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## A Message from the President

### Because of You, We're Almost There....

#### Yolanda Torres '50 Gives BASC First Largest Donation

When I called Mrs. **Yolanda Torres '50** to thank her for her generous gift of \$500 and her \$35 membership dues, she was very gracious. But, when I told her that her gift was the first and largest gift that BASC had ever received, she was stunned. *"Really?"* she asked incredulously. *"I'm surprised that I'm the first and only one. I will*

*have to call some of my friends. There's a few of us still around, you know,"* said the feisty mother of **Andrea Torres-Mahone '73**. BASC is so grateful. Because of you, Mrs. Torres, we're almost there.

Sisters, as you may know, we are revitalizing BASC and will benefit greatly from Mrs. Torres' support. We rarely

hear from alumnae from her era. So, we are especially blessed to re-connect with our elders—which is everyone from the 60s and beyond. We need and welcome your stories and sage advice as we move forward.

To honor Mrs. Torres, we have named her the **permanent BASC Honorary Fundraising Chair** [Continued on p.7]

### BASC + NYC Play = GREAT TIMES!



On Aug. 17<sup>th</sup>, 2008 20 BASC members and friends met at the Booth Theatre in NYC for the final show of the play "Thurgood" starring Lawrence Fishbourne. Pictured above left is Cory Booker, the mayor of Newark, NJ, with alumnae.



Watch Beverly  
Receive Her  
Rally Day  
Medal  
Feb. 18<sup>th</sup>, 2009!

## How Do You Explain Your Support for Smith College? Beverly Morgan-Welch '74 Reaches Out to Her Class About Their 35<sup>th</sup> Reunion

Dear Smith Sisters:

Last summer, my father, passed away. But if you had asked him to describe the best time of his life with his baby daughter, that's me, Beverly Morgan-Welch, it would have been time spent at Smith College. My Mom and Dad came to campus often and spent the weekend and were always there for my theatre performances and to take my Smith family to *Friendly's*. Neither of my parents attended college in spite of their stellar academic records, number one and two in their high school class; WWII claimed their opportunities for advanced study through gas rationing and the vicissitudes of war. So time spent at Smith was for them their vicarious college careers and they were honored to shower many of you with food, encouragement, and laughter.

My Dad made the transition on July 8, 2007, the day before my daughter's 15th birthday. Our planned birthday celebration was to take place only two days later; a pizza party and the premiere of Harry Potter 5 for which we purchased a dozen tickets to the midnight show. My husband, Mark, who joyfully attended many of our Black Alumnae Reunions had been diagnosed with terminal colon cancer, had already lived twice as long as his doctors believed possible, and could no longer drive. Smith to the rescue, one of our sisters flew in and transported kids to the movie and sat beside me. After my father's funeral, yet another Smith Sister went with me to visit my mother at a critical care facility. Mom has been on life support for six years and, while I could barely speak, your Smith Sister and mine held my hand and shared sweet Smith stories.

After both my husband and I had operations, in August, our vivacious viola-playing daughter, Alex went off for two weeks to the New England Music Camp in Maine with the Boston Youth Symphony Orchestra. During music camp, Mark had a stroke and we determined that Alex would remain in Maine. Given all of the challenges before us, I had not mailed any cards or packages for her to receive during the daily camp mail call. I emailed my Smith Sisters and they sent mail that made her the envy of all of the other musicians.

When my husband, Mark died at 12:01 am on January 1, 2008, having vowed to outlive 2007 and never one to fall short of a promise, my Smith Sisters arrived to do what we do. We marshal our intellectual and spiritual resources and talents to sustain and soar in the face of anemic to monumental opportunities and adversity. We do feel-good food, faith devotedly, editing of memorial programs, surface house cleaning, extravagant hospitality, unencumbered uplift, and crazy quilted family. And, we do harmonious hugs often and so very well. When I could no longer discern what to do, they put me to bed and assured me that all would be well and that I would survive and I believed them. Sometimes, they have had to repeat those words of assurance on a daily basis and they have done so willingly and lovingly.

And, I needed those words of encouragement more than they knew, because shortly, I had to confront my own health crisis. Only one month prior to my husband's passing, I learned that my own health was in jeopardy and that I was scheduled to see a specialist early in February. That visit was a disaster and I left traumatized and determined to find the most skilled and sensitive doctor available. I decided to ask the women who handle scheduling in my healthcare facility who they chose as their gynecologist and they all named one physician. When I arrived, the doctor had already read my file and asked me to sit down and talk. I confessed that since the death of a schoolmate as well as subsequent losses, I could barely handle my own healthcare. She asked me the name of my college friend whose death I was still grieving and I reluctantly responded, Yolanda King. The good doctor told me that she too was a Smith "Sister" in, what else, but the Class of 1974. We hugged, I cried, and she promised me that she would take care of me. Her words, "I've got you!" I am now so healthy!

When only a few months ago, I learned that my Smith Sisters had nominated me for the Smith Medal and that I had been chosen, I was stunned and filled with abundant gratitude for this distinguished honor. But, I was simultaneously at one of my lowest points, unable to believe that I could go on without my Dad and my husband. This incredible honor was a mixed blessing; I could not imagine accepting without my two best men; they would have cheered with abandon at the ceremony. So, while I attempted to feel the full measure of the heights to which I had been raised, I could not feel the joy until I heard the voices of Smith women providing the zephyr breeze and ballast to help me soar and experience my life through their eyes, hearts, and minds.

For all of us, we are at a time in our lives that requires us to sustain and nurture parents, children, husband/life partner and home and seamlessly achieve in our career, civic, and volunteer lives. While there are only a few primary institutional relationships that sustain any one of us, the institutions of marriage, of family, or the structural foundations of our faith, I am prepared to advance that Smith College, this primarily academic of institutions has primacy for the black women who graduated in 1974. We are a beloved Sister community providing unconditional support as long as you are prepared to hear the truth in love and demand the best of yourself and your Sister Smithies.

[Continued on p.10]



Want to participate in

Admissions efforts?

Contact Adrienne at

[agantt@legail-aid.org](mailto:agantt@legail-aid.org) for

details.

## Admissions Volunteers Deliver

**Sisters,**

Thanks to **your** efforts last year, Smith received a record number of applications (3,771) up 13% from the previous year and the college enrolled 38 (6%) African-Americans in the class of 2012. As we begin another recruiting cycle, I will continue to forward pertinent information from the college and I am happy to assist you with your local admissions efforts. You are, however, always welcome to contact the Office of Admission directly to order admissions materials or get immediate answers to your questions, with your local AAC (Alumnae Admissions Coordinator) for specific information about admissions events in your area. One of the new affinity admissions initiatives is a semi-annual regional conference call for

volunteers. The **first BASC conference call, was Wednesday, November 12.** It featured a report on this year's Women of Distinction program, as well as an update on the BASC book award and other BASC admissions programming. The call was also an opportunity for BASC volunteers to raise any questions/concerns regarding the admissions process and your roles as volunteers. If you're interested in participating in Admissions efforts, please send me an email.

### **Other, more general admissions programs/activities:**

\*The Office of Admission will be hosting a Guidance Counselor Program to be held in May 2009. The counselors are invited to spend a night on

campus (at the college's expense) and learn about Smith.

\*Reps from the Office of Admission may be traveling in your area. They will email you their itinerary. If it is possible to meet them, they really enjoy seeing you. However, it is understandable that you may not be available when they are visiting schools during the day.

\*The next training conference for AACs is in September 2009. It is a wonderful way to meet other admissions volunteers, to visit campus as the leaves start to turn and to learn more about admissions programming. The dates are TBD but typically it falls on the first or second weekend; I'll keep you posted.

Thank you for all you do for Smith.

**Adrienne Gantt '77  
BASC/NAAC Liaison**

## IT'S OFFICAL! - BASC Obtains 501 (c) (3) Status

BASC, Inc. has received its 501(c)(3) tax exemption! This is a pivotal moment for BASC's financial well-being! Here's why: We can accept contributions and donations that are tax-deductible to the donor. As a result, more people will have financial incentives to donate to BASC and include BASC in their annual charitable giving plans.

### Some additional benefits of being a tax-exempt corporation include:

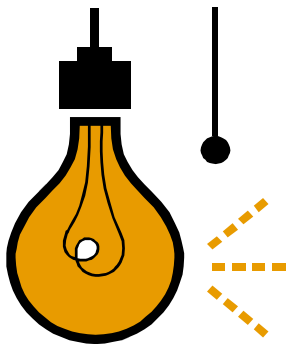
- Exemption from federal and/or state income taxes
- Possible exemption from state sales and property taxes (varies by state)
- Ability to apply for grants and other

public or private allocations available only to IRS-recognized 501(c)(3) organizations

- Potentially higher thresholds before incurring federal and/or state unemployment tax liabilities
- The public legitimacy of IRS recognition
- Discounts on U.S. Postal bulk-mail rates and other services

BASC now has the authority to raise serious money to fund current and future plans that carry out our mission!

**-Mary Ann Denton '76, Vice President**



## The Future Depends on YOU!

What does it take to run BASC? What does it take to secure BASC's financial health? To allow for expansion of our regional events? To provide the kind of programming our alumnae are seeking? It takes **YOU!** At this point in time, BASC

earns nearly all of its income from membership dues. We need much more in order to support BASC's strategic plans for the future. Please complete the enclosed membership form and become a member of BASC today!

Please also consider making a tax-deductible donation to BASC. Your gift will provide

vital support of BASC's current and planned programming. Your support – at any level- makes a tremendous difference and demonstrates your commitment to BASC's purpose to "develop a strong and enduring organization in order to create and cultivate a strong sense of community among Black alumnae."

The Membership Form is attached to the email and is on the website under "Membership."

## A Word From the Nominations Committee

### Hello BASC Members:

We are the new BASC Nominations Committee: **Dale Anglin, '86; Gay Lee, '94 and Janice Teetsell, '74.**

We thank you for your patience and apologize for the delay in responding to the many of you who have stepped up to volunteer this past year. We welcome your participation in BASC. The Nominations Committee's mission is to match BASC members to the work of the Smith College and BASC.

**We need your help in a wide variety of capacities--mentoring students, planning regional events, BASC governance, planning events at the College, and recruiting students to attend Smith and more.** Participation in BASC is a great way to meet a wonderfully diverse group of Smith alumnae. It is also a way to share/teach and/or gain skills such as non-profit management, board development, fundraising, leadership, strategic planning, and improve professional development.

Our process is simple: Pay your BASC membership dues (\$35); Submit your resume to the

Nominations Committee; Indicate areas of interest of the BASC Board positions below. Then you will be assigned to a specific Board member and specific task!—after a simple Board review and the processing steps are completed (dues paid, resume, reference submitted).

Serving as Board Committee Chair or Co-Chair is generally a three-year commitment with new persons beginning their terms in June. Selection will be based on the needs of the committees matched to your skills or interest. Please know we will also focus on diversity of class, geographic region, and skills. If you have any questions, contact Nominations Committee Acting Chair, **Dale Robinson Anglin '86**, [dranglin2003@yahoo.com](mailto:dranglin2003@yahoo.com) or 908-405-6212; **Gay Lee '94**: [gayleecsw@hotmail.com](mailto:gayleecsw@hotmail.com); or **Janice Teetsell '73** [jteetsell@aol.com](mailto:jteetsell@aol.com)

### Open BASC Board Positions:

- Program Committee Co-Chairs
- Finance Committee Chair
- Recent Graduate Directors (2) (Currently vacant)
- President Elect of BASC (Currently vacant)

Please go to bylaws on the website to review descriptions of these positions.

## One of Our Own Rally Day '09

On February 18, 2009, five accomplished Smith alumnae to be honored on Rally Day. One of the five honorees includes black alumna **Beverly Morgan Welch '74**, Executive Director of Boston's African American museum. Congrats to Beverly and other honorees!

Please read Beverly's letter to alumnae on p. 2.



## The Black Student Alliance (B.S.A) is Calling!

### Black History Month Program -

On **February 10**, 4-5:30pm BSA will host a program called **"Black Female Expression in the Arts."** The students are looking for any alums that would be interested in participating in this panel. They want to hear from women in all fields of the arts: literature, theater, painting, design and more. Contact **Sabine Jean '11**, Black Students' Alliance Art and Culture Chair [<mailto:sjean@email.smith.edu>].

**Panelists Needed for Annual Conference titled "Aesthetics of Blackness"** for **February 20 – 22<sup>nd</sup>**. Some of the conference topics include: **Defining Blackness**- What does it mean to be African American/ Black in America? ; **The Color Complex, Black Diversity**, exploring the different worldviews for Black Americans, Africans, Caribbean Diaspora, Mixed Racial-Afro-Latin, Afro-Asian, International Black people; **Blacks in College**- What are some of the struggles Black scholars -students and faculty- face in college? What are ways to cope and maximize our success, minimize setbacks? ; **Economics/Being Black in the Corporate World** - What is it really like being a Black corporate executive? What are the myths and challenges that you face on a day to day basis; and **Health Crisis in Black communities**. Contact **Amber Harden** @ [aharden@email.smith.edu](mailto:aharden@email.smith.edu)

**BSA to celebrate 40 years!** Can you believe it? Do you remember what you did during your time in BSA? There are missing chapters in the Smith Archives. Help us fill in the blanks about our incredible history on campus. Details to come. Contact **Venetia Canty** [vibrantv07@yahoo.com](mailto:vibrantv07@yahoo.com) if interested in contributing.

### Campus Incident Report

There was a very small racist incident in September/October with the *Daily Jolt*. Someone posted a forum topic addressed to the Black Students Alliance. Some of the threads were very ignorant. The link for the posts is, <http://smith.dailyjolt.com/forum/read.html?id=342722> **President Carol Christ** sent out a campus email response to the posts.

### BASC 2007 Annual Report

Read highlights of BASC accomplishments and achievements. See the "More News Section" on the website for the month of December.

Have You Updated Your Contact Information? Go to [www.smith.edu/alumnae](http://www.smith.edu/alumnae)

## Because of You We're Almost There

Continued from p. 1

for her generous spirit and inspiration to others. In addition, we will invest Mrs. Torres' gift wisely-- on a customer relationship management software system—a powerful online software program that helps non-profits track members, donors and much more. This single investment will allow BASC to collect dues, donations and payments for events online, establish our online presence and give our organization a competitive edge.

When pressed on what I should say to you, Smith sisters, to encourage you to support BASC, Mrs. Torres said: *"Maybe it takes a donation from me, one of the oldest Black alumnae to get them going. I'm happy to do that—to support Black Alumnae and I would encourage everyone to get onboard. Just tell them that everybody has to pay dues—so, pay up!!—the membership dues are just \$35!"*

On a personal note, I

want to share with you how special Mrs. Torres is to me and many sisters during the 1970s. During our famed "pre-freshmen weekend," her daughter Andre Torres '73 of Ziskind House, was our most welcoming, lively, spirited and wonderful host. Because of this Smith legacy dynamic duo—Andrea and her mom (little sister Lisa was there too)—many of us said "Yes!" to Smith. Mrs. Torres made a big impact on our decision to enroll and to stay and graduate! She was our mother too. So, Andrea, thank you for sharing your Mom with us; Mrs. Torres, please know that you will always hold a special place in our hearts. Peace & Love-

**-Sylvia 'Cookie' Isabel '74, BASC President**

## With Gratitude

It is with much gratitude and pleasure that BASC acknowledges members who have made significant donation and membership support to BASC:

### **BASC Supporter Level:**

Yolanda Marquez Torres '50

### **Donations:**

Gay Lee '94

### **Lifetime Members:**

Esther Arnett '75

Linda Smith Charles '74

Mary Ann Denton '76

Adrienne Gantt '77

Sylvia "Cookie" Isabel '74

JoAnne Lyons Wooten '74



*"Maybe it takes a donation from me, one of the oldest Black alumnae to get them going. I'm happy to do that—to support Black Alumnae and I would encourage everyone to get onboard. Just tell them that everybody has to pay dues—so, pay up!!—the membership dues are just \$35"*

*-Yolanda Torres '50*



*"There are a variety of ways to help our cause. We're waiting for you. Imagine yourself taking charge of a vital BASC program."*

*- Gay Lee '94*

## Imagine Yourself Helping the Cause

There are a variety of ways to help our cause. We're waiting for you. Imagine yourself taking charge of a vital BASC Program. These opportunities do not need to go through the Nominations process and have ad hoc or shorter term limits.

**Finance Committee Member**

**Fundraising Committees and Subcommittees**

**Admissions: National 'Rose Drop' Program & National Book Awards**

**Discovery Weekend**

**Women of Distinction**

**Student Campus Events: Otelia Cromwell Day**

**Mentoring**

**Campus Action Committee: (Campus racism/intolerance)**

**Women of Color Reunion/Conference**

**Programs & Teas**

**Local Smith Club Collaborations Liaison**

**Ada Comstock Outreach**

**School of Social Work Outreach**

**Graduation Ceremony**

**Affinity Group Collaborations Liaison**

**Community Service**

**Initiatives**

Contact **Gay Lee '94** if interested

[gayleecsw@hotmail.com](mailto:gayleecsw@hotmail.com)



## Faculty Visit with Paula J. Giddings

Book Signing & Discussion on March 11, 2009

BASC and the NYC Smith Club are partnering to host Prof. Paula J. Giddings to discuss her book: "IDA, A Sword Among Lions."

The discussion title is "Though the Heavens May Fall: Ida B. Wells, Modernity and the Campaign Against

Lynching."

Paula Giddings will focus her talk on how the struggle against lynching taught her to challenge Victorian notions and become a modern woman and activist.

Of course, Prof. Giddings would love

a book signing!

Please join us to hear Prof. Giddings, Elizabeth A. Woodson 1922 Chair, African-American Studies.

Please email [communications@blackcolumns.com](mailto:communications@blackcolumns.com) to confirm your attendance.

## Tea in Washington, DC a Success!

The inaugural **BASC/ALAS regional DC Tea**, which marked the launch of BASC's Regional Programs, was a smashing success. Approximately 40 Smith alumnae gathered at Busboys and Poets Restaurant in Washington, DC on June 21<sup>st</sup> to connect and celebrate with one another. **JoAnne Lyons Wooten '74**, BASC/ALAS Regional DC tea Coordinator, introduced **Sylvia "Cookie" Isabel '74**, BASC President, and **Sylvia Bolivar '88**, outgoing ALAS President, who spoke about BASC

and ALAS' exciting new initiatives. **Carrie Cadwell Brown Ed.M. '82** Executive Director, Alumnae Association of Smith College (AASC) discussed the benefits available to all Smith alumnae. **Audrey Paek '92** shared information about Smith Asian Alumnae Connection (SAAC), the emerging Asian alumnae affinity group.

Alumnae of Color from the classes of 1972 – 2008 were well represented, including the mother/daughter

team, **Rosalind Larry '77** and **Diana Larry '08**. **BASC Board** members **Cookie Isabel '74** and **Geneva Paul '03**, as well as **Ann Lemon '72**, **Gay Lee '91** and **Kenya Handy '05**, traveled from the New York/New Jersey area to attend the event. AASC Board members enjoying the festivities included **Charlotte Kea '82**, Board Chair, **JoAnne Lyons Wooten '74**, **Linda Kramer Jennings '72** and **Audrey Paek, '92**. **Betsy Adams Hopkins**, Associate Director of AASC, provided insightful information about programs.

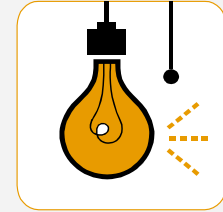
## Welcome Ann Lemon '72 New BASC Treasurer

Welcome onboard **Ann Lemon '72**, as new BASC Board member in the role of Treasurer and Financial Officer. Ann holds an MBA from Columbia University and has worked 30 years as a financial industry executive. She is a former AASC

Treasurer and is the current Metro-NY Smith Club Treasurer.

We thank **Adia Hoag '02**, BASC Treasurer, who stepped down to work on the Obama campaign. We thank Adia for all of her hard work

and wish her well.



We are ready to hold more BASC Regional Programs in your city. Simply send us your request and BASC will provide technical assistance to help you establish a regional committee and provide other support.

Want to Become a BASC Member?

Click on "Membership & Dues" on the website.

If you have further questions email:

Sylvia "Cookie" Isabel, President – president@blackalums.com

Mary Ann Denton, Vice President – vicepresident@blackalums.com

Ann Lemon, Treasurer- annlemon@aol.com

Geneva "Gigi" Paul, Communications Officer – communications@blackalums.com

## How Do You Explain Your Support

[Continued from p.2]

Given the last two years of my life, the last thing I want to be reminded of is my age, but, we are approaching our 35<sup>th</sup> Reunion in 2009. Take a little time to get over the shear shock of the number, because we need to act on behalf of this institution, Smith College that stands at the center of our lives. All of us have benefited from the education we received at Smith and we might even be able to quantify the return, but, the relationships have been pure and priceless.

Of course, Smith College graduates have changed the world. So, I ask you, the inheritors of the glorious mantel of a mighty academic institution to acknowledge, as have I, that Smith has participated in changing, most importantly, our worlds. The Class of 1974 has seen its revolutionary zeal of the 70's help to produce a black college president and that same powerful commitment has us anticipating our dreams fulfilled in the leadership of this nation. We simultaneously are on the threshold of one of the most historic occasions in the history of the world and on the precipice of financial disaster. But, if we have learned anything, we know that we must be willing to act on our own behalf, to envision our dreams made real, to invest in a treasured education, and to make a way for those who are coming behind us.

Times are challenging for us all, so as we approach 2009, I want to ask early for you to give what you can to the Smith Fund or Class Gift Fund. We want 100 percent participation from our class! Let's make a tribute to the numerals in our class year—1974—give \$74, \$740, \$1974, \$7400, \$74,000 or any amount to maintain our legacy as the mighty Class of 1974. As you have sustained me with your presence, your calls, your cards, and your prayers, let us do the same for the institution that brought us together.

I love you,  
Beverly



Left: BASC President Sylvia "Cookie" Isabel '74 with new alumnae.



Right: Michele Bertrand'74 and Kenya Handy'05

### INAUGURAL TEA - WASHINGTON, D.C

Visit the Gallery Section of the website for other pics.



Center: BASC President Sylvia "Cookie" Isabel '74 with JoAnne Lyons-Wooten '74 Washington, D.C. coordinator.



We're on the Web!  
See us at:  
www.blackalums.com



Left: AASC's Exec. Director Carrie Caldwell-Brown '82 and Betsy Hopkins, Asst. Director

Right: Claire Wellington'76, Estrelitta Jones Fitzhugh '73, and SAAC (Asian Affinity organization) President Audrev Paek '92

