THE STATE OF BLACK MEN IN AMERICA

Six Faces of Being a Black Man

Saturday, March 3, 2007
Princeton University
Greetings,

We are delighted to welcome you to the 2007 State of Black Men in America Conference! This year’s conference is the second installment of what we hope will become the premier forum on issues facing men of the African Diaspora in the United States. Our theme this year, Six Faces of Being a Black Man, and its various subtopics were chosen after much deliberation, and thus we trust that you will find today’s proceedings stimulating and provocative. We hope that your participation today will serve as an incentive for more refined thought and positive action in relation to the concerns addressed throughout the day.

Interdisciplinary in nature, this conference will bring together scholars, civic leaders, community activists, and religious leaders to tackle issues ranging from fatherhood to mental health, economic empowerment and religiosity. With such a diverse range of panelists, our aim is to make sure that nothing is taken for granted and that the questions posed are given equal, if not greater consideration as the suggested answers. And thus we need your help and critical input. Ask questions. Voice your concerns. Be an active participant during the Q&A portions of each session and during the afternoon town hall meeting. Often the best discussions originate from the most unlikely of questions.

Finally, if you find yourself in need of assistance do not hesitate to ask for help. Easily identifiable, conference staff will be more than willing to give directions and aid in any other possible difficulty. Again, welcome to Princeton University and to the 2007 State of Black Men in America Conference.

Warmly,

2007 Conference Planning Committee

Chris Chaney, Princeton University Class of 2007
Garrett Brown, Princeton University Class of 2009
Davion Chism, Princeton University Class of 2009
Osei Kwakye, Princeton University Class of 2009
David Moore, Princeton University Class of 2009
David Smart, Princeton University Class of 2009

And the entire Black Men’s Awareness Group at Princeton University
Established in 1994, BMAG is a thriving community of undergraduate and graduate students dedicated to addressing the unique issues and challenges that confront men of the African Diaspora. Focused on promoting the intellectual growth, moral fortitude, and civic responsibility of its members, BMAG seeks to cultivate diverse new leaders who give voice and vocabulary to important issues of the day. In its efforts to do so, BMAG has remained one of the most active and inclusive student organizations on Princeton’s campus. Such annual events as the black men’s conference, the charity streetball tournament, and the celebrated women’s appreciation dinner bear witness to the group’s ongoing commitment to reaching out both to the larger university population and the world. BMAG members are distinguished and promising scholars, authors, artists, and athletes, who often hold prominent positions of leadership in other varied academic and extracurricular organizations. Likewise many BMAG alumni have carried the values and sense of camaraderie gained during their years of study into subsequent careers in research, law, medicine, and business, proving BMAG is for life.

The mission of the Princeton University Black Men’s Awareness Group (BMAG) is to promote the personal growth, maturity and civic responsibility of black male students at Princeton University. BMAG seeks to provide a sense of comfort and unity amongst the diverse backgrounds and experiences of the black male students on campus. Through mentoring, service projects and social events, our organization constantly give back to the communities from which our members come, while fostering the selflessness and social activism that is necessary of black men in our society.

“From this point forward, we have a bond that no one can break. Through our efforts here as the members of BMAG, we will leave Princeton more self-aware, responsible, and ready to make a difference. We strive for excellence in every respect, because nothing less than excellence is acceptable.”

For more information visit us at www.princeton.edu/~bmag.
8:00 AM  
Registration and Breakfast  
(Multipurpose Room, Frist Campus Center)

9:30 AM  
Introduction: Chris Chaney, Princeton University Class of 2007  
Performance: Adrienne Simpson, Princeton University Class of 2008  
and Cordaro Rodriguez, Princeton University Class of 2008  
Keynote Speaker Introduction: Osei Kwakye, Princeton University Class of 2009  
Opening Keynote Address: Herb Boyd, Author and Activist  
Remarks: Garrett Brown, Princeton University Class of 2009  
(Alexander Hall, Richardson Auditorium)

10:30 AM  
Panel 1 - Black Male Professionals, Compromising Identity for Success  
(Dodds Auditorium, Robertson Hall)  
Moderator: Kenneth Armwood, Councilman-At-Large, Piscataway, NJ  
Alex Askew, Founder and President, Black Culinary Association  
Doreen E. Loury, Assistant Professor of Sociology and Anthropology and  
Director Equal Education Opportunity Program, Arcadia University  
Patrick M. Oliver, Founder, Say It Loud! Readers and Writers Series and  
Co-Founder, Black Male Development Symposium  
Mary Pattillo, Professor of Sociology and African American Studies and  
Chair, Sociology Department, Northwestern University  
Sheron Smith, Founder and President, Good Tree Media, and Mother and  
Manager, Mos Def  
Howard White, Vice President, The Jordan Brand
10:30 AM
Panel 2 – Black Men and Mental Health
(Room 46, McCosh Hall)
Moderator: James Peterson, Assistant Professor of English, The Pennsylvania State University at Abington, and Founder, Hip Hop Scholars, LLC
K. Anthony Appiah, Laurance S. Rockefeller University Professor of Philosophy and the University Center for Human Values, Princeton University
Shawn M. Bediako, Assistant Professor of Psychology, University of Maryland, Baltimore County
Kimani Hymie Davis, Founder and Chief Executive Officer, Transform Consultants
Melissa Harris Lacewell, Associate Professor of Politics and African American Studies, Princeton University
Harvey C. Mansfield, William R. Kenan, Jr. Professor of Government, Harvard University

12:15 PM
Luncheon
(Multipurpose Room, Frist Campus Center)
### Panel 3 - Religion in Black Male America

(Dodds Auditorium, Robertson Hall)

**Moderator:** Deborah K. Blanks, Associate Dean, Office of the Dean of Religious Life, Princeton University

**Rickey Hicks,** Pastor, Rufus K. Young A.M.E. Church

**Steven Pinker,** Johnstone Family Professor of Psychology, Harvard University

**Byron E. Price,** Assistant Professor of Public Administration, Rutgers University at Newark, and Editor-in-Chief, The Journal of Public Management and Social Policy

**Carolyn Rouse,** Associate Professor of Anthropology, Princeton University

**Jonathan L. Walton,** Assistant Professor of Religious Studies, University of California at Riverside

### Panel 4 - Black Men and Sexual Health

(Room 46, McCosh Hall)

**Moderator:** Daphne A. Brooks, Associate Professor of English and Samuel Davies Presidential University Preceptor, Princeton University

**William Jelani Cobb,** Assistant Professor of History, Spelman College

**JL King,** President and Chief Executive Officer, The Lillie Mae King Foundation and Founder, JL King Young Minority Authors Institute

**Samuel Roberts,** Assistant Professor of History and Sociomedical Sciences, Columbia University

**Tricia Rose,** Professor of Africana Studies, Brown University
Panel 5A - Black Men and the Urban Education System

(Room 28, McCosh Hall)

Moderator: Christopher T. Fisher, Assistant Professor of African American Studies and History, The College of New Jersey
William B. Allen, Visiting Fellow, James Madison Program, Princeton University
Tyrone Bledsoe, Founder and Executive Director, Student African American Brotherhood Organization
Brenda M. Greene, Professor of English and Director, Center for Black Literature, Medgar Evers College, The City University of New York
Marc Lamont Hill, Assistant Professor of Urban Education and American Studies, Temple University
Thabiti Lewis, Associate Professor of English, Willamette University
Salome Thomas-EL, Principal, Russell Byers Public Charter School

Panel 5B - Black Men and the Urban Education System

(Dodds Auditorium, Robertson Hall)

Moderator: Josef Sorett, Ph.D. Candidate, Department of African and African American Studies, Harvard University
Ras Baraka, Principal, Hawthorne Avenue School
Mister Mann Frisby, One of Ebony's “30 Leaders of the Future” and Founder, PhatBack Athletics
Marybeth Gasman, Assistant Professor of Higher Education Policy, Graduate School of Education, University of Pennsylvania
Shaun R. Harper, Assistant Professor and Research Associate, Center for the Study of Higher Education, The Pennsylvania State University
Tim King, Founder and Chief Executive Officer, Urban Prep Charter Academy for Young Men
Panel 6 - The Black Nuclear Family, Black Men as Family Men
(Room 46, McCosh Hall)
Moderator: Chad D. Lassiter, Social Worker and Behavioral Interventionist, The Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia
Steve Birdine, President and Chief Executive Officer, Affirmation In Action
Farrah Gray, Founder, Farrah Gray Foundation
John H. McWhorter, Senior Fellow, Manhattan Institute for Policy Research
Imani Perry, Associate Professor of Law, Rutgers University at Camden
Glenn Toby, Founder, The Book Bank Foundation
Roland C. Warren, President, National Fatherhood Initiative

5:00 PM
Closing Town Hall Meeting
Moderated by Bakari Kitwana, Co-Founder, National Hip-Hop Political Convention and Former Executive Editor, The Source
(McCosh Hall 10)

6:00 PM
Closing Reception featuring live jazz with the Irwin Hall Collective
(Multipurpose Room, Frist Campus Center)

In 2006, Boyd worked with world music composer Yusef Lateef on his autobiography “The Gentle Giant” which was published by Morton Books of New Jersey. He is currently under contract to complete a book on James Baldwin, and is working with filmmaker Keith Beauchamp on several projects. Boyd has been inducted into both the Literary Hall of Fame for Writers of African Descent and the Madison Square Garden Hall of Fame as a journalist.

Along with his writing, Boyd is also the managing editor of The Black World Today, one of the leading online publications on the Internet. Boyd, a graduate of Wayne State University in Detroit, teaches African and African-American History at the College of New Rochelle in the Bronx, and is an adjunct instructor at City College in the Black Studies Department.
The State of Black Men in America - Six Faces of Being a Black Man

William B. Allen
Ann & Herbert W. Vaughan Visiting Fellow, James Madison Program in American Ideals and Institutions, Princeton University

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Morgan Stanley is proud to support

The State of Black Men in America Conference

Diversity

It’s not an obligation—it’s an opportunity.
John H. McWhorter
Senior Fellow, Manhattan Institute for Policy Research

Steven Pinker
Johnstone Family Professor of Psychology, Harvard University

Patrick M. Oliver
Founder, Say It Loud! Readers and Writers Series and Co-Founder, Black Male Development Symposium

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Association of Black Princeton Alumni
Center for American Progress
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Princeton University Music Department
Princeton University Office of Religious Life
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- Pitch a story idea or submit cartoons and photos
- Alert us to something we should cover
- Sign up for our weekly newsletter

Contact: Editor@CampusProgress.org
See you in 2008!