Welcome to Purdue University! On behalf of the Black Cultural Center, I extend my congratulations on your acceptance to Purdue University. You represent the best and most talented students in the country and around the world. The college experience is an exciting time – of dreams, hopes and fears, great joys, major adjustments and some disappointments. It is a time to grow and learn.

The Black Cultural Center is a place where the African American experience is explored, celebrated and shared. The center provides an intellectually stimulating and comprehensive program by sponsoring an array of special lecturers, performances by distinguished artists and alumni speakers who enhance cultural diversity and improve campus life at Purdue. The BCC publishes a monthly newsletter, houses a library – offering a variety of materials on African American culture, and a computer lab, all providing support for your educational needs.

Black Cultural Center staff strives to provide a welcoming, supportive and caring environment. We are here to enable you to achieve academic, intellectual and personal success at Purdue University. I encourage you to actively participate in BCC programs and activities this fall. Please utilize the BCC library for research and studying, and take full advantage of the computer lab. Your involvement in the BCC will enhance the social, cultural and intellectual vitality of campus life and will promote your personal growth and development.

The Black Cultural Center has planned two special events for first year African American students, Boilerfest and the BCC Performing Arts Ensemble call out and orientation. The purpose of these programs is to introduce you to the Purdue community and the various services available to assist you in achieving your educational goals. The events are highlighted in this newsletter. The BCC staff is anxious to get to know you personally. Staff at the BCC empower students and promote cultural and academic success. Please stop by the BCC and introduce yourself. I am confident you will appreciate the way in which all of us share in your dreams and goals. The BCC looks forward to playing a vital role in your educational journey at Purdue.

Sincerely,

Renee A. Thomas
Director

From left to right (back row): Langston Bates, Renee Thomas, Lisa Sultemeier, and Bill Caise. Front row from left to right: Jolivette Anderson-Douoning, Twana A. Harris, and Juanita Crider.
Introducing the Ensembles...

If you sing, dance, love creative writing or get dramatic on stage, then check out the BCC. We sponsor four performing groups in dance, drama, music, and creative writing to explore African American/African Diaspora traditions and experiences through artistic engagement. Or if you prefer to engage in provocative discussions and exploring subjects in depth to foster critical thinking, then check The Black Thought Collective. Each ensemble is instructed by a professional Artist/Scholar-In-Residence.

Black Thought Collective

Taking on a think tank approach, the Black Thought Collective (BTC) blends seamlessly with the existing BCC Performing Arts Ensembles, with a “Scholar-in-Residence” who works with the student coordinator to oversee the group. BTC has three standing committees that provide opportunities for all members. “Black Thought in the Media” focuses on current events publicized via local, national and global media; “Past to Present” explores black history and culture focusing on the resources of the BCC library and other campus departments; and “The Awareness Movement” concentrates on future action to better educate Purdue students, faculty, staff and the greater Lafayette community on black history, black culture and black thought. Black Thought Collective presented at the 2009 and 2011 National Council of Black Studies Conference. BTC also hosts a spring symposium where they present individual research on the fall semester theme.

Jahari Dance Troupe

Named for the Swahili word, meaning “jewel,” the Jahari Dance Troupe is trained in a variety of techniques in black dance from traditional to contemporary. Over the years, Jahari’s repertoire has come to include African, Caribbean, ballet, jazz, modern, hip-hop, and tap. The troupe has received instruction from internationally recognized dancers and choreographers. The troupe has performed widely across the Midwest and has also been involved with cultural exchange programs with similar dance companies in the region. Kevin Iega Jeff is the Artist-In-Residence for Jahari. Jeff is the artistic/producing director and one of the co-founders of Deeply Rooted Productions, which is the umbrella company for Deeply Rooted Dance Theater (DRDT). The current relationship between Jahari and DRDT has expanded beyond the traditional since Jeff came to work with the ensemble during the 2004-2005 academic year. Each year Jeff has several members of the professional staff of DRDT share their areas of dance expertise with Jahari members. This expanded relationship will continue to build Jahari’s repertoire again this year.
The Ensembles Continued...

Black Voices of Inspiration

The Black Voices of Inspiration (BVOI) choral ensemble is made up of student and community individuals committed to the performance of music enhanced by the music traditions and experiences of African Americans. The ensemble’s concert literature includes spirituals, jazz, blues, gospel, anthems, hymns, and contemporary music. The group has received international acclaim as apart of the 1999 Voices of America concert tour to Australia, New Zealand and, Fiji. BCC full-time Artist-In-Residence, Dr. Twana A. Harris, is responsible for conducting weekly master choral classes and preparing BVOI for ensemble engagements. In addition to teaching her professional experience includes 15 years as a composer and arranger. Dr. Harris is a member of the American Choral Director’s Association and The Music Educator’s Association. She is a recipient of the Vocal Extravaganza Solo Award, an honor received in a competition among black university choirs and soloists.

Haraka Writers

The Haraka writers are a collective body of student and community writers committed to literary expression of the black experience. Haraka is a Swahili word that means “expression.” Through essays, prose, poetry, and short stories, the Haraka writers strive to reinforce the essential bonds that give hope and strength to people. To much of their credit, four publications of the Haraka Writers are currently in print: “Ebony Thoughts”, “Black Expression of Life and Love”, “Poems for a Sun Lady”, and the 1987 “Haraka Reader” containing selections from the writers workshop was published. The most recent publication in which the Haraka Writers appear is entitled, Eclipsing a Nappy New Millennium-An Anthology of Contemporary Midwestern Poetry. Haraka is under the direction of Artist-In-Residence Khari Bowden, a.k.a. Discopoet Khari B. Khari B. has been performing poetry since 1992. His presence has been requested and hailed internationally. He also has been recognized for his talents by the late great Gwendolyn Brooks and performed with renowned Last Poets via a personal invitation. He is the host of the “The Soul Poetry Cafe,” which is recognized as the nation’s largest open mic show.

Join the BCC Ensembles!

So, you want to be a part of one of the ensembles...now what do you do?

Fill out the enclosed interest card and return by mail Or go online to complete a survey at:

https://purdue.qualtrics.com/SE/?SID=SV_77YQdpdLA3NGqo
The Ensembles Continued...

New Directional Players

Since its debut in 1971, the New Directional players have become a highly respected theatrical company. NDP’s repertoire ranges from outstanding works by masters of black theater to original pieces by emerging writers and playwrights. Along with presenting traditional plays, the ensemble also performs poetry, dramatic monologues, one acts, musicals, and adapted works. Each production is designed to generate social awareness about various Afro-centric issues. NDP performs various engagements during the school year both on and off campus. NDP is also under the direction of Artist-In-Residence Keche Nickson-Kambe.

YOU’RE INVITED

CALL OUTS

For BCC Performing Arts Ensembles

Wednesday August 29, 2012 @ 6:30 pm
or
Thursday August 30, 2012 @ 6:30 pm

Where: Black Cultural Center

We look forward to seeing you!
The Purdue Black Cultural Center will sponsor a fall research tour for performing arts ensemble participants, Friday, October 5 - Tuesday October 9, 2012. The BCC Research Tour this fall will include a 5 day tour to Detroit, Michigan and Ontario, Canada. The theme for the fall semester is “Motor City Soul: The Birth, Death and Rebirth of Black Detroit”. Our tour will include visits to the Charles H. Wright Museum of African American Culture, Motown Museum as well as multiple master class offerings by the Virgil Carr Cultural Center and Heritage Works. The tour will have three core components: 1. The Abolitionist Movement and the Underground Railroad, 2. The Great Migration and the Birth of the Black Middleclass and 3. The Role of the Arts in the Rebirth of the City of Detroit.

A unique feature of this year’s tour is that we will travel outside of the U.S. We will participate in a historical tour to Ontario, Canada where many enslaved Africans escaped to Freedom. Because we are traveling internationally it is imperative you secure a US Passport to participate on the tour. It typically takes 6 weeks to process a passport (unless you want to pay an additional fee for expediting the process) If you do not have a passport, I encourage you to submit your application ASAP. Please know your passport is good for a ten year period. The cost for joining the tour is $1,250. However, due to the generous support of our BCC donors the tour is available to you for only $250.00. All tour participants are required to participate in the BCC Cultural Arts Festival at the end of the semester.

If you are interested in joining us for this tour please go online at: https://purdue.qualtrics.com/SE/?SID=SV_77YYqdpCLa3Ngqo and complete this survey. Soon after completing the survey someone from the Black Cultural Center will contact you. This fall BCC full time Artist - In- Residence Dr. Twana A. Harris and BCC librarian, Langston Bates will be teaching the companion class AAS 491- Motor City Soul, which will meet M/W/F 2:30-3:20pm. Please plan to register for the 3 credit class as part of the research tour process. Feel free to call the BCC at 765 494 3092 if you have any questions. Space is limited so please register early to secure your spot.
Welcome to the BCC Library

The Black Cultural Center library is charged with the special mission of preserving knowledge in the fields of Black Studies. It is the only library on campus, which specializes in materials related to the historical, sociological, political, and cultural aspects of the lives of African American people.

The Black Cultural Center Library presently contains more than 7,000 books and subscribes to more than 40 periodicals including popular magazines, scholarly journals, and newspapers. Periodicals holdings include such titles as the Black Masks: Spotlight on Black Art, Ebony, Essence, International Journal of African Renaissance Studies, Journal of African American Studies, NSBE: The National Society of Black Engineers Magazine and Souls: A Critical Journal of Black Politics, Culture and Society. Other materials in the collection are a comprehensive vertical file of newspaper clippings and tape recordings of selected programs and events. Current subscriptions to state and regional newspapers include the Chicago Defender, Frost Illustrated (Fort Wayne), Gary Crusader, Indiana Herald, and Indianapolis Recorder.

Unique to the collection are recordings of lectures or readings presented by renowned scholars, poets, politicians, artists, and activists sponsored by the Black Cultural Center Cultural Arts Series. Recordings of presentations by Muhammad Ali, Maya Angelou, James Baldwin, Mary Frances Berry, John Henrik Clarke, John Hope Franklin, Nikki Giovanni, Haki Madhubuti, Sweet Honey In the Rock and many others are held by the Black Cultural Center library.

The library maintains a web site which contains selected bibliographies, book reviews by Purdue graduate students, and discussion questions for some of the books in the Juvenile Collection. External links to resources relating to the Black experience worldwide are connected. Patrons may use the designated computer terminal for public use or may bring their laptops for wireless connection for use of the online catalog or other digitized learning resources.

The library serves to enhance the patron’s knowledge of the African-American heritage by providing information which can be examined for academic research and/or personal growth. The BCC Library works in cooperation with Purdue Libraries. Its cataloged holdings are included in the Purdue Libraries online catalog.

All Purdue students, faculty and staff may borrow materials and use the services of the Black Cultural Center library. The public is encouraged to use the collection. Visit the web site at: http://www.purdue.edu/bcc/library/
Boilerfest 2012: Motor City Soul
Mark your calendars for Thursday, August 23rd from 4-6 p.m. in the BCC parking lot for BOILERFEST 2012!

Boilerfest introduces new students to the BCC, various student organizations, and campus support services. Join us in celebrating the BCC fall semester theme “Motor City Soul: The Birth, Death, and Rebirth of Black Detroit.” Come out for an afternoon filled with food, music and fun. See you there!

Do you have experience working on the staff of your high school newspaper? Were you on the year book staff? If so, becoming a staff writer for the BCC may interest you. If you are interested in becoming a staff writer, please contact Ms. Juanita Crider, BCC newsletter editor at: jcrider@purdue.edu.
Upcoming BCC Events....... 

Wednesday and Thursday August 29-30, 2012
Performing Arts Ensemble Call Outs
   6:30 p.m.
   BCC
If you are interested in joining one of the ensembles or even thinking about it,
you are invited to come out and see what it is all about!

Thursday, September 13, 2012
The Missing Project: Pieces of the D featuring -Jessica Care Moore
   7:00 p.m.
   Fowler Hall, Stewart Center
The multimedia show features live music, poetry and graffiti centered around the stories
of Detroit artists who find a way to make art/work through a recession.
Jessica Care Moore is the first poet to ever win the Showtime at the Apollo competition 5 times.

Saturday, September 29, 2012
BCC Friends and Family Day
Immediately following football game
Map the lives of African Americans from agriculture (Southern states) to industry (Northern states). Ford Motor
Company employed southern migrants and helped give birth to the Black middle class by paying a living wage that
enabled workers to improve their quality of life. Migration stories, children’s activities, food and fun.

October 15-29, 2012
The Race Experience
Stewart Center (under the mural)
The Race Experience kiosk offers a truly unique diversity experience. You can see yourself in a different skin; change
your race to Black, White, Asian, Hispanic, Middle Eastern and Indian. You can share your favorite pictures via email.