



Contact: Sharon Foretia
Email: secretary@cbaa1976.com

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CBAA Partners with Black Ivy Alumni League to Host First Annual Alumni Gala

August 15, 2013 - NEW YORK, NY – On Wednesday, July 17, 2013, over 600 guests joined together at The Carlton Hotel in New York City for a highly successful celebrity fundraising gala hosted by the Black Ivy Alumni League in partnership with the Cornell Black Alumni Association, the Columbia Business School African American Alumni Association, the Black Alumni of Dartmouth Association and the Association of Black Princeton Alumni.

An esteemed group of black ivy alumni were honored at the gala for their professional achievements. Honorees included MSNBC contributor Keith Boykin; NY Giants' Jack Brewer; Grammy-nominated Ryan Leslie; Urban Compass founder Robert Reffkin; and orthopaedic spine surgeon Dr. Bernard Rawlins.

Rawlins, a 1987 graduate from Weill Cornell Medical College, received the Pinnacle Award for achievements in science. He was recently featured in the Fox News special "Beyond the Dream," which focused on his extraordinary work as a spine surgeon and highlighted his pursuit of the American dream, starting from his humble beginnings in Ghana. "A portion of the mission statement of the Black Ivy Alumni League is 'to serve as a professional development resource.' With increasing numbers of professionals amongst our ranks, this need has become increasingly important. I applaud and congratulate the organization for its foresight and am humbled by the honor bestowed by this award," Rawlins remarked.

The gala raised a remarkable \$17,000; a portion of the proceeds will help fund New York City Public School projects through DonorsChoose.org as well as two one-year college internships.

"The gala was an amazing event," said Anika Daniels-Osaze, President of the Cornell Black Alumni Association. "I have never seen so many Black alumni together in one space to celebrate each other while raising money for several great causes. Partnering with the Black Ivy Alumni League has been a great experience. I look forward to an even bigger event next year."

For photos of the event (courtesy of Jonel Daphnis '98), please visit www.cbaa1976.com.

Cornell Black Alumni Association

Founded in 1976, the Cornell Black Alumni Association (CBAA) was conceived as an organization devoted to providing a communication network for Black alumni. Over the years, CBAA's mission and scope of activities has expanded, resulting in myriad programs that have a direct and significant impact on alumni and future Cornell students.

Black Ivy Alumni League

Since its founding in 1998, the Black Ivy Alumni League supports the growth and development of Black Ivy League students and alumni through career networking, a diverse alumni base and cultural events. The organization addresses the needs of thousands of alumni of African descent connected through their Ivy League experiences.

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