal is to create an inclusive culture that adds value to the college experience. This will be a collaborative effort in which we partner students, alumni, faculty, community and corporate leaders to address students’ academic, professional and social needs,” Jones said. “So often students are intimidated and afraid to apply to the University of Michigan, thinking they may not be accepted, so we will try to assist with community outreach to address this issue on our Dearborn campus.” The group is also putting programs in place that will address the state’s need for talent retention.

“My hope is if we can allow students to become aware of the opportunity that is in their back yard, they will not be so eager to leave Michigan,” she said. “I have tried to encourage our business community to reach out to our campus and have had an overwhelming response from our corporate partners to assist with mentoring, professional development and program sponsorship.” For more information call (313) 583-6647 or visit [jjones@umd.umich.edu](mailto:jjones@umd.umich.edu).



Dr. Daniel Little



Gloria House



Tim Kiska



Janie Jones

## **Black press impact, news diversity focus of U-M lecture series**

### CHRONICLE STAFF REPORTS

There is a growing need to understand the media, especially the Black press and its role in documenting the African-American pilgrimage as well as other issues that shape the lives of people of color. For that reason, Bankole Thompson, Michigan Chronicle editor, is coming to the University of Michigan-Dearborn as a visiting lecturer, speaking on diversity in the media and the effect journalists can have on society.

Thompson will be on campus for the winter semester starting this month to deliver several public lectures on the significance of the Black media and its rejuvenated role in the context of the Barack Obama presidency, diversity in the news, and the globalization of the Internet. He will also moderate a public forum on campus on the role of ethnic media in a multicultural democracy.

University chancellor Dr. Daniel Little, in a release said the university is pleased to have Thompson speak on campus. "The new lecture series on media diversity and social change, is a very welcome addition to the intellectual environment of this multicultural university," Little said. "Bankole Thompson is a very distinguished journalist and public intellectual, and his critical insights can help our region make genuine and sustained progress. The series will be outstanding."

As the only editor of a major African-American newspaper in the country to sit down several times with Barack Obama for exclusive interviews on the campaign trail, Thompson's coverage of the presidential election and his work have won admiration among his colleagues as well as various institutions.

The National Advisory Commission on Civil Disorders, known as the Kerner Commission, described him as a "courageous voice on behalf of the dispossessed, a shining example of journalism for the public good."

Tim Kiska, WWJ-Newsradio 950AM veteran newsman and professor of journalism at the university's School of Communication; Gloria House, director of the university's African American studies program and Janie Jones, president of the Michigan African American Student Network and corporate recruiter and outreach coordinator, expressed their support for the media lecture series.

All three praised Thompson's talent and skill and said the university is happy that despite his demanding assignment he has agreed to visit with students and the public on campus to engage them on the critical issues shaping the future of our communities.

"In my opinion Bankole represents the best and most noble instincts of journalism. The Detroit community is lucky to have him behind the wheel," said Kiska, who invited Thompson to address his journalism students.

House added, "I am certain that Bankole Thompson's professional achievements and his impressive media leadership will be inspirational for all our UM-Dearborn students, but particularly those who aspire to a career in the media." "Our students majoring in communications, African American studies and social science will benefit a great deal from the lecture. We hope this newfound relationship continues," Jones said.

The university will announce dates and times for the lectures and the forum all of which is free and open to the public.