

# Center for Multicultural Affairs' Fall Newsletter

Bridgewater State College

## Splash of Color

CMA's Splash of Color Block Party/BBQ, an integral part of the Welcome Week calendar of events organized by the Office of Student Involvement and Leadership, was held on September 3<sup>rd</sup>, a beautiful early fall afternoon on at the East Campus Clock Tower.

With the goal of expanding BSC student awareness of their organizations and upcoming fall semester events, CMA's student

organizations, such as the Cape Verdean Student Association and Afro-Am Society and



others, staffed information tables at Splash of Color, ready to answer student questions and speak on stage about their organizations.

The afternoon's enter-

tainment came through a multitude of sources including an energetic performance from Refined Movement, BSC's step group; an original spoken word piece performed by Mike Malpiedi, Secretary of Men Integrated in Brotherhood, and an inspiring rendition of the *Star Spangled Banner* by Erica Singer.

## Iftar Ramadan



Ramadan is the 9th month of the Muslim calendar. It is during this holy month that Muslims around the world observe the Fast of Ramadan, abstaining from eating, drinking, smoking or indulging in

anything that is considered in excess or ill-natured from sunrise to sunset.

BSC's annual celebration is a collaborative event between the CMA and the Middle Eastern Studies Program.

Faculty, staff, students, and members of the external community joined together in the Large Ballroom of the Campus Center to learn

more about the Celebration of the holy month of Ramadan, a dinner based on traditional Middle Eastern recipes and various distinguished speakers from the Muslim, Christian, and Jewish faiths.

The evening was concluded with an amazing musical performance by **Caravan**, BSC's faculty World Music Trio.



## CMA's New Student Employees for 2009-2010!

The CMA office would like to present two new employees: Valentina Arcy & Dinach Masse. They each wrote a little something so you can get to know them.

Hi, my name is **Valentina Arcy** and I am currently a freshman here at BSC - Class of 2013. For most of my life I have lived in Boston, MA. For now I am majoring in Business Management. I am 18 years old and I am living the life that I love. I am smart, respectful, shy, and silly at times, and love to have fun. I love to travel, to

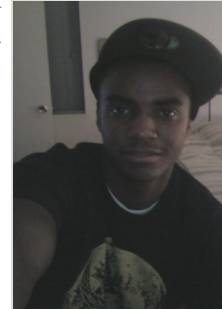


dance, and to eat. So far I am enjoying my experience here at Bridgewater State College and looking forward to a successful college experience.

My name is **Dinacheley Masse** and most people call me Dinach. I was born in Haiti but I would say I've been raised in the USA. I have been here for 13 years now. I'm currently a freshman and the whole college thing is weird to me.

As of right now I'm undecided but I plan to major in Athletic Training and

hopefully pursue physical therapy.



I take school very seriously but I love to have a good time. I consider myself funny, athletic, outgoing, energetic, and hard-working. My inspiration is my mother,

because we've been through a lot and we made it. Hopefully my time at BSC will be fun and working in the CMA will be as well.

## A Semester at an HBCU - by Tremeda Martin

Oh Southern University! Home of the Jaguars! My experience here at Southern University is definitely one that I will never forget. I was extremely nervous and excited to come to a HBCU (Historically Black College or University). I knew that I would no longer be the minority on campus, but rather the majority and I was not sure how that would be.

But, I honestly have to say that me being part of the majority is not such a big difference. The only difference is skin color. Just like any other college or university there are groups that people tend to drift towards. The good thing for me is that I get along with mostly everybody so whether you are a Dancing Doll, Football Player, Baseball Player, or a 15 year old college student, I have no problem communicating with you and being your friend.

The one thing that shocked me the most living here down south is the segregation amongst blacks. You would think that because of slavery and all of the

brutality that our ancestors went through, that we would love one another and not discriminate against each other no matter how light or dark our skin color is. However, that is not the case. Unfortunately, students and some faculty and staff here discriminate against those that are darker.

I myself haven't had anything like that happen to me, but I have heard cases where females were told that they are "too dark" to be a part of a particular group. It is such a shame to have to hear such ridiculous comments like this, but this is what happens when people care so much about what society has to say.

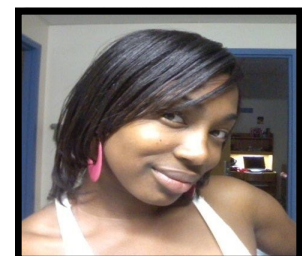
Other than the sad fact that I have mentioned previously, I am really enjoying my stay here at Southern University. I love the weather! At first, it was very hard to get used to when I first came here in August because it was very humid. Now in November, I cannot be upset to wake up and find out that it is 79 degrees outside with a nice breeze!

I have met some very amazing people here and wish to continue a friendship with many of them even when I return to Bridgewater.

And yes, I am coming back in December, even though many people said that I wouldn't! BSC is where my heart is and I wouldn't want to graduate from anywhere else. See you in December! Love and miss you all!

***P.S. RM all day, everyday... Don't forget the name!***

-Tremeda-  
Tremeda Martin  
2010 Senior Class President  
t2martin@bridgew.edu



# On a Global Tour - by Carina Lahens

Ni Hao! Greetings from China. My name is Carina Lahens. For those who I didn't have the pleasure to meet before I left this semester, I will give a brief introduction of myself. I enrolled at Bridgewater State College year 2006 and currently a senior with a major in General Management with an Accounting and Finance minor.

As a junior, I was a Resident Assistant, the Cultural chair for Program Committee and a L.I.N.K.S (Linking Individuals through Networking Knowledge and Scholarship) mentor to two wonderful young ladies. As a sophomore, I spread myself thin with getting an RA position, being involved in 3 cultural clubs, and being a work study student. As a freshman, let's just say I was figuring how I wanted my next 4 years to happen.

This year, I felt I exhausted the abundant resources that BSC had to offer to me and decided to study abroad. I also realized being an immigrant from Haiti, I had a narrow perspective of the United States and going around the world would offer me a global view not only of the US but of connections between different countries trying to be more competitive. I applied to the Semester at Sea program through the University of Virginia. Semester at Sea was the only program that provided the opportunity to visit 11 countries.

Besides all the countries, I wanted to learn about different cultures by meeting different people and being on the ship with 520 students from all the corners of the world has given me a once of a lifetime experience.

It was very interesting to feel like a freshman again in an unfamiliar

place with new people going through the same feelings of finding where you belong. Subgroups started forming as the voyage progressed but would break once we are at port to later come together to tell amazing adventures:

**Canada** - Got on the ship for the first time, met all the work study students, 3 from Boston. Yes! I'm not alone.

**Spain** - The food made my experience, it described the colorful and exciting culture. During the day, we shared a paella dish at a restaurant by the beach. While at night, went to see a flamenco dance and a bull fight while snacking on some savoring ham.

**Morocco** - Nothing in my life prepared me for the souks (local street market), where each merchants wants a little bit of your attention. When away from the souks of Casablanca and into the Atlas mountain of Marrakech, the view of the hills and wild life is indescribable as we zip line from peak to peak.

**Ghana** - My favorite port. The best experiences are not the beautiful pictures of famous landmarks but seeing the everyday living of a local and this is exactly what happened here. We visited family homes and took water out of a well, visited the slave castles and ate food on the side of the street.

**South Africa** - The port of adventure, skydiving, parasailing, bungee jumping, I did as the locals do and it wasn't shark diving.

**Mauritius** - Is to Europe as Hawaii is to us, warm weather, beautiful beaches, and excellent cuisine.

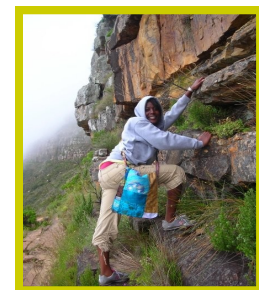
**India** - Is everything, it is controlled chaos, it is dirty, it is pure, it is rich, it is poor, it is the past, it's the present, it is the future. India has the busiest streets, they have driving lanes but they are just suggestions. Cows take up most of the sidewalks, they are sacred in India therefore are left to roam free.

**Vietnam** - The unforgettable journey up and down the Mekong Delta River, the source of water, food and everyday living needs to the communities residing on the banks of the river. On the floating market, wholesale merchants on boats sell vegetables to whichever boat floats by.

All these countries are different from each other but the interaction with the natives is all the same. When unfamiliar with our origin, the locals tried to relate to us by citing lyrics with the name of our cities, by name a girl from Pennsylvania, Philly cheese steak, or the most common by the name of our President, "OBAMA!!" they would shout with enthusiasm.

Some are hesitant to ask personal questions but the feeling of wanting to learn how we live overseas is evident. It's interesting to see reactions when others outside the US realize that not all people are what they see in the media and live day by day as they do.

This voyage even though started just a few months ago made me realize that the world is connected by air, water, telecommunications but is it also round so it can get me back home to you.



**\*\*Remember\*\***  
**The deadline for applying for BSC  
scholarships & awards is 2/12/2010!**

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## Afro-Am Alumni Corner



Greetings Friends,

My name is Luis N. Rosa and I am the President of the Afro-American Alumni Association at Bridgewater State College.

On behalf of our group, we would like to welcome new and returning students back to BSC.

During the course of each academic year, the Afro-Am Alumni Association works closely with the campus community to provide programs and support for students. Whether it's the Dress for Success program, the Kwan-

zaa Celebration or a Career Services workshop, our alumni stay committed to helping students succeed.

At this time I am very pleased to inform you that through the hard work and generous pockets of many African American Alumni, administrators, faculty and friends, this spring we will be offering the first Arthur Cox Memorial Scholarship to a Bridgewater State College undergraduate student. Along with the Arthur Cox scholarship we encourage you to apply to the numerous scholarships offered at BSC.

For more information please visit the Student Affairs website: <http://www.bridgew.edu/StudentAffairs/>

If we can be of any assistance during your time at BSC please don't hesitate to contact us!

Have a happy and safe holiday season!

Luis N. Rosa '05  
President, Afro-Am Alumni Association



### Dr. Dina Carbonell Hispanic Heritage Month Brunch

The CMA celebrated Hispanic Heritage Month and the memory of Dr. Dina Carbonell, Department of Social Work and her accomplishments here at BSC at our annual brunch held in October.

Guests enjoyed authentic Hispanic dishes, including sorullos de maiz, mallorca bread, and arroz con leche.

pus and the subject of a lecture being held as a part of the President's Distinguished Lecture Series later that same evening.

The guests in attendance then broke into numerous small groups to discuss the state of healthcare in the U.S. - a hot topic on cam-

Dr. Mark Brenner, Department of Social Work, and Andrea Garr-Barnes, Director of the Center for Multicultural Affairs, spoke to the faculty, staff, and students about Dr. Carbonell, her commitment and dedication to her work, and her pride in her Hispanic heritage.

