

# AHANA HOTLINE

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## OASP Offers...

- Jamie Escalante Tutorial Program
- Academic Advising
- Benjamin Elijah Mays Mentoring
- Resource Center
- Gospel Caravan
- St. Thea Bowman Scholars Program
- Leadership and Career-Trak Programs
- Community Research Programs

...and much much more!

## BLACK HISTORY MONTH ENEIDA MIRANDA '09

The Black History Month Committee was established by Office of AHANA Student Programs in an effort to coordinate events for Black History Month celebration. In its first year, the Black History Month Committee worked very hard to put together a set of events that would bring the Boston College community together. This year's committee was composed of dedicated student leaders who met on a weekly basis since September to administer all of the month's events. As the co-director of this committee, along with Harold Hinds, I was responsible for working with culture clubs and helping plan and organize events for this year's Black History Month.

One of the main goals that we hoped to accomplish this year was to highlight the struggles of Blacks as they relate to other cultures and discuss how each of our experiences intersect and overlap. Although many of our clubs differ in mission, outreach, and size, the one thing that binds us all together is our fervent love for the cultures we represent and the desire to see united empowerment of people of color on BC's campus. In an effort to promote this spirit of unity and empowerment we reached out to all the culture groups and asked each of them to contribute to helping fund and facilitate events for this year's Black History Month. Our theme for the year was "Connecting Communities". We hoped to put on events and build bridges that not only connect Black communities but inspire the forming of relations between all AHANA peoples. The committee planned events addressing issues such as the

struggle of colored women, the effects of social disenfranchisement, and racial interaction throughout U.S. history. The success of these events and Black History Month as a whole was without doubt contingent upon the support of all the culture clubs. Their support and co-sponsorship went a long way in helping to realize this dream.

We are very glad that the events were carried out efficiently and affectively. Considering that this was the first time Black History Month was celebrated on the Boston College campus, I believe we did an amazing job in terms of planning out the month. We received great feedback and we hope the committee continues to grow. I personally want to thank Andy Peltigny, the committee's advisor, for helping us making this year's Black History Month celebration a success. I would also like to thank my co-director Harold Hinds and the BHM Planning Committee Members: Theresa Djama, A&S '09; Earl Edwards, A&S '10; Fiona Essien, CSON '09; Khalif Jackson, A&S '10; Pamela Jones, A&S '11; Maria Rodrigues, A&S '10; Pearl Woko, CSON '09 and Victoria Jones for coming up with the BHM logo. This year's celebration would not have been possible without their hard work and commitment.

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## LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

It's spring break time already! Second semester is flying by so fast. I hope this first issue of the spring semester finds you well.

It's the season of culture shows! We have focused on the culture shows of two groups on campus in this issue, so please take the time to read through those. I had the pleasure of being in both of the featured culture shows this year and I can say that the shows are most definitely worth attending. These culture shows are entertaining and informative at the same time—a great way to expand your knowledge of various cultures different from your own. There are more shows hosted by other culture groups to come in the springtime, so make sure to be on the look out for those!

Enjoy the break everyone and relieve all that stress from midterms. Hopefully when we get back, the weather will start to become much warmer. But knowing Boston weather... who knows. See you in the next issue!



Jane Park '10

## KSA/CSA CULTURE SHOW 2009

### HAN CHO '11

This year's CSA/KSA 9th Annual Culture Show: When Chow Fun Meets Kimchi... revolved around the theme of fusion, which influenced the overall aesthetics of the show. It allowed for many of the acts to experiment with the various dance forms that held similarities but were unique to each culture. This theme of fusion was not only applied to the crossing of the two cultures but also to the idea of modern versus traditional ideals. Traditional music was mixed with more contemporary sounds and beats to show the melding of two identities for any Asian-American individual. By doing so, it demonstrated the celebration of the uniqueness of the Chinese and Korean heritage while illustrating contempo-

rary influences and the similarities between the two cultures.



The fusion of Samulnori, a traditional Korean drum act, with Chinese lion dance.



The fusion of Korean and Chinese Fan Dance

## OLAA CULTURE SHOW 2009

### CHLOE VERGAS '09

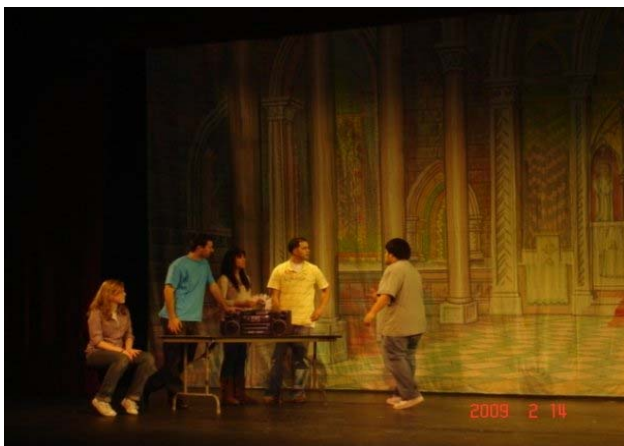
Since its inception in 1977, The Organization of Latin American Affairs has articulated and promoted the needs and goals of Latinos at Boston College and fostered as well as encouraged success in academics, religious beliefs, and social awareness. It was created to build a sense of belonging and a home away from home for those students who due to cultural differences found it difficult to adjust to the BC environment. We strive first and foremost for the unification of Latinos at Boston College and other academic institutions by putting on programming that fosters that sense of hermandad

that is embedded in our culture. We work to foster diversity within the student body and solidarity between the different culture clubs present on campus. We work to assist in the recruitment of prospective Latinos and their admission to Boston College by providing exposure to college life. Lastly we work on educating and empowering students through community service, political action and awareness.

We celebrated our Fifth Annual Latino Family Weekend this February with our Opening Dinner, 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Culture Show and After Party, and we ended with our Closing Brunch. We organized our

first ever Latino Family Weekend in 2005 when we realized that we were missing the invaluable support and strength of our families and wanted to share our experiences at Boston College with them. OLAA is committed to the advancement of Latino culture and the preservation of Latino identity, which is one of the main reasons this weekend exists. Familia, is fundamental to our identity and is a central tenet to most students here. We wanted to make sure we attended to this; that we cherished, embraced and showed our appreciation for this, which is why we continue this tradition today.

*"We strive first and foremost for the unification of Latinos at Boston College and other academic institutions by putting on programming that fosters that sense of hermandad that is embedded in our culture."*



The set of the play produced by the OLAA cast

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## RECEPIENT OF DR. DONALD BROWN AWARD 2009: ENEIDA F. MIRANDA

The Brown Award cash prize was established in honor of the former director of the Office of AHANA Student Programs and every year honors a senior who throughout his/her undergraduate career has made extraordinary contributions to the BC community in ways that have benefited AHANA students in the areas of leadership, service, and academic development.

Eneida Miranda has made extraordinary contributions to the BC community in the areas of leadership, service, and academic development. She is a pre-medical student in the School of Arts and Sciences with a major in Psychology. Eneida has been a very active student leader on campus since her First Year. She served four years in the AHANA Leadership Council in various capacities including Programming Director and Chief of Staff. She has also provided leadership to the Cape Verdean Student Association and the Mendel Society Mentorship Program. As a senior, she co-chairs the Black History Month Committee and presides over United Front, a coalition of black student groups on campus. In addition, Eneida has volunteered her time through various service organizations including the Turkey Creek Community Initiative that

helps to rebuild the homes and lives of Hurricane Katrina survivors. She also dedicated time to the Bird Street Community Center in Dorchester, tutoring elementary, junior high, and high school students in math, English, and the SAT prep courses. Eneida also works as a research assistant in the Neurochemical Basis of Motivation and Learning Lab at Boston College and the Psychosis Research Program at the Lemuel Shattuck Hospital working with patients who suffer from schizophrenia. After graduation Eneida plans to serve as a missionary for a year and a half for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints. After her mission, she plans on attending medical school where her dreams of becoming an ER Physician will come true.



Eneida F. Miranda '09

## OLAA CULTURE SHOW 2009 CONTINUED...

Look out for our upcoming events some of which are our Conexiones Workshop, where we invite high school students to spend a weekend with us to see what life at Boston College is like, on March 14<sup>th</sup> during this weekend long workshop, we have the critically acclaimed poet Daniel José Custodio performing for the students. Join us for our panel co-sponsored with GLC on March 26<sup>th</sup>, where we will be discussing the issues that Latinas that identify as GLBTQ face, we are holding our elections on

April 5<sup>th</sup> in the McElroy Conference Room, and our Night at the Revolutionary Café II on April 24<sup>th</sup>, where we have students perform poetry, sing, and take part in an open mic session. We end the year with our closing ceremony on April 26<sup>th</sup>. These are just to name a few, and do not forget about our general meetings! If you are interested in attending these events, joining the listserv, or just learning more about the organization, do not hesitate to contact Chloe Vargas, OLAA's Vice President, at [vargasca@bc.edu](mailto:vargasca@bc.edu)

# BLACK HISTORY MONTH CONTINUED...



## BLACK SOLIDARITY CONFERENCE AT YALE

BREANNA JONES '12

*It is found that people in the black community say things like, "Pause," or "No homo," to justify their heterosexuality.*

The Black Solidarity Conference was held at Yale University from February 27<sup>th</sup> through March 1<sup>st</sup>. There were a series of panels and activities for us to attend throughout the weekend that would help enlighten us to things going on in the black community. The very first panel discussion on Saturday was focusing on how African-Americans portray and express sexuality. There were three panelists there to help move along discussion and answer any questions that the audience may have had. Shana Goldin Perschbacher, a professor of gay and transgender studies at Yale, Adam Benjamin Irby, a New York based writer and blogger, and B. Scott, owner of his own entrainment website, lovebScott.com, were the three that spoke to sexuality in the black community. Shana is a heterosexual white female, while both Adam and B.Scott are gay black males. The few points spoke to how heterosexual men are homophobic. It is found that people in the black community say things like, "Pause," or "No homo," to justify their heterosexuality. These people in the community need to be more secure in themselves and stop putting down homosexuality. A few other points also spoke to how homosexual people can still have religion be a part of their lives. B.Scott made it clear that to him being spiritual is always going to be important to him because no one can judge him besides God. So, until that day he will continue to be-

lieve and worship God although some do not agree with it. Adam then spoke to what its like not to be a flamboyant gay man. He appears to be heterosexual, but is not afraid to tell people that he is gay. By still being out and appearing to be heterosexual, he hopes to help those in the black community that are in the same situation. Shana helped a heterosexual male to find a balance between still maintaining his heterosexuality while still supporting the gay community. She says that there is no need to reinforce his heterosexuality so he should freely support them while knowing where he stands. Overall, the panelists assisted the audience in thinking and believing that the black community should be less judgmental and more open-minded and aware that homosexuality does exist.

Another panel that brought an excellent turnout was the panel discussing African Americans Athletes. The panelists included Andre Farr, a former NFL football player currently the CEO and chairman of the Black Sports Agents Association, William C. Rhoden, awarded winning New York Times sports columnist and best selling author of Forty Million Dollar Slaves and Third and A Mile: The Trials and Triumphs of The Black Quarterback, as well as Jack Siedlecki, a current Yale football coach. The discussion consisted of analyzing the black athlete within society.

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Looking at the high participation of black athletes in the most competitive fields of professional football, basketball and many other sports compared with the lack of voice by these athletes. A question was also brought up about the audience and who they are. It's ironic that the audience is white that is surrounding the black athletes. The fact that these athletes work so hard with their body and soul are essentially fully controlled by people on the outside. The panel looked at white involvement in sports and questioned the lack of minority involvement behind the scenes. Because this issue is so prevalent in colleges and professional teams across the country, Boston College student athletes would have greatly benefited from this session.

In the black community, the church and the foundations and emotional ties of family are what sustain the black individual. The workshop, Keeping House: Analyzing the Black Family gave an engaging and intellectual look into the different issues that rend black families apart. Among these issues were fatherlessness, "spiritual suicide" and the lack of relationship developments. Another major problem was the "challenge to attain the 'ideal' family" syndrome that children watched their parents go through. The speakers claimed that young people were "set-up" by their elders because the adults would constantly lie about their feelings. They feared seeming vulnerable in front of their children and losing control of situations. This led to a constant cycle of "self-medication," exercised through

However, over time the image of the black family has changed. Many students pointed out that the Obama family had a positive effect on their views of the common black family. However, it was up to black families to stop depending so heavily on their interpretations by the media and instead try to make their own image.

This year's Black Solidarity Conference was an enlightening and fun experience for anyone who attended. The performances by the Cool Kids and Kid Cudi were entertaining, exciting and gave the students something to look forward to after a long trip to Yale. The workshop panelists gave a glimpse into possible career tracks and futures and showed that success in the black community is not a myth. It is an attainable goal and though it may take more effort for an African-American than for an individual of another race, it makes the trials and tribulations more profound and the overall experience gained is that much greater. The greatest piece of advice given at the conference was: "Know yourself and what you would like to do. And no matter what success level you reach in your lifetime, know that accepting mistakes through successes is all part of the process."

Blacks in Athletics panelists

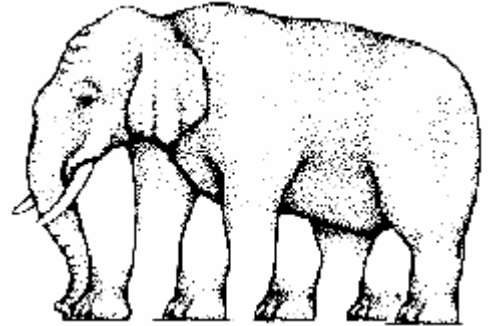


Kid Cudi and the Cool Kids Concert at the conference



# FUN & GAMES

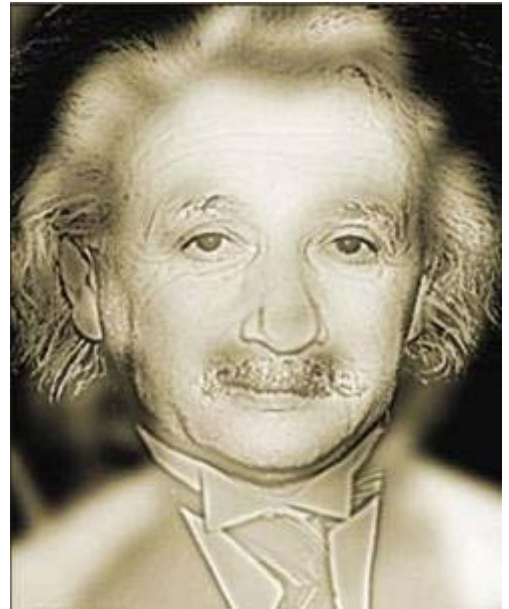
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How many legs does the elephant have?



Can you find the hidden tiger?



Which two celebrities do you see?

## STUDENT SUBMISSION

### JINHEE PARK '10

#### Nightfall

Trees stand bare in the cold.  
The sun sinks,  
Sending shadows to slowly digest colors  
From Earth.  
Smell the strangeness and wonder in the air.  
Silhouettes sculpted,

And I,  
Feel a primitive  
Longing for lust and tenderness.  
A bittersweetness that competes with the loss of a chance at love.  
Hear the silence as we settle into darkness,

And you,  
Sir, squeeze your calfskin gloved hands together  
Bowing your head against the biting wind of winter.  
Admire the magnificence of the tragedy  
In nightfall.

## AHANA HOTLINE—WHAT DID YOU THINK?

- ◆ We want to hear from you! If you want to write for the AHANA hotline, all you have to do is send an email to [oasp@bc.edu](mailto:oasp@bc.edu)!
- ◆ Don't forget to look out for the AHANA mini-feed, a bi-weekly email that gives announcements about important scholarship, internship, career, research, and various event information. If you don't get this email, contact [oasp@bc.edu](mailto:oasp@bc.edu).