



# Black Alumnae of Smith College

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## 2008 ANNUAL REPORT

*Submitted June 30, 2008 to Affinity Program, Alumnae Association of Smith College, 33 Elm Street, Northampton, MA 01063*

### **Smith College Affinity Group: Black Alumnae of Smith College, Inc.**

#### **GROUP MISSION**

The mission of BASC is to strengthen the interests, welfare and educational purposes of Smith College and her alumnae. The purpose of BASC shall be to develop a strong and enduring organization in order to create and cultivate a strong sense of community among Black alumnae, as well as among Black alumnae, the Alumnae Association of Smith College ("AASC") and Smith College, thereby enhancing the alumnae experience of each graduating class of Smith College. The purpose of BASC also shall be to promote the interests of Black alumnae and to encourage the affirmation and celebration of the cultural heritage of Black alumnae within the Smith College community. BASC also shall provide opportunities for Black alumnae to connect with each other and with the AASC and Smith College, and shall encourage participation of Black alumnae in the AASC and in the Smith College community. BASC also shall encourage investment by Black alumnae in the AASC and in the Smith College community, with the approval of and in conjunction with the AASC and/or Smith College, as may be required. BASC also shall encourage and promote the professional and volunteer development and networking opportunities of Black alumnae. BASC also, with the approval of and in conjunction with the Office of Admission of Smith College, shall participate in the recruitment and retention of students of Smith College.

#### **GROUP FOCUS: (rank in order of importance)**

(\*Note: The Group Focus and priorities listed here are subject to change pending revision, finalization of BASC Strategic Plan.)

- \_1\_ Build Organizational Structure; Board Governance; Strategic Plan**
- \_2\_ Alumnae Networking; Professional Development**
- \_3\_ Student Recruitment & Retention**
- \_4\_ Finance Plan Development; Fundraising; 501© 3 Finalization**

- \_5\_ Maintain, Build strong Connection/Relationship with the College**
- \_6\_ Cultural, Social opportunities for Alumnae**
- \_7\_ Continue Education Opportunities for Alumnae**
- \_8\_ Marketing/Communication; Raise awareness of/about Smith College**
- \_9\_ Community Service Projects**

**Top Five FOCUS Priorities:**

**1. Build Organizational Structure; Governance to support the interests of BASC**

- **Expand Communications, Marketing/Media Strategies**
- **Launch Membership Drives; Dues implementation; Benefits**
- **Set-up, Maintain a Membership Database**
- **Recruit, Solicit Volunteers for Leadership Roles, Committees**
- **Financial Plan; Fundraising Strategies; Accounting structure**

**2. Alumnae Networking; Provide, Support opportunities for Black alumnae to connect with each other and Smith College Alumnae Network:**

- **Collaborate, Recruit Regional Representatives/Committees in geographic locations (US, Caribbean, Africa, Europe, other regions) with Black alumnae to host events; Outreach to Clubs in various regions; Form Alliances with other Affinity and Special Interest groups.**
- **Initiate, Create, Plan, Implement Programs, Events and Activities to facilitate maximize participation of and interaction among BASC membership, Smith alumnae, other Affinity groups including opportunities for social connection, professional networking; volunteering; personal, professional and intellectual growth.**

**3. Student Recruitment & Retention: Support Admission's Office Program for Student outreach; Create, Support activities that allow Black alumnae to assist with the recruitment and retention of students.**

4. **Financial Plan: Set Budget, open bank account; Fundraise; complete 501© 3 non-profit application; Create, Initiate, Continue activities that provide opportunities Black alumnae to raise funds to build BASC, Women of Color Emergency Fund and Smith Fund, and scholarships and/or other activities with the collaboration, assistance, support of AASC and the College.**
5. **Maintain, Build Connection/Relationship to College: Develop, Support initiatives that assist Black alumnae to maintain strong relationship to the life, health and wealth of the College.**

**EXECUTIVE OFFICERS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2008–2009  
(TERM BEGINNING JULY 1, 2008, or before)**

Elections for all elective offices open for election shall be conducted at the annual meeting of BASC.

***Process for election of officers:***

Elections for all elective offices open for election shall be conducted at the annual meeting of BASC. (See Article 5) A solicitation for nominations shall be made by mail, by electronic mail, published in the appropriate issues of the BASC newsletter and on the BASC web site and shall precede the election by at least sixty days. Nominations, along with a brief biographical summary, shall be accepted from regular BASC members for a period of thirty days following the solicitation for nominations. A ballot shall be produced consisting of the names of those individuals who have accepted nomination and those who have nominated themselves and shall be distributed to all regular BASC members and/or published in the appropriate issues of the BASC newsletter and on the BASC web site. Elections may be conducted by mail and/or by an electronic ballot service arranged by the Alumnae Association of Smith College. Those candidates receiving a majority of the votes cast by BASC members shall be considered duly elected.

***Length of terms for officers:*** Directors shall serve a term of three years.

***Date of last revision of bylaws:*** March 2008 (Please attach a copy of your bylaws if newly revised)

***EID #:*** 26-1765010

***Tax exempt #:*** (26-1765010) Effective Date of Exemption 12/31/07

## **BASC OFFICERS**

### **PRESIDENT**

Name/Class: **Sylvia (Cookie) Smith Isabel '74**  
sylvia.isabel@hotmail.com

### **VICE PRESIDENT**

Name/Class: '76  
[madenton@optonline.net](mailto:madenton@optonline.net)

### **COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER**

Name/Class: **Geneva "Gigi" Paul '03**  
[genevacpaul@yahoo.com](mailto:genevacpaul@yahoo.com)

### **FINANCE OFFICER**

Name/Class: **Adia Hoag '02**  
[adiahoag@gmail.com](mailto:adiahoag@gmail.com)

### **SECRETARY**

Name/Class: **Aisha Williams '04**  
[adwilliams\\_04@yahoo.com](mailto:adwilliams_04@yahoo.com)

### **PROGRAMS AND EVENTS OFFICER**

Name/Class: **Janice Morrison AC '03**  
[morrison\\_janice@yahoo.com](mailto:morrison_janice@yahoo.com)

### **ADVISORY DIRECTOR**

Name/Class: **Linda Smith Charles '74**  
[l.charles@fordfound.org](mailto:l.charles@fordfound.org)

### **NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE** (Chair position currently vacant)

Names/Class Year:

**Dale Robinson Anglin '86,**  
[dangling@victoriafoundation.org](mailto:dangling@victoriafoundation.org)

**Gay Lee '94, School of Social Work**  
[gayleecsw@hotmail.com](mailto:gayleecsw@hotmail.com)

**Janice Newman Teetsell '73,**  
[jteetsell@aol.com](mailto:jteetsell@aol.com)

**RECENT GRADUATE DIRECTORS** (Currently vacant)

**PRESIDENT-ELECT OF BASC** (Currently vacant)

## NOTED LIAISONS & VOLUNTEERS:

### BASC-NAAC LIAISON:

Name/Class: **Adrienne Gantt '77**,  
[agantt@legal-aid.org](mailto:agantt@legal-aid.org)

### BASC SMITH FUND LIAISON:

Name/Class Year: **Leslie Andersen '74**,  
[andersen@iit.edu](mailto:andersen@iit.edu), currently under consideration.

### BASC REUNION (Acting) Co CHAIRS:

Name/Class Year:  
**Stacey Noiles-Jones '81**  
[Stacey.jones@emory.edu](mailto:Stacey.jones@emory.edu)

**Stephanie Hayne-Lewis, ADA '01, SW '03**  
[sskysthelimit@comcast.net](mailto:sskysthelimit@comcast.net).

### WEB MISTRESS:

Name/Class Year:  
**Cheryl Coward '91**  
[ccoward@gmail.com](mailto:ccoward@gmail.com)

## GROUP INFORMATION

<b>Membership dues:</b>	<b>1 Year</b>
<b>2 Years</b>	
<b>Young Alumna Dues ('03-'08 &amp; FT Grad Students)</b>	<b>\$10</b>
<b>\$15</b>	
<b>Basic Dues</b>	<b>\$35</b>
<b>\$60</b>	
<b>Parents/Friends/Faculty/Staff</b>	<b>\$25</b>
<b>\$35</b>	
<b>Lifetime Membership</b>	<b>\$300</b>

**Number of dues-paid members: 22 (as of June 2008)**

(An Excel spreadsheet provided by AASC in February 2007 indicated that a total of 1421 alumnae self-identified as Black or African American.)

## COMMUNICATIONS NEWSLETTERS

Frequency: **BASC** published Five (5) newsletter Editions from 2006-2008.

For samples go to:

[http://www.blackalums.com/?page\\_id=6](http://www.blackalums.com/?page_id=6)

In October 2006, **BASC** published **BASC NEWS**, Vol. 1, a full color, 8-pages newsletter mailed and electronically sent.

**BASC NEWS Fall/Winter 2008**, full-color, mailer edition, projected October/November 2008 publish date.

To cut costs, starting in 2007, **BASC** launched a new e-newsletter called **BASC Updates**-The following editions were published and are available on the website: **April, 2007, May 2007, September 2007; Spring 2008 (April)** monthly to quarterly electronic newsletters.

Electronic  Print:  Both--YES

**WEBSITE:** Includes membership, other forms, Bylaws, history, events, updates, photos and more. web address: <http://www@blackalums.com>

**Copies of BASC Communications: Newsletters, Programs, Invitations, Agendas, Minutes, Fact Sheets, Membership, Auction forms, Greeting Cards, and other Announcements, available by request.**

## BASC PROGRAMS, EVENTS & ACTIVITIES

Programs/activities of this past year and also those planned for the coming year:

**MENTORING PROGRAM:** a continuous year-round program to match alumnae with students of similar interests; Encourages recruitment, retention of students and sisterhood; Provide opportunities for alumnae to re-connect with College and students in meaningful ways. **Coordinator: Lynda Edwards '83**

**GRADUATION PROGRAM and CEREMONY:** for graduating senior class. Highlights include a presentation with roses, African stoles, poetry, welcoming ceremony for seniors and their families to **BASC** presentation. This is traditionally a multicultural collaboration with **ALAS** and Latina students and Caribbean and African, Mixed Race and several internationals. **Coordinators: Geneva Paul'03 and Linda Charles'74.**

**WOMEN of COLOR REUNION/CONFERENCE held March 7-9, 2008:** Inspired by **BASC's** 2004 Women of Color Reunion, the March 2008 collaboration of Affinity groups including **ALAS**, Asian, LBGT, and other alumnae and students of Color met on campus with theme: "Building Community." **AASC** Planning & Steering committee & key Smith staff. Very successful - 300 in attendance.

**BASC REGIONAL PROGRAMS:**

**NY/NJ Regional Teas:** were held at **Harlem Tea Room in 2006 and 2007;** another in works for 2008; 75 attended in 2006; 55 attended in 2007. **BASC NY/NJ Region Coordinators: Linda Charles '74 and Karen Sabur '74.**

**Washington DC Tea:** a successful inaugural Washington DC Tea held **June 2008.** 40+ attended. **BASC Washington DC Area Regional Coordinator: JoAnne Lyons Wooten '74.**

**More Regional Teas in the works:** As a result of the successful Washington DC tea (6/08), alumnae from far and wide expressed interest in holding "Teas" in their areas. The following Regions expressed interest: Los Angeles, Chicago Tea, Atlanta/Southern Tea, Boston Tea, Texas Tea, North Carolina Tea, Florida Tea, Jamaica or Caribbean Tea; and South African Tea.

**SMITH CLUB COLLABORATIONS:** BASC initiated outreach efforts to regional Smith Club leaders by participation on conference calls, in-person meetings, online communications, and by sending invitations and its newsletters to encourage support of its Regional Committee efforts and Collaborations for mutual support.

As a pilot project, **NY Smith Club and BASC collaborated on Studio Museum of Harlem event, May 5, 2008** and an independent film screening by publicizing Club events to BASC membership. Future events are planned in other cities; also see "National Book Awards" below as part of Admissions programs.

**ADA COMSTOCK and SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK OUTREACH:** BASC membership and leadership is strong from Ada Comstock grads and School of Social Work. Efforts are underway to improve, strengthen and collaborate with key leaders, staff and these alumnae. **Coordinator Janice Morrison AC '03.**

**AFFINITY GROUP COLLABORATIONS:** BASC teams up with ALAS as much as possible especially with campus events and regional teas. Recently, BASC teamed up with a new group on **June 4, 2008** in NYC--- SAMBA--- Smith Alumnae with MBAs, a Special Interest group, and New York City Smith Club to discuss, plan future collaborations. BASC has developed relationships with new Asian and LBGTQ affinity groups.

**ADMISSIONS PROGRAMS - Coordinator Adrienne Gantt '77:**

**'Meet Your Admissions Traveler'**- In Fall and early winter, members of Admissions office travel to nearly every major city in US, meeting high school guidance counselors, students. BASC Admissions Volunteers in New York/New Jersey area met with Admissions Office Traveler **Felicia Lundquist**, Asst. Director of Admissions in **October 2007** to discuss updates and strategies.

**National 'Rose Drop' Program, March 29, 2008**, alumnae volunteers purchase and 'drop' long-stemmed red rose w/congrats card at the homes of NY/NJ area young Black women high school students who were accepted to Smith, to encourage them to say Yes! and enroll at Smith. This project was first initiated in Washington DC and Philadelphia decades ago and will now go global.

**National Book Awards**, this new initiative was introduced by BASC on **Nov. 6, 2007** at a meeting with interested alumnae and College staff held at Ford Foundation--prospecting for future diverse Smithies! This program targets young, talented junior high and high school Black and Latina girls; enlists alumnae to help, assist, and identify target schools in US, Caribbean, Africa, Europe, other regions. This is a collaborative effort with local Smith Clubs.

**Discovery Weekend, April 12, 2008**, BASC provides speakers, panelists and volunteers for programs geared to incoming minority students.

**Women of Distinction**, match BASC volunteers with students; provide speakers, panelists for 3-day program aimed at Women of Color high school students, **November 2007**.

**STUDENT CAMPUS EVENTS – February 2007**, Black History Month, BASC Board members and alumnae participated in several BSA, SASCA (Caribbean, African), International, Mixed-Race, International, LGBT, and Nosotros - sponsored events on campus.

**OTELIA CROMWELL DAY - Nov. 1, 2007**, encouraged alumnae to attend this campus tradition of thematic speakers and presentations that honors the College's first African American student (1900) to graduate.

**BASC BOARD RETREAT, February 9, 2008** held at home of Mary Ann Denton '76, BASC VP. Aisha Williams '04 facilitated a BASC Strategic Plan.

**COMMUNITY SERVICE INITIATIVES - TBA.**

**CAMPUS ACTION COMMITTEE** formed by BASC members with diverse alumnae, students, faculty and staff (at the **March 9, 2008** Women of Color Reunion) from Smith College community to draft new solutions regarding Racism and Intolerance Issues as a result of the "Black-face" incident on College campus in 2007.

**Yolanda (Yoki) King '75 Memorial Scholarship Fund**—In tribute to Yolanda (Yoki) King's '75 memory and to bring attention to women's heart health issues, BASC member **Dr. Jacqueline Sawyer '74** launched a new scholarship fund in Yoki's name, on **October 6, 2007**, by walking from her home in Harlem, New York to campus to raise funds. Advancement Office accepted the new fund.

**Average attendance at BASC events:** each event varied, in general, good support.

**Future Plans** (under consideration)

**Membership Campaign**

Finance Plan; Fundraising projects- Vacation home Auctions; Cookbook

Bylaws Revisions

Strategic Plan Revisions

Non-profit Status finalization

Succession Planning

Activities: Regional Events; Faculty Talks; Book-signings, BASC Founders

Awards; other ideas TBA.

**FINANCIAL REPORT:**

*(Membership Dues Structure is described above)*

**I. ACCOUNT BALANCES: \$2119.87** (The Corporation does not yet hold any banking or investments accounts. The funds continue to be held by the AASC)

**TOTAL: \$2119.87**

**II. INCOME**

Membership Dues \$1,460

Donations \$770

Interest

Events/Program fees \$440

Fundraising

Other \$530

**TOTAL \$3,200**

**III. EXPENSES/Reimbursements**

1. 2007 graduation stoles \$1,050

2 Copies \$67

3. Travel \$273

4. DC tea \$433

5. Phone \$75

6. Miscellaneous \$145

**TOTAL \$2,043**

**IV. BALANCE: \$2119.87**

**REPORT SUBMITTED BY:** Sylvia Isabel '74 (President.), Mary Ann Denton '76 (Vice President); Geneva Paul '03, Communications Officer; and Betsy Hopkins AASC, re: BASC financial information.

Send comments to: Sylvia Isabel: [president@blackalums.com](mailto:president@blackalums.com)

