

Black Student Association

I AM THE DREAM



The Dream in Action

New Student Reception

Blaque Robinson, Co-Vice President

Every year the BSA puts on a New Student Reception to welcome the African, African-Caribbean and African-American students to Rice University. This year's event was filled with good food, fun, friends, and information. The New Student Reception is the Executive

Board's first chance to work together as a team to plan an event for the school year and it was spectacular. Enthusiasm, teamwork, and group ethic were in abundance that day and it really showed through the faces of the new students.

Continued on

4

Introductions

What does our new president have in store for the 2013-2014 school year?

Page 2

Black Men's Dinner

What does it mean to be a black male at Rice University?

Page 3

Soul Night Award

Black to Our Future. What does black culture mean for our future?

Page 5



Jackie Mutai, President

2013-2014

Goals for the New Year

- Increase Membership
- Becoming more active in the Rice and Houston communities
- Partnership with other organizations such as HACER and the Women's Center
- Increased involvement with Rice Athletics
- Strong bonds with the Alumni
- General Body involvement with initiatives

Introduction of Jackie

What are some of your goals for BSA this year?

To maintain the strength and unity of the black community that exists, but to also ensure that future black students have a meaningful voice on Rice's campus. It is our mission to promote community interaction among African, African-American, and African-Caribbean students at Rice University, as well as facilitate dialogue between our community and the general Rice community. Ultimately, our goal is to provide a forum for the open expression of the political, social, and cultural views of Black students.

How do you plan to accomplish these goals?

This year we will have extensive events that will include every corner of the student population. Our social events, such as Open Mic Night and Soul Night, our community service activities and our fundraisers will accomplish these goals and extend our influence on campus.

How are you training leaders for next year's executive board through this year's events?

I'm training leaders for next years EBoard by giving general body members the opportunity to take plan events that matter to them. We are excited and cannot wait to show everyone what we have in store for the community.

BGSA Graduate Student Panel

Anthony Simms, Secretary

The Black Graduate Student Association (BGSA) tries to bridge the gap between experienced graduate students, undergraduates, and new graduate students. The BGSA gathered student panelists from several different academic departments, along with students from Jones Business School and Baylor College of Medicine. They talked about their experiences as undergraduates and their process in applying to their respective programs. For the new graduate

students, they talked about their challenges during graduate school and how they overcame them. It was a very valuable experience for all those who attended.

Immediately afterwards, the Office of Diversity and Inclusion sponsored a BBQ for everyone to mingle with each other. There was great food, great music, and many connections were made during the event. This was an excellent combination of events that will hopefully continue.



Black Men's Undergraduate Dinner

A Discussion of what it means to be a Black Male at Rice University

Earlier this month on September 3rd something very groundbreaking happened between the African American males of Rice University. For one of the first times in the academic career of many current Rice University students, came an opportunity for all of the African American males of Rice University to get together, bond, and discuss issues that affected them as African American Males. Dr. Alexander Byrd, a professor at Rice University and a master of Wiess College, hosted the event.

The excellent turnout facilitated a deep conversation about the Black Male agenda as it pertained to us collectively and individual. The discussion was filled with

many different perceptions and stimulated more avenues of discussion among the African American males here at Rice University. While freshman students were in abundance at the event, upperclassmen men attended, helping to facilitate a very diverse atmosphere. This fun filled evening of conversation and bonding not only asked something of the African American males at that specific time, but also challenged them to come together on their own to become and bring about the change they wanted to see here on the campus and in their communities.

Jonathan Price, Co- Vice President

Before the discussion sessions began the new students and their families were able to meet and greet members of the executive board, fellow new students and President LeBron and his wife Ping, David Medina, and Akilah Mance among others. When the event began, Dr. Roland Smith and Catherine Clack spoke to the group about Rice University's opportunities and the support systems that are in place for them here. At the end of their presentation, Jackie Mutai, our current president, introduced the members of the executive board and the students were taken to a separate room for a question and answer session.

Although some were shy at first, the new students eventually began to speak up and asked us questions about interactions with other Houston schools, ways to get their hair done and academic questions just to name a few. Finally, we had closing remarks and the new students reunited with their parents and mingled in the hallway with one another before leaving to prepare for the start of O-Week. I am confident that this year's reception made a lasting impact on not only the new students, but the executive board as well and I look forward to building upon the friendships that began there.

First BSA Meeting

Chinodebem Ogbutor, NSR

As a freshman, my Rice journey began as a daunting experience. I was undecided about my major, nervous about the difficulty of my classes, and most of all worried about how I was going to fit in at a school filled with so many brilliant and intelligent people. In an effort to find my place, I attended the first BSA meeting with a fellow friend from Brown. My first experience with BSA was filled with fun and I truly felt the welcoming, inclusive and informative environment. Although, I didn't know many people, I felt at home already, surrounded by intelligent minds that were down-to-earth and funny and shared common interests in music and culture with me.

The first BSA meeting opened my eyes to the multiple opportunities that surrounded us as black students to promote our awareness on campus and also make a difference in society. Events like I-Fest, a cultural show allow BSA students to showcase their culture, and volunteer opportunities like Kelso

Elementary tutoring sessions and Student Success Academy allow students to go out and make a difference, using their knowledge and experience from Rice to help enlighten others. Thinking back on it now, the first BSA meeting opened a lot of doors for me both personally and culturally.

Labor Day Barbeque

Share DeWitt, Soul Night Coordinator

The BSA started this year with a bang with our first social event, the Labor Day Barbeque. It was a day filled with good food, friends, and plenty of music. The barbeque was held on campus, in the McMurtry College quad on Monday afternoon. With the help of student and alumni volunteers, we were able to provide burgers and hotdogs fresh off the grill, barbeque chicken, macaroni and cheese, baked beans, cornbread, peach cobbler, and much more for over 40 guests.

The Labor Day Barbeque not only provided BSA members with great food, but a chance to meet new friends and connect with other black

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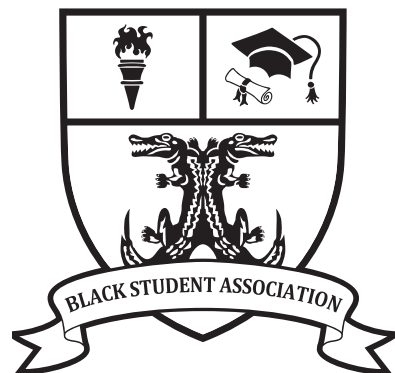
students across campus. We also had the pleasure of meeting and hanging out with members of the University of Houston-Downtown Black Student Association; a relationship that we hope to continue and to make stronger in the future. One of the highlights of the barbeque was getting a chance to bust a move on the dance floor, giving everyone the chance to let loose. The Labor Day Barbeque was definitely a success and a preview of the many great things to come with the Rice University BSA.

BSA partners with YES Prep

Kim Akano, Community Service Coordinator

On Friday, September 20th, a few BSA members sacrificed a portion of their busy school day to help support a big cause. YES Prep, a network of university-prep charter schools located throughout the Greater Houston area, hosted its 2013 Youth Leadership Forum at Rice University. The Forum was a leadership development opportunity for 250-300 high school students at targeted schools in Houston – Cristo Rey Jesuit, Chinquapin Academy, AAMA, and YES Prep – and sought to build leadership skills by developing mindsets around civic service, self-awareness and exposure to high-profile current leaders within the Houston community. It is a one-day event packed with speakers, sessions and leadership development activities was targeted at high school juniors and seniors.

BSA members facilitated a closing reflection activity to help the students reflect on their day and commit to action in light of all of the information they learned at the forum. Volunteers were also able to speak with the students about how their leadership skills have grown during their time here at Rice and give the students ideas as to how they can be leaders both inside and outside of the classroom. The BSA hopes to continue to support youth in the Houston area and be a shining example of how to strive for success no matter your background.



Soul Night Award

Chelsea Henshaw, Treasurer

What does black culture mean to our future? Last year, we honored Dr. Roland Smith, associate provost and adjunct professor of education and sociology, at Soul Night 2013. After receiving his award and giving a short speech, the audience was able to see how Dr. Smith has been an influential and integral part of the Black Student Association. You can catch him at every BSA meeting or in the front row of the Soul Night audience each year! He is more than willing to spread his knowledge and wisdom with students and act as a helping hand.

