We at the Earl B. Dickerson Chapter of the University of Chicago Law School are so pleased to begin a new tradition with this, our first issue of the BLSA Alumni Newsletter. Part of the University of Chicago BLSA chapter’s stated mission is to “articulate, promote, and discuss issues of concern to African American law students and to facilitate the interaction among African American law students, African American alumni of the University of Chicago Law School, and the Chicago community.” It is our hope that this, the first of many newsletters, will provide an additional forum for this type of communication for all the U of C Alums — helping you to stay connected to what is going on at The Law School and with some of many events and accomplishments of U Chicago black lawyers throughout the country.

BLSA intends to release an issue of the Alumni Newsletter bi-annually. The contents of the Newsletter are meant to be informative and interesting for both students and alumni alike—and we more than welcome suggestions and additions from you all.

Sincerely,

Sarah E. Walker
Alumni Chair,
sarahw1@uchicago.edu

---

Inaugural Issue of the University of Chicago BLSA Alumni Newsletter

Greetings!

It is with great excitement that we bring you the inaugural issue of the BLSA Alumni Newsletter. Over the summer the executive board conceived the newsletter as a medium to keep alumni informed of the happenings around the law school, to publicize upcoming BLSA events, and to announce the achievements of both current and former students.

We are also excited about the increased number of African-American students that now grace the halls of the University. This year, the law school welcomed 18 black students...all energetic, intelligent, from diverse walks of life and ready to make their mark on the school and the legal profession.

In closing, I would like to thank all the alumni who attended this year’s alumni reception and those who continually give of their time to serve as mentors to current BLSA students. We look forward to continued alumni involvement and welcome you all to visit the school to meet the next generation of black U Chicago lawyers.

Sincerely,

Annette Moore
On Thursday, October 21, 2004 the Black Law Student Association held its annual Alumni Kickoff event with a fabulous cocktail reception at the Chicago office of Kirkland and Ellis LLP. Approximately 20-25 students, fifteen alumni and six law school faculty and administrative members of the Law School attended the event. So many people worked hard to make this event such a success, but we would especially like to thank Leslie Hauser, Director of Alumni Relations and the many attorneys and staff members of Kirkland and Ellis LLP. We truly look forward to doing it again next year.

October 28, 2004, alumnus Mr. James Cole, Jr. visited the law school to speak on the practical aspects of working in corporate law in an effort to supplement the theory-based lunchtime events regularly offered at the school. As a mergers and acquisitions attorney with Wachtell, Lipton, Rosen and Katz and the firm’s first African-American partner, Mr. Cole walked the listeners through the various steps of a large corporate merger. Although the material seemed foreign to some, Mr. Cole’s witty demeanor and ability to simplify intricate concepts left even those without any background in corporations law with a better idea of the role of an M&A attorney. Mr. Cole concluded his presentation with some advice on ways to succeed in the often political and competitive environment of large law firms. His advice resonated with many of the audience members, who promptly declared this lunchtime event one of the best of the year!

On October 27, 2004, BLSA, the Asian-Pacific Law Students Association (APALSA) and the Minority Graduate Student Association (MGSA) came together to host the University of Chicago’s first annual Minority Graduate Student Social. Concerned about the feeling of isolation amongst students within each of the University’s graduate schools, the organizers wanted to host an event allowing minority graduate students the opportunity to mix and mingle while fostering an atmosphere of unity amongst not only each school, but all the races as well. The wine and cheese event proved to be a success with over 150 students in attendance, representing each of the professional schools as well as the School of Public Policy Studies, School of Social Service Administration and Graham School of General Studies. The organizers promised to spearhead an effort to reproduce the event every year, with a different graduate school serving as host.
Alumni Highlights and Alumni Spotlight

In the Alumni Highlights section, we would like to present the accomplishments and events relating to our Alumni—but we need your help! If you have information on clerkships, partnerships, article publications, board appointments, public interest achievements, etc. as it relates to any of U Chicago Alumni please send the information to the Alumni Chair, Ms. Sarah Walker at sarahw1@uchicago.edu (note: that is a numeral "one")

Through the Alumni Spotlight Section we intend to take a more in-depth look at a particular Alum in each issue of the Newsletter. We will include basic biographical information, including career and community-related information. Again, contact Sarah Walker if you or a colleague is interested.

Welcome to the Class of 2007

Ricardo Bernard - Lauderdale Lakes, FL, Northwestern University
Candice Brown - Brooklyn, NY, Princeton University
Dana Brown - Grand Rapids, NJ, Spelman College
Carshae Davis - Munster, IN, Univ. of Illinois at Chicago
Jason Ewart - Bronx, NY, Dartmouth College
Amani Farid – Bartonville, Texas, Southwestern University
Christina Gibson - Newnan, GA, Georgetown University
Johnathon Hardaway—Chicago, IL, Howard University
Jennifer Jones - Chicago, IL, Southern Illinois University—Carbondale
Joi Kamper - Chicago, IL, Tufts University
Betsey Laroche - Wheatley Heights, NY, Stern School of Business, NYU
Shellian Marcano - Brooklyn, NY, Smith College
Eon McLeary - Northfield, IL, Univ. of Illinois at Chicago
Norbert Ng’ethe - Charlottesville, VA, University of Virginia
Grant Ogbu - Ann Arbor, MI, University of Michigan Ann Arbor
Darah Smith – Lake Barrington, IL, Duke University

Special Congrats!

- **Moot Court Semi Finalists**—Franita Smith (3L) and Linda Boachie (2L); you can come see them in action February 22nd in the Law School Auditorium
- **Journal Members**—Regan Barnes (Legal Forum), Kristy Johnson (Legal Forum), Goldberg Maynard (Law Review), Robin Nunn (Law Review, Int’l Law Journal, Legal Forum), Sharon Rogers (Legal Forum), and Franita Smith (Law Review),
- **Clerkships**—Franita Smith (Judge Ruben Castillo, District Court Judge - Northern District of IL); Robin Nunn (Judge Barrington Parker Jr. on the Second Circuit Court of Appeals)
- **Fellowships**—Patino Fellowships, Kameron Matthews (2L), Christina Gibson (1L); Equal Justice Works Fellowship sponsored by Mayer Brown, Shannon Jones (3L)
- **“The Apprentice”**— a special congrats to Kevin Allen and his great showing on the hit television show The Apprentice II. From an applicant pool of hundreds of thousands of people, he made it all the way to the final four!
BLSA in the Community

This year community service has been a major priority for BLSA, as we recognize the importance of putting our legal training and position to work for others. During the first quarter we held the now-annual BLSA clothing drive, and collected over 10 large boxes full of clothing and shoes. The items were donated to the Lutheran Child and Family Services, located across the street from the law school on 61st and University.

In honor of Dr. Martin Luther King, BLSA also participated in the University- wide community service celebration. Members volunteered at various faith- based organizations throughout the city, including a center to promote workers’ rights. BLSA has also recently begun volunteering at the Rainbow/PUSH coalition. On Monday nights, Rainbow/Push holds a community affairs/legal clinic where volunteers provide community residents with legal guidance and direction. The organization is in need of lawyers to assist with these cases, and any help from alumni would be appreciated.

BLSA will be involved in more community service throughout the year and we will definitely keep everyone posted.

Speakers Wanted

If you or a colleague would be interested in speaking at the Law School, either to BLSA or to the General student body, please contact the BLSA Vice President, Keely Stewart (stewart1@uchicago.edu) or the Alumni Chair, Sarah Walker (sarahw1@uchicago.edu). The presentation of topics and ideas, especially as they relate to African-Americans is one of our top priorities, and we can’t wait to hear from you!

Upcoming Events

Feb. 4 - Community Service Event with DCFS
Feb. 10 - joint BLSA/ACLU event on Immigration
Feb. 7 - Black History Month Film Series
   Film: The Road to Brown
   Moderators: Randolph Stone, Herschella Conyers, and Tracy Meares
Feb. 11 - BLSA sponsored Wine Mess
Feb. 13 - Tour of DuSable Museum
Feb. 15 - Black History Month Keynote Speaker
   Ambassador Carol Mosley Braun
   Law School, Room II, 12:15
Feb. 18 - An Evening with John and Sharon Rogers
Feb. 23 - Economic Empowerment in the Black Community
   Speaker: John Rogers
   CEO and Founder, Ariel Capital, Inc.
Feb. 24 - BLSA Sponsored Bar Review
   Location: TBD
TBD - Black History Month Film Series
   Film: Eyes on the Prize