

BLACKTALK

The Newsletter of the Harvard Black Students' Association

Letter from the President:



Fellow Students,

Welcome back to Cambridge for what should be a very exciting year! We're pleased to kick things off our brand new monthly BSA Newsletter. This publication will be sent at the beginning of every month and is designed to keep all students, alumni and sponsors abreast of our past and future activities. As classes begin and other extra-curriculars pick up, it becomes essential for our board and membership to have things mapped out in a user-friendly way to help plan for a busy semester.

The BSA Board has worked tirelessly this summer to develop a line of programming and events that are not only engaging, but action-oriented - allowing members to get involved in several aspects of the College and greater

Boston community. With this in mind, our overarching focus for the year is the Achievement Gap, the growing disparity in academic advancement between black students and their counterparts in schools across the country. This phenomenon is quickly becoming one of the most significant issues facing our race. As Harvard black students, we're uniquely equipped with the resources as well as the experiences necessary to tackle this pervasive problem head on.

And many of you already know, BSA is much more than a voice of action for students. It's a family. To this end we've also looked into ways we can constructively build up our community and strengthen our ties as brothers and sisters. Hence we're rolling out the BSA Black & Beyond Directory, which aims to connect BSA members with one another through extracurricular activities, concentrations and residential housing. And of course, no community building is effective without creating outlets for social activity. We're committed to bringing back dorm parties and spreading the crunkness from the concrete box that is Mather to the storied walls of Currier. Look for themed parties as well as movie screenings and BBQs to supplement the rigorous grind of classes and commitments.

With all this as a preamble to the 2009-2010 year, it's important to remember the difficult times we're in. As school continues to make financial adjustments in a recovering economy, we also need to become more efficient as a community. We're working to emphasize quality over quantity in our programming, with fewer events but more fun and intrigue in what we do plan to have. The BSA board is also working with several other BCL organizations to make sure that a reduction in events doesn't translate into a reduction in building our community. Nonetheless going into the year with a frugal mindset is always helpful in acting transparently.

I'm excited to get things started and hope to see you out at meetings and events!

Spencer

FEATUREDContent

- Letter from the President
- September Run Through
- Special Recognition
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- Meet Your BSA Board
- Last Words

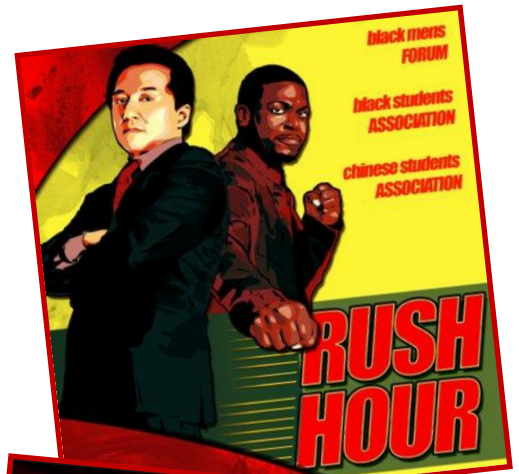
September: A Run-Down

This past September was an extremely busy and successful month for the BSA as an organization and black student life here at Harvard in general. From the 2013 Welcome Party in the earliest days of the year to the recent Black Alumni Weekend, there has been no lack of events in the black community. Just in case you weren't paying attention, here's what you missed out on:

- Welcome 2013 Party
- President's Welcome
- BSA tabling at the Activities Fair
- Freshman Intro Meeting
- Rush Hour Party, co-sponsored by BMF and the CSA
- General Intro Meeting, discussing activism in the black community at Harvard and how to *actively* make a change
- HollaDay at MIT
- The HollaDay Afterparty (if you managed to get in...)
- The BSA Career Fair
- The Graduate School Fair
- The Resume Workshop...

And so much more. Why so many events? The black community and the BSA are not trying to "take over your life" as some may claim, but rather to provide a space for all to feel comfortable and engage in a wide range of activities, from political discussions on the mailing lists to gettin' down on the dance floor to networking opportunities in attempts to get that dream internship or job. You can be involved as much or as little as you want in the BSA and Harvard's black community, but the members of the BSA board and all of the other BCL leaders want to make it **explicitly** known that the predominantly black organizations here are welcome to all, regardless of prior involvement, background, ethnicity, class year, concentration, and outlook on the world. Communities are never completely homogenous, and certainly the black community at Harvard is not a homogenous, monolithic group of individuals. We all have something to learn from one another, and for real – you never know who's gonna be the next Barack, so try and be welcoming and chill with everyone (and don't take the list too seriously).

With all that being said, make sure to keep a lookout for upcoming BSA events and initiatives! We have another general meeting coming up, as well as Apollo Night auditions, a meeting with Fuerza, FBT Elections, and more!



CONGRATULATIONS!

The BSA extends the utmost congratulations to all of the Harvard Class of 2010 Marshals, particularly community members Nworah Ayogu and Larry D. Arbuthnott! All are listed below:

First Marshal:

Nworah Ayogu

Second Marshal:

Larry D. Arbuthnott

Marshals:

Shiv Gaglani

Jamison Hill

Ami Nash

Robert B. Niles

Andres Castro Samayoa

George Thampy

You all may recall reading from the BSA list (if you're still keeping up with the emails) that being the First Marshal is the "highest honor that one's classmates can bestow" because the chosen person is "considered the embodiment of the ideals of the class", a "lifetime honor" (David L. Evans, dated 9/29/2009). So once again, we extend congrats to all of the Marshals, First Marshal Nworah Ayogu in particular. Make sure to check out the article in the Crimson if you haven't already (online).

The BSA would also like to congratulate all of the newly elected members of the Undergraduate Council and commend all candidates, particularly members of the black community. It takes a lot of dedication and courage to run for anything at Harvard, especially for the UC, and both effort and success are certainly commendable.



The BSA offers you opportunities to gain access to many of our sponsors, including Morgan Stanley. Make the most of your opportunity by submitting your resume and professionally presenting yourself to recruiting companies.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND DIVERSIONS



Remember inBlack?

Many older members of the BSA may recall inBlack, the BSA's arts and literary magazine that was supposed to come biannually. After a brief hiatus last year, inBlack is back! **We are looking for writers,**

artists, business people, editors, and writing seminar leaders to help make this semester's issue a success. Applications and more information will be circulating next week, but in the meantime, **start thinking about a potential piece or searching through your computer for old pictures or essays that you may want to submit.** Contact araba.appiagyei@gmail.com for more information.

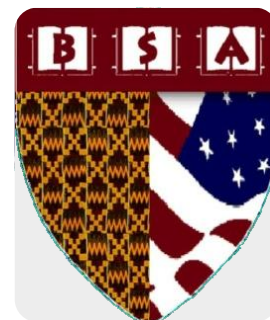
AUDITION FOR APOLLO NIGHT!!!

SHOW OFF YOUR TALENTS!

October 5-8 and 12-15, in Lowell Lecture Hall B13 and B14, from 8-11pm each night. (Piano provided)

JOIN THE WILLIAM MONROE TROTTER SCHOLARS PROGRAM,

the BSA's community service outreach program! Give back to the Boston Community by mentoring and teaching the youth of Mattapan. Contact roshane.campbell@gmail.com or rivers.sojourner@gmail.com.



MEET YOUR 2009-2010 BSA BOARD!

Match faces to the names you've been hearing about and reading in emails.

PRESIDENT

Spencer Hardwick '11



VICE PRESIDENT

Akilah Cricholow '10



TREASURER

Juliana Hernandez '12



SECRETARY

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Araba Appiagyei-Dankah '12



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POLITICAL ACTION CHAIR

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ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT CHAIR

Rebecca Gilmore '12



ALUMNI AND PUBLIC RELATIONS CHAIR

Damaris Taylor '12



SENIOR REPRESENTATIVE

Saron Tesfalul '10



WMTSP CO-CHAIR

Roshane Campbell



Not pictured: Sojourner Rivers '12, WMTSP Co-Chair
Sarah Anoke '09, Technology Chair

LAST WORDS

THE BSA'S ONLINE PRESENCE

Interested in Online Media? Want to create a Harvard BSA version of Essence or Vibe? Have time to write a 100-200 article once a week about a topic of choice (Y'all better; you know some of those emails on the list are longer than 500 words...)? Do you go to lots of on-campus events and take lots of pictures? Are you a tumblogger, a tweeter, a facebook stalker, or all of the above?

Let us know! We are looking for ideas to expand our online and media presence, from creating a blog to tweeting away to starting an online magazine! Send any inquiries to araba.appiagyei@gmail.com

SEND IN YOUR PICTURES AND IDEAS!

If you have any pictures at any events, any people that you think should be recognized, any cool "study break" column ideas, or anything else that you'd like to see in this newsletter, send them in!
publications@harvardbsa.com

BUY A BSA T-SHIRT!

You know you want one... winter is coming soon and no matter what part of the country you rep, everyone knows black people don't do cold.



Need a Study Break? Haven't been keeping up with the list? We got your back...

- **Listen to "Up out My Face"** by Mariah and The Dream...and listen for the shoutout to Harvard 2010 (from 2:58-3:00)
- Check out The Abercrombie and Fitch Recruiting Event today at 6:30 pm!
- Can't understand what exactly "Naija" means? **Ask a Nigerian about Nigerian independence day, what that weird hand sign means, and why they have so much pride!** You might have to cut him/her off so you can go back to studying, though...
- **Join Kuumba!** It's never too late to get your Whitney on with some of the nicest, most welcoming kids on campus. You can even do hw at rehearsal if you need to, and they welcome singers of all levels!
- **Check out the HSBSE step show** and afterparty on Oct 10 – they'll prove to you that pre-meds, engineers, and all kinds of science people can be flyyy too,
- **Check clutchmagonline.com**, a young fashionista's fashion, beauty, life, and culture magazine.
- **Go to an ABHW or BMF meeting!** It's never too late to get involved, and you'll get to meet awesome people, learn where to get your hair done (let's be real), and get a new set of friends to eat meals with!
- **Join HASA and go to HASA events!** The Africans on campus are just as welcoming as all of the other black organizations on campus, and you'll be sure to meet some of the smartest people (in the world... international applications are no joke...)
- **Come to Lowell Dining Hall** on the night before a pset or exam in a large class. You'll never look at some people the same again...