

The Cornell Black Alumni Association Executive Board

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CBAA UPDATE

December 2014

January 2015 General Body Meeting

CBAA will hold a general body meeting on **Saturday, January 3rd** from **1:30pm to 3:30pm** in New York City. The purpose of the meeting is to give an update on CBAA and campus activities. Directly following the meeting will be an opportunity to network with current students.

Meeting Location

Cornell Club, Ivy Room, 6 East 44th Street, New York, NY

For those who are unable to attend, you can view the meeting on the CBAA website at <http://www.cbaa1976.com/cbaa-connect/live-stream/>.

All members must be current with their dues payment including online viewers. Individual dues are \$35. Lifetime dues are \$325. Dues can be paid at the meeting via cash, check, Paypal or credit card or online at www.cbaa1976.com. The agenda is as follows:

- 1:30pm-1:45pm: Registration
- 1:45pm-2:30pm: Officer Reports
- 2:30pm-3:00pm: Elections Information, Reunion Update & Announcements
- 3:00pm-3:30pm: Alumni Networking

[Register](#)

Questions: Contact Sharon Foretia at sforetia@gmail.com or Anika Daniels-Osaze at aid1@cornell.edu.

Following the meeting there will be a **Mosaic Exchange: Student-Alumni Networking Event** from **4-6pm** at the Cornell Club.

This networking event is an opportunity for alumni to share their best career advice with Cornell students. It offers the chance to strengthen professional networks between alumni, as well as the opportunity to mentor students as future leaders.

Questions: Contact Nancy Law '84 at nfl1@cornell.edu.

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This has been a difficult time for Black people, especially Black men in this country. It is hard to know exactly what to say during times like these, but we cannot stand by and watch this happen without making a comment. We must stand against these injustices.

CBAA recognizes that the stand you choose to take is a personal one, but I implore you to do something. We must use our influence to make a positive change in society. We do ask however, that whatever choice you make, be mindful and be safe. Too many lives have been lost due to fear, anger, apathy, and ignorance. We are not strangers to this type of behavior. As CBAA members, we share a common story no matter what decade we graduated. At some point in our lives, our very existence has been questioned.

CBAA members have had a history of standing for change and serving as a voice of support. We need to remind the world that Black lives matter. All lives matter. If we are to survive and thrive in this world, we cannot be silent. The stakes are too high. For the sake of our families, stand up and be heard. The struggle continues...

CBAA Statement on Black Male Injustice

24 CASES: Killed by Police/Died in Custody Under Questionable Circumstances

 MIKE BROWN 2014, Age 18 Pending.	 AMADOU DIALLO 1999, Age 23 Cops indicted, all acquitted.	 OSCAR GRANT 2009, Age 23 Cop indicted, convicted. Served 11 months.	 JON FERRELL 2013, Age 24 Cop indicted, pending.	 ALAN BLUEFORD 2012, Age 18 Cop not indicted.	 CHAVIS CARTER 2012, Age 21 Cops not indicted.
 ERIC GARNER 2014, Age 43 Pending.	 SEAN BELL 2006, Age 23 Cops indicted, acquitted.	 TIM STANSBURY 2004, Age 19 Cop not indicted.	 EZELL FORD 2014, Age 25 Pending.	 RAMARLEY GRAHAM 2012, Age 18 Cop indicted, indictment tossed on technicality.	 DANE SCOTT 2012, Age 18 Cop indicted, sentenced to four years.
 PHILLIP PANNELL 1990, Age 16 Cop indicted, acquitted.	 PATRICK DORISMOND 2000, Age 26 Cop not indicted.	 WENDELL ALLEN 2012, Age 20 Cop pled guilty of manslaughter, 4 years.	 VICTOR STEEN 2009, Age 18 Cop not indicted.	 KENDREC MCDADE 2012, Age 19 Cops not indicted.	 KIMANE GRAY 2013, Age 16 Pending.
 ARMAND BENNETT 2014, Alive. Shot in head cop turned off camera. Pending.	 DERRICK WILLIAMS 2011, Age 22 Cop not indicted.	 OUSMANE ZONGO 2003, Age 43 Cop indicted, sentenced to probation.	 JOHN CRAWFORD 2014, Age 22 Pending.	 JONNY GAMMAGE 1995, Age 31 Cop indicted, acquitted.	 GUS RUGLEY 2004, Age 21 Cops not indicted.

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Cornell Students
in support of
#BlackLivesMatter





Recap: Cornell Pumps Up Cornell Homecoming

E. Eric Elmore, A&S '86, Law '89

This fall, the Cornell Black Alumni Association (CBAA) showed up and showed out for Cornell's Homecoming. From Thursday, October 16 through Sunday, October 19, 2014, scores of CBAA members blanketed Ithaca, New York, not only to attend Cornell Homecoming, but, for some, to participate in the Trustee-Council Annual Meeting and Cornell's Sesquicentennial (150th) Anniversary celebration. CBAA alums of all stripes returned to Ithaca, including young and seasoned graduates, Trustee and Council members, members of Greek-letter organizations, and community and industry leaders. All returned to Cornell to engage in Homecoming and other activities throughout the weekend.

On early Friday evening, October 17, in Ujamaa's main lounge, Jabari Osaze '94 led a thought-provoking discussion on "The Shackling of the Black Child's Mind: History of Racism in Cartoons." CBAA, BSU, BWS, and LINK co-sponsored this event. Following this event, CBAA, the Black Graduate and Professional Student Association (BGPSA), the Cornell Black Lawyers Alumni Network (CBLAN), and the Black Law Students Association (BLSA) co-sponsored the Black Graduate and Professional Student Mixer at the Loco Cantina Bar & Grill near west campus. There, Black graduate and professional alumni joined Black law, medical, business, and graduates students for a night of drinks and "old school" music by DJ Chavez Carter '14 of the Justice League. Also that evening, Cornell treated students, alumni, and local residents to live entertainment and a spectacular firework and laser light show at Schoellkopf Field.

On Saturday morning, October 18, the Africana Studies & Research Center (AS&RC) welcomed a large crowd to the "COSEP Anniversary Brunch" in the new addition of the Africana Center. The event began with a continental breakfast, followed by a light program that touched on the evolution of the Committee on Special Educational Projects program or COSEP, which led to successor programs, such as the Office of Minority Educational Affairs (OMEA), and the current Office of Academic Diversity Initiatives (OADI). Special guests at this event included the revered Cornell couple, Professor James Turner, AS&RC Director Emeritus, and Janice Turner, former Academic Advising Dean in the College of Arts & Sciences. In addition, other AS&RC staff and COSEP alums attended this event.

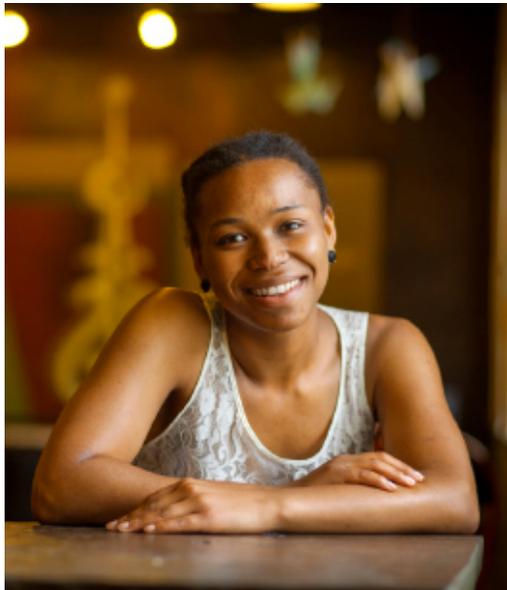
On Saturday afternoon, before the Cornell vs. Lehigh football game, the Fan Festival kicked off high gear in the Crescent lot. This event was replete with live band music, Ferris wheel rides, face painting for the young and adventurous, and numerous tailgating tents hosted by fraternities and sororities, Cornell colleges, Mosiac and CBAA. Although located in the upper portion of the athletic complex, the CBAA tailgate tent was off the hook. Members of Omega Psi Phi provided music and manned the BBQ grill. Tailgaters witnessed the sisters of Delta Sigma Theta strolling prominently in the area. And, a member of Alpha Phi Alpha and Sigma Gamma Rho were surrounded as they demonstrated fancy dance moves to the old school classic by EU, "Da Butt." In addition, passers-by stopped to observe and photograph the mass of CBAA tailgaters -- who braved slight rain showers -- festively line dancing and socializing with friends old and new.

Later that evening, CBAA and Cornell's Colleague Network Groups (CNG) hosted a Black Greek-Letter Networking Mixer in Martha Van Rensselaer Hall. During this event, members of the historically Black Greek-letter Fraternities and Sororities and other members of Cornell's Multi-Cultural Greek-Letter Council networked with each other. Travis Apgar, the Associate Dean of Students, and Frank Wilkinson, the President of the Alumni Multi-Cultural Greek-letter Council provided greetings and offered brief remarks on the state of Greek life at Cornell.

In fine fashion, CBAA members capped off the weekend with the traditional Ujamaa sweatbox party. Finally, on Sunday, the weekend ended as CBAA members departed Ithaca, imbued with fond memories of Cornell Homecoming Weekend 2014.



On The Hill



Rachel Harmon, ILR '15
Photo courtesy of Cornell

Rachel Harmon '15 is one of five African-American students to be selected as a **Rhodes Scholar** this year and is the first African-American woman at Cornell to receive this scholarship. [Read more.](#)

Recognizing the importance of college activism in promoting civil rights, Black student leaders from all eight Ivy League universities formed the **Black Ivy Coalition**, an organization that will focus on political advocacy work.

Michelle Juma '16, Black Students United (BSU) Treasurer, pens an [editorial](#) for the *Cornell Daily Sun* entitled "'Justice Delayed is Justice Denied'" highlighting BSU's rally for Ferguson.

The **Cornell Black Law Student Association** issued a [statement](#) following the grand jury decisions of the Michael Brown and Eric Garner cases.

[VIDEO](#) | The **Africana Studies and Research Center** hosted a panel discussion entitled "Forum on Ferguson: Role of the Law," which examined some of the reasons for and consequences of the Michael Brown shooting in Ferguson.

The *Cornell Chronicle* featured a [story](#) on the **role of Latino students** in the 1969 Willard Straight Hall takeover.

Elizabeth Garrett, USC provost, was named [Cornell's 13th President](#). She will assume the position starting on July 1st, 2015. Garrett will be the first woman to hold this position at Cornell. Read [CBAA's correspondences](#) with the President-elect.

Susan Murphy '73, PhD '94, vice president for student and academic services, will retire at the end of June 2015 after over 20 years of service to the Cornell community. [Read more.](#)

Black Students United Organizes Rally for Ferguson



Alumni In the News

Svante Myrick '09, current mayor of Ithaca, was selected as one of two recipients for the [2014 John F. Kennedy New Frontier Awards](#), which acknowledges young Americans in public service.

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The [NAACP](#) nominated **Erika Green Swafford** '94, for an NAACP Image Award in the category of Outstanding Writing for a Drama Series for her work on "How to Get Away with Murder."

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Amanda Williams '97 was featured in the *Chicago Sun Times* for her work on [trans-](#)

Since 1976, CBAA has promoted the professional development of and provided giving opportunities to its members, supported black students at Cornell through endowment of scholarships and development of other resources, and provided assistance in recruitment efforts.

As of September 2012, CBAA reinstated its dues-paying membership status per the approved vote of the general body. To be considered an active member, you must have either paid your individual dues of \$35 or lifetime member dues of \$325 (one-time payment).

What the advantages are of being a paid CBAA member?

- Ability to vote at general body meetings and elections
- Network with alumni across

Erika Green Swafford '94 is nominated for an NAACP Image Award

[forming neighborhoods](#) in South Side Chicago by "bringing life" to abandoned houses.

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Nnamdi Nwaneri '05, owner of [NeatMeatDC](#) was recently featured in [TheRoot.com](#), which highlighted the emergence of Black-owned food trucks across the nation.

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Elmira Mangum, Cornell's former VP of Finance and new President of FAMU hired **Abena Sackey Ojetayo** '07 earlier this year to be the school's first chief sustainability officer. Ojetayo is also executive director of the



new interdisciplinary [Sustainability Institute](#); an initiative that she and Mangum believe can elevate the university's standing nationally and internationally.



all decades and disciples

- Connect with friends and former classmates
- Access to special discounts (The Buyers Club)
- Discounts to CBAA events
- Access to job announcements via the members-only section
- Ability to advertise your own business on our website

The CBAA fiscal year runs from **July 1 – June 30**. To register and pay dues online (via Paypal), please visit our [website](#).

An alternative to Paypal is sending a check or money order payable to CBAA to the

Join CBAA Today

following address:

Carol McIntosh
VP for Membership
PO Box 376
Mount Rainier, MD 20712

For any inquiries regarding membership please reach out to Carol at cmcmd135@gmail.com.

Campus Spotlight: Black Bio-Medical Technical Association

The **Black Bio-Medical and Technical Association** (BBMTA) of Cornell University is a non-profit organization primarily composed of students of color who are interested in health-related issues that affect our communities.

BBMTA serves as a community service group that provides information about health issues relevant to people of color in the Cornell, Ithaca and surrounding areas; provides ongoing counseling and advising service for undergraduate students to provide emotional, moral and academic support throughout their undergraduate years; and serves as mentors for children in the Ithaca community.

RECENT EVENTS

Recent BBMTA activities include the following:

Sponsoring “Navigating Cornell as a Pre-Health Student” panel discussion: this consisted of a panel of seven pre-health advisors from several colleges around campus, the Vet school, and Undergraduate Biology Office. Mike Chen, from the Learning Strategies Center provided students with tips on study skills that can help them achieve academic success. The panel discussed topics including resources on campus, campus involvement, summer internships, and the pre-health application process.

Tutoring middle school students biweekly at the Greater Ithaca Activity Center (GIAC)

Participating in the local Math and Science Academy: BBMTA members conduct hands-on workshops with students, ranging from elementary to middle school, to build their interest in STEM-fields/careers.

Participating in “Into the Streets” community service day: Into the Streets is a day when student organizations go into the Ithaca community and help small business or local organizations with community services projects.

HOW CAN CBAA SUPPORT BBMTA?

CBAA can continue helping support BBMTA by promoting and participating in the BBMTA annual conference that is held in February. Every year, we want to see a larger student body present to engage with physicians and other pre-health professionals.

It would be very helpful to have CBAA members serve as mentors to BBMTA members. This would help foster relationships between the undergraduates and alumni. This can be beneficial because as alumni, who have survived Cornell, you probably would have a plethora of advice on how to become a successful student at Cornell and beyond.

Financial support of the organization is also needed to help fund our activities.

BBMTA is very appreciative of the support that CBAA has given us thus far, and hope to strengthen that relationship.

Recent & Upcoming CBAA Events

October 16-18 | Ithaca
Homecoming 2014

December 6 | New York City
Alvin Ailey Fundraiser with the Black Ivy Alumni League

January 3 | New York City
General Body Meeting

February 6 | Washington, D.C.
Alvin Ailey Fundraiser

March – May | Nationwide
Pre-Reunion Events

June 4-7 | Ithaca
CBAA Reunion

CBAA Launches Award Applications

Outstanding Student Leadership Award

This award recognizes a current undergraduate senior (Class of 2015) of African descent for his/her outstanding leadership and efforts to enhance the lives of students and the community-at-large while attending Cornell University. Please encourage current seniors to apply!

Visit the [website](#) for more information.

Application due date: April 15, 2015

Contact: Cynthia Cuffie, VP for Student Relations

Winner will be announced in May 2015 during Black Students United's "It's a Black Affair."

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CBAA Literary Grant

This grant was developed to support CBAA alumni in their goals of publishing a book. The initial cost of publishing a book can be a hindrance to an author. CBAA's intent is to remove that hindrance our alumni encounter by providing financial support with this grant.

Visit the [website](#) for more information.

Application due date: May 1, 2015

Contact: Chimene Liburd, VP for Scholarship and Fundraising

Winner will be announced during the June 2015 reunion.



Alumni Spotlight: Tameka Walker-Blake Class of 2001

College, Major & Graduation Year

College of Arts & Sciences, Chemistry, Class of 2001

What was your Cornell experience like when you attended?

Overall, I had a great experience; it provided a great foundation for my medical school education, while fostering many lifelong friendships and networks.

What have you done post-Cornell?

I attended medical school at Weill Cornell Medical College 2002-2006, I also attended Emergency Medicine residency at Newark Beth Israel Medical Center in Newark, NJ 2006-2009. I relocated to metro Atlanta area in 2009 working for Emcare, an emergency medicine private practice group. I have worked at Emory Adventist Hospital in Smyrna, GA for the past 4 years, serving as ED Medical Director 3 out of 4 years. Currently, I am the ED Medical Director at Newton Medical Center in Covington, GA.

What advice would give to current students and as it relates to your particular field of interest?

Hard work and determination is key, in addition to perseverance despite what obstacles may come.

Why do you think it is important to stay connected as alumni?

Cornell alumni have a wealth of knowledge, information and experiences that are valuable to others with similar fields of interest.

Dr. Tameka Walker-Blake was selected as the 2014 Site Medical Director for Emergency Medicine. Dr. Blake is the Site Medical Director at Emory Adventist Hospital of Smyrna. Read the [article](#) for more information on this award.