

AHANA HOTLINE

Featuring a student group... Do you know about ALC?



The AHANA Leadership Council is a semi-autonomous branch of the Undergraduate Government of Boston College (UGBC). It started a decade ago due to the realization that the UGBC was not adequately addressing the needs of AHANA students. This became obvious due to the lack of diverse programming on campus, as well as a dearth of students of AHANA descent in leadership positions.

Once known as the department of AHANA issues, the ALC has expanded in the last few years and continues to grow larger and larger. We remain dedicated to our mission—to uplift the campus and the AHANA community socially, politically, and academically.

Traditionally, the council has consisted of seven different departments, each of which handles different aspects and issues relevant to the AHANA community. They include exploration of the issues faced by women of color, political injustices, and of course, THE social events of the school calendar, the ALC Boat Cruise, Showdown, and the Ball. More importantly than that, the AHANA Leadership Council acts as a liaison between the AHANA community and the administrators, often at the front of on-campus social movements and always vocal about what must be done.

The ALC provides both a service for and an opportunity to students as it allows students of color to pursue leadership opportunities that they otherwise might not feel able or comfortable pursuing. The year has started off with a bang, and we sincerely hope you will tune in to what the ALC is up to, both socially and politically, all year.

Seif Ammus, CSOM '08
Co-President

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News & Announcements

Martin Luther King Scholarship Program!

We are looking for exceptional individuals who have demonstrated leadership or active participation in a Boston College organization, or service within an organization outside Boston College!

Applications are due:
November 26, 2007.
Visit http://www.bc.edu/bc_org/svp/mlkmc/mlkhome.html for more details!!

“AHANA Has It!”

OASP is proud to sponsor “AHANA Has It!”, the first annual Newton talent show featuring performances from:

**Voices of Imani
Synergy
Against the Current,
Fuego
AND MORE!!**

When: Mon. Oct. 29th 8pm
Where: Stuart Yellow Room
(across from the dining hall)

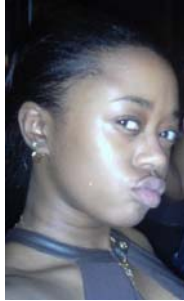
Free food and raffle!!!
Come out and support your talented friends!

Do you Know Who Your OASP Advisor Is?

**Warren Chiang
Donna Lee
Joana Maynard
Andy Petigny**

Call 617 552-3358 to find out! While on the phone make an appointment with your OASP Advisor! They would love to meet you.

Letter from the Editors



To Our Dear Readers,

It feels like it's going to be a good year! We hope this semester has been going well. Make sure to keep the stress levels low as midterm season is winding to an end. All of us here at the OASP office will continue to provide you with great resources dedicated to nurturing the AHANA community.

We are enhancing the format

and presentation of the Hotline, so we hope you like it (there are games too)! We'd also like to welcome Ozella Bishop to our staff as the new co-editor of the hotline. (*Hi!*) We know she will serve well. Please tell us what you think—criticism and praise—and don't forget to submit any topics, information, or great entries you would like to see in the next edition to the AHANA Office! We look

forward to hearing from all of you and we hope that this issue provides a seed of influence and assistance throughout the month. Be on the look out for new programs and events our office is trying out this year. Communicate with us, grow with us, and until next time!

Co-Editors,
Amaany Clarke &
Ozella Bishop

Greeting from the Director

Once again, the Office of AHANA Student Programs (OASP) at the Thea Bowman AHANA Center is pleased to welcome all returning students and especially the Class of 2011. I had the opportunity to meet some of you during our barbeque for First Year students and I was very impressed by your enthusiasm and commitment to your education.

The mission of OASP is to "provide a broad array of services that nurture students' academic, social, cultural, and spiritual development." OASP provides targeted services to meet the needs of AHANA and OTE students and any student who wants to take advantage of our resources.

In addition to our regular programs (e.g., academic support, Jaime Escalante Tutorial Program, Options through Education, and Benjamin E. Mays Mentoring Program), this year, we have a set of new initiatives, which I invite you to check out. Over the summer we developed a Leadership Program which is in its pilot stages for First Year Students. This program provides an opportunity for students to develop and refine leadership skills that will allow them to flourish academically, socially, personally, and ultimately in their careers. Our goal is to learn from this year's pilot and expand the program next year to include more First Year students and sophomores.

Another initiative is the Career-Trak Program for juniors, in collaboration with the Career Center. This program is a series of 10 sessions to prepare participants for internship and career opportuni-

ties. Among others, the sessions include Career and Skills Assessment, Informational Interviewing, Networking, Resume Writing, and Salary Negotiations.

In this edition, you will also learn about the changes we will be making to the Sister Thea Bowman Scholars Program, which will celebrate its 20th Anniversary in the spring 2008. These changes come as a result of the feedback you provided to us within the last year.

Building on the success of APAHM, this year the Office will take the lead in coordinating activities for Black History Month. A committee of students, faculty and staff will work with the different offices on campus to celebrate the month.

In the spring, we will launch another pilot: Opening the DOR: Dialogues on Race. This is a peer-led program designed to help juniors, seniors, and Graduate Students engage in sustained, safe, and introspective dialogues on Race. Please contact the Office if you are interested in being a facilitator or a participant.

Finally, we will inaugurate two awards for seniors: the Valery Lewis and Alfred Feliciano Leadership Award and the Dr. Donald Brown Award. The first award will honor a student who has made extraordinary contributions to further the ideals of the AHANA acronym and provided leadership to help the Boston College community actualize the AHANA concept. This award will be presented at the Leadership Awards Banquet in the spring. The second award will be presented to a student who throughout their undergraduate career has excelled academically and has made extraordinary contributions to the BC community in ways

that have benefited AHANA students in the areas of leadership, service, and academic development. This award will be presented at the particular convocation ceremony in May of the selected student

I invite you to take advantage of these new opportunities available to you and to partner with all of us in the Office of AHANA Student Programs this semester and throughout your time at BC. OASP will continue to support your successful journey in this campus.

In the spirit of academic and personal success!

Inés Maturana Sendoya
Director



My Story.. SEO Internship Program

Second semester of every year at BC, has been the time when I would take a moment to think about what I would be doing for the summer. Staying at BC was never an option for me, I needed a paying job. My first two summers, I worked at a law firm as a secretary. It was the most mind numbing job I have experienced. I basically sat at a desk for 8 hours, Monday through Friday discovering clever ways of having the clock move just a second faster than the previous day. Now, junior year I expected to be different because in my mind, this was the important year. The one where I had to land that big internship that would determine my career path. For the longest time, I thought law was my career of choice, but the thought of having to return to my routine made me squirm.

I was abroad first semester and put little thought in landing this hotshot internship. A dear friend mentioned SEO (Sponsors for Educational Opportunity) to me, but I was too busy climbing mountains to think about my summer. Come January, I had no internship and a slight resignation of returning to my monotonous summer life. At this point, friend #2 mentioned SEO to me, so I decided to give it a try. I opened up the website and noticed that this program had a business track focus. What did I know about business, I am not CSOM. I decided that this wasn't for me.

A couple of days later, both friends called to make sure I had applied. When

they learned I hadn't, they were incredibly upset with me, so I filled out the application just to please them. A week later, I am granted an over the phone interview. Three weeks later, I come in for an in-person interview. 4 days later, I receive a phone call congratulating me on my acceptance.

Now, here I was, landed the dream internship, not only was I going to be in Wall Street but I was in a program that would mentor me along the way. There was just one problem, I had no idea what investment banking actually was. Somehow I had managed to pick up the Wall Street Journal, read an article, and demonstrated to my Mia, my interviewer, that I had some idea as to what it all meant in the bigger picture. In what goes down as the most intense interview of my life thus far, I was able to maintain my calm, do my homework and investigate to some degree what I was interviewing for, successfully tackled a case study question, and prove to Mia that I could do the job. But seriously, what was the job?

SEO staff members contacted me all of second semester, after my acceptance, to help me understand what I had just signed up for. They gave me online tutorials to teach me the basics of finance and accounting, courses I had never taken at BC. They made themselves available for any questions I could dream of asking. They gave me the names of SEO alums on BC's campus. They provided training prior to my stepping through the doors of Credit Suisse, the firm that I called home during the summer. They

taught me about pitch books and modeling and all this other gibberish that would become my life very soon.

So, once I stepped into Credit Suisse, I didn't feel like I was a step behind all the other Finance majors, because SEO made sure that I attained some basic information. During my summer of 9 to God knows when, SEO was there to provide guidance. I attended seminars to network with bankers in other Wall Street firms, to build connections in case, I discovered the CS wasn't for me. In case I decided that instead of banking, I might want to do asset management or sales and trading.

Now, what are the benefits of SEO and this internship. I am a first semester senior who does not have to scramble around campus, seeking out employers, and stressing out. I have a job. At the end of the summer, most firms, granted that you do a good job, offer you a fulltime position. SEO interns also have the opportunity to interview with other firms (granted that you network properly during the seminars), meaning I had options. I have a plan for the near future. I safely avoided the hassle not only of dealing with the transition from college to the "infamous" real world but also of searching for an employer that would value me as an intelligent woman of color. I didn't understand this as well a year ago, or even six months ago, but thanks to SEO, I have watched doors burst open for me.

- Erika Pena, A&S '08

Sr. Thea Bowman Scholars Program

In the Spring of 2008 the Sr. Thea Bowman Scholars Reception will mark its 20th Anniversary. The Sr. Thea Bowman Scholars Program was established to recognize the academic achievement of AHANA students, to encourage them to strive for academic excellence, to foster the development of faculty/student mentoring experiences, and to encourage students to pursue graduate and/or professional studies.

There has been a significant and steady increase in the overall grade point average of AHANA students since the program was created and we have a lot to be proud of. We look forward to seeing how much more our AHANA students will achieve in the future. We are excited about supporting them in reach-

ing their academic goals and helping to opening up new opportunities for them.

After a thorough evaluation we decided to make the following changes to the program in the coming year.

- 1) Raise the GPA requirement from 3.0 to 3.4.
- 2) Raise awareness of scholarship & fellowship opportunities.
- 3) Focus on encouraging students to pursue graduate and/or professional programs of study.

The 20th Sr. Thea Bowman Scholars Reception will be held on Wednesday,

February 27, 2008. We will have a wonderful time celebrating the scholars' achievements and encouraging them to continue in their pursuit of academic excellence.

At this time we will also premier a special video that has been made about Sr. Thea Bowman and the legacy she has left behind for all of us.

Please contact the office with any questions about this program. We look forward to seeing you there!

Donna Lee
Program Coordinator/Counselor

How was OTE 2007?

OTE 2007 Oratorical Contest - What has spending six weeks in the OTE Program meant to you?

By: Dzmitry Maisak, A&S '11

Who are you? Who are you? How far will you go?

What are your dreams? Where are your wings? What field do you gallop in? What color are your hooves? Did you lie about it? What do you see on the horizon? Who do you see? Yourself? Why?

Do you believe in god? What is god? Are you god?

Do you have scars? Physical? Emotional? Internal? External? Will you be able to stitch your rendered wounds?

Were you born in dirt or clouds? Do you raise your eyes to the sun or your arms?

Do you sometimes feel naked? Do you feel too electric or not enough?

Do you spin or get spun? Who are you? How far will you go?

What has spending six weeks in the OTE Program meant to you?

I remember when I just got a letter from BC saying that I would have to attend a mandatory program during the summer. I thought that it would suck that I would have to be there for 6 weeks of my last summer studying and writing essays. I understood, however, how beneficial it would be for me in the Fall. I would already know the campus, the people, the programs, the classes.

I thought I knew how much the program would help me, but the truth is – I had no idea.

Then it began: activities, lectures, preceptors, sanctions. Names, names, names.

A huge waterfall of experiences, knowledge and responsibility just collapsed on me. Essays that were assigned on Mondays would be due Tuesdays. Study hall - three hours of work with no food. Resources, resources, resources. Ask Questions. Food bank. Whale watching. Martha's Vineyard. Six Flags. Free weekend with rotating showers, non "Lower" food, and seeing family and friends.

I was trying to absorb it all. I did not know so many things. The program introduced me to so many people and things. I cried in front of everybody and laughed in front of everybody. I was myself in front of everybody. These are the times of our lives (as Green Day mentioned) live life with no regrets at its fullest is my opinion, because if you plan your life too much you will miss it.

It is quite a blessing to be enrolled at BC through OTE and it is actually harder this way. You have a much higher chance of getting into BC with regular admission than through OTE.

In the beginning I had an idea of who I am and what my dreams are, but the program showed to me that there is always the other side of the coin. Among the three classes I have taken the most influential would be Watson's class of Social Sciences. He tried to give us another perspective and that's what really matters: do not be blinded by your own opinion; you must always realize there is someone who thinks differently from you.

People showed me the doors but it is my decision right now to walk towards them and open them myself. With the help of everybody (and I really mean EVERYBODY) I am confident that I can do it.

The poem. "Who are you? How far will you go?" You will not find all answers to your questions in your life, but you can find people that will support you and help you in your journey. OTE gave me a mirror - a mirror that has potential to reflect who I am and what I value.

What has spending six weeks in the OTE Program meant to me? People, friends, tears, smiles, joy, happiness, Over the Edge, ups, downs, lessons, respect, experience, everything...Life ...

Something I will never forget.



Tips for Going Abroad



Think about it.... By: Igor Lima, A&S '08

- >Why do you want to go abroad?
- >What's your need to meet other people and learn different cultures?
- >Is this need rooted in something concrete or based on superficial understandings of a global community? Really challenge yourself.
- >How do you see this experience fitting into your life, personality, short-term or long-term goals?
- >Can this be accomplished through experiences in the US?
- >Do you want to go because you simply can or because you really have a desire to grow and learn?

Ok – I really want to go abroad, Now what?

- >Pick a country that you are most interested in. Sometimes the best places are those that you don't know much about but have heard good things. Countries that you're most interested about yield to better experiences. Don't settle for the easy places, like Europe. Challenge yourself and go somewhere that you would not otherwise see yourself living.
- >Make sure you talk to people who went there beforehand so you know what you can expect. Look at pictures; ask people what they liked the least; ask them what they wished they had done differently.
- >Look at the academics. Will it support

what you're interested in? Most people go abroad and take all electives since major classes won't transfer over. Do they have a good marine biology department? What about their art history faculty? Globalization and development in Southern Africa sound interesting? Check out your options and most of all make sure your credits roll over.

—>Apply early! Visit the office and get all the questions and logistics out of the way.

Ok – I chose the place, applied, got in now what?

—>Don't go to places with your friends. It's a completely different experience if you're going by yourself. You are forced to truly learn about your own personality and at the end of the day it makes you a more outgoing, confident, and independent person; always a plus.

—>Do in-depth homework on your chosen country. You don't want to be that person that makes ignorant comments due to your lack of cultural knowledge and understanding. You want to fit in with local students and not stand out as the stereotypical American.

—>Save, Save, Save! Budget out your expenses including housing, food, transportation, entertainment, travel, booze, etc. Do the conversion rate and add \$1,000USD for emergency purchases. The more money you can save prior to going abroad the better shape you are in to truly experience all the country has to offer.

—>Set goals for yourself. What do you really want to get out of the experience? How can it be accomplished? How can you make sure its being accomplished?

Ok – I'm here, now what?

—>Get all the logistical stuff out of the way. Straighten out classes, pay your bills, get to know your landlord, emergency information to embassy and school, etc. All detailed to you by BC and the host university.

—>Make friends. Build your social support network that can be there when you get home sick and can travel with you. It's often easier to do this with other Ameri-

cans because you can relate a lot easier and they can afford to travel.

—>Familiarize yourself as much as you can with the culture, the language, the people, the school, the city, and other touristy areas. This should be done in the first month or so.

—>Look at your goals. Now that you have a foundation – the logistical stuff is out of the way, you familiarized yourself with the surrounding, and you have a sound social support network; where can you go from here? How can you move forward with achieving your goals? Most people stop at this stage in their experiences and completely forget about the immersion component. Just because you live somewhere does not mean by any means that you know what its like to be one of "them."

—>Make it a personal mission to truly immerse in the everyday life of the local community. Go to the local church, join local organizations and societies, get involved with sports. Do as much as you can to meet local people and interact on a personal level. If you don't do this, why else did you decide to live abroad? You could have just vacationed there and achieved all the above things.

—>VOLUNTEER! I cannot say this enough. Although it will often times be an "American thing to do" it's so important to be able to see communities outside of the university setting and truly get to bond with those who may enjoy your company/help/solidarity.

—>Travel. Remember that extra cash you saved? This is where it comes in handy. Most often universities are hidden away in wealthy parts of the country and keep you away from the real, everyday life of the local people. Travel to inner cities, to the outskirts, to the rural areas. Meet other people from other parts and get to see what the rest of the country has to offer.

—>Look out for yourself, remember that at the end of the day you're there alone. Make sure all your things are safe and that you always take the best precautionary steps in regards to anything you do.

—> Be open to change, opposing ideas, and debates. You're not always right and the American view is not the right way for everything. Listen, learn, and grow from the once in a life time experience.

Office of AHANA Student Programs

Schedule for Fall 2007

Thea Bowman Center
72 College Road
Chestnut Hill, MA 02467

Phone: 617-552-3358
Fax: 617-552-4313
Email: oasp@bc.edu

Free academic tutoring is available to all Boston College students at Thea Bowman AHANA Center (72 College Road). No appointment needed except the EFL Writing Seminar.

DAY	TIME	SUBJECTS
Monday -	5pm to 7pm	Calculus, Econ (Micro/Macro)
	7pm to 9pm	EFL Writing Seminar *
Tuesday -	5pm to 7pm	Calculus
Wednesday -	5pm to 7pm	EFL Reading/Conversation, English
Thursday -	5pm to 7pm	Calculus, EFL & English



SUDOKO CHALLENGE!!!

If you think you got it right bring it into our office and win a prize!!!



More Puzzles:
www.sudoku-puzzles.net

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	3			7				4
	4		3					6
	7	9					6	
			6		8			
	1					4	3	
3					1		8	
2				5			1	
	5		9	3				