

THE DRUM

The Official Newsletter of Ase Academy

Inside this issue:

Ase Goes to NY	2
Fundraising Success	2
Drumming, Stepping, and Shining Bright	2
Spring Sleepover	3
We'll Miss You	3
Ase Futures	4
Summer Events	4

Ase Futures, our innovative high school program, is coming next Fall.

Details on the back page.

Ase Looks Ahead to Ninth Year By Sounding The Drum

Welcome to the premiere edition of *The Drum*, Ase's brand new journal, dedicated to bringing you the latest Ase news, events, and commentary.

Over the past eight years, Ase has accomplished some amazing feats, and has become a major part of the Penn and West Philadelphia communities. As we move forward, our aim is to continue making a difference in the lives of everyone involved with the program.

One thing that we realized, looking back on our history

and looking ahead to the future, is that it's okay to let the rest of the world know how much we care about Ase. We hadn't done a whole lot of advertising or patting ourselves on the back, but with so many bad things in the world getting media coverage, it makes sense to talk about something positive for



a change. So as the ancestors have done in their villages, we too are sounding our drum to celebrate everything that Ase is, was, and will be. **Ase!**



Doing BIG Things by Brian Peterson

I am always constantly amazed by the achievements of the Ase staff. They balance full-time school work at one of the top colleges in the nation, while also staying active in various

campus groups. Oh, and not to mention, they do Ase each and every Saturday, with a few fun Thursday meetings each month. Our staff truly are the best and brightest at Penn. Don't

believe me? Here's the proof: **Jamaal Justice** was President of his Business Fraternity last year. **Dominique Harris** was just elected NSBE's Region II Chair. **Joshua** ... (cont'd, p 3)

Ase Goes to New York by Brooke Pinnix

On Saturday, April 14, students and mentors arrived at Ase promptly at 7:30am to embark on a fun-filled day in New York City.

The first destination was the Schomburg Center, where students had an opportunity to view an exhibit dedicated to the recent discovery of an African burial ground in the NY area. The photo exhibit highlighted "Rights of Ancestral Return," which was a series of events honoring the contributions made by African slaves.

After an enlightening morning, it was time for lunch. Students chose from

several soul food restaurants in Harlem, including Sylvia's and Miss Maude's Spoonbread Too. Both restaurants specialized in southern cuisine such as fried fish, barbecue chicken, greens, potato salad, and much more. Afterwards, we met up at Wimp's, a famous Harlem bakery, where students enjoyed cheesecakes and sweet potato pies.

Stuffed from eating, we traveled to Central Park so that students would have the chance to burn off some calories. There, we received a real taste of the city, as students crowded around a group of break dancers, performing all sorts of acrobatic tricks. Afterwards, some felt the urge to window



shop at the famous Time Warner Center. Sadly, the day had to come to an end soon after, so we boarded the bus and returned to Philadelphia, full of memories from this great Ase excursion.

Ase's First Annual Fund Campaign a Success!

The Ase Executive Board, led by Chairman **Markis Abraham**, spearheaded the organization's first ever direct donor campaign earlier this year. Through the generous support of friends of Ase, along with a handful of corporate contributions,

Ase has collected \$5500 to date, with more coming in. With this effort, the Board surpassed the initial \$5000 goal, and set a great tone for next year's campaign.



Drumming (above), Stepping (below)



Give the Drummer Some...

James Brown (Rest in Peace) made these words famous, in reference to the limited spotlight for the drummer. This year in Ase, it was the drummers' turn to take center stage. Congratulations to **Troy Huddy**, **Aarin Jones**, and **Reggie Hill**, who closed out the African Rhythms Spring Show with a bang!

Quotable

"Education is that whole system of human training within and without the school house walls, which molds and develops men and women."

— W.E.B. Du Bois

Ase's Brand New Step

While the rest of the world is 2-stepping and finger-snapping, Ase is taking it to the next level, keeping it synchronized in style. Thanks to **WePAC** for introducing performance stepping to Ase this year. And watch out next year for the return of Ase's Performance Arts Night, where everyone will get a chance to show their skills.

Roll Call

Ase's Honor Roll Students last report period.

Arlana Brown
Reggie Hill
Keiasha Lumpkins
Baseerah Watson

Shining Stars



First year Ase student, **Bradley Harley** (pictured) has recently been touring Philadelphia, delivering his award-winning speech on the principles of Kwanzaa.

Sleepless Sleepover by Michael Glass

One of the many highlights of the Spring Semester is the annual Sleepover! This year staff and students began the festivities with dinner and a movie. The film *Pride*, based on true events, tells the remarkable story of Jim Ellis, who created Philadelphia's first African American swim team in 1973. Amidst adversity, the team pulls together to develop their talents and realize a dream.

Inspired, and fully aware of the power of pursuing our passions, we then traveled to the Rotunda

to watch Ase's own Nana, Hayling, and Jason do what they love. Members of the incredible hip-hop band, LIKE MiNDz, they rocked the house, with Ase front and center for the second year in a row!

Even though some of us were still in a party mode, we returned to Du Bois College House for a relaxing Game Night. Students then retreated to their mentors' rooms for a full night's sleep... yeah right! Fashion shows, video game tourna-



ments, and movies were on the agenda for the rest of the evening, with a few hours of sleep, eventually. To say the least, it was fun, fuN, FUN!!!

Ase Board

Markis Abraham, Chair
Brian Peterson, Executive Director
Don Hooper, Treasurer
April Stewart, Secretary
Darnel Degand
Maya Martin
Tracee Thomas
Uduak Victor
Deborah Woods

We'll Miss You!

Ase would like to thank this year's graduating seniors for being a part of the Ase Family while at Penn. Remember, Ase's only an e-mail away! Congratulations...

Dominique Harris
Shelly Lawes
Ryan Marks
Andrea Seligman

(Shout out also to **Jamaal Justice** and **Ashley Torres** who decided to stick with us a little bit longer).

We also must recognize our African Rhythms seniors, **Tracie Curry**, **Kelechi Okereke**, and **Denise Sarkor** for their guidance and patience, and **Krysta Copeland**, who

helped with the Ase Futures development.

Finally, a temporary farewell to **Ashley Beard**, **Jason Edwards**, and **Hayling Price**, who will all be studying in Ghana next Fall. (Take lots of pictures for your Ase presentations next spring!)

Ase Coordinators 2006-07

Michael Glass, REPS Coordinator
Jamaal Justice, Business Activities Coordinator
Ryan Marks, Daily Operations Coordinator
Ashley Torres, Curriculum Coordinator

BIG Things (continued)

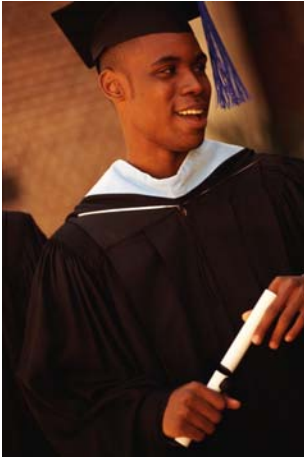
Bennett was part of a team that took first place in a recent national collegiate poetry slam. **Alexis McFarlane** just had an interview with Iman published in *CosmoGirl*. **Andrea Seligman** completed her thesis and will be continuing her African history studies at Northwestern next year. Eight Ase members (**Kathleen**, **Janelle**, **Ashley B.**, **Danielle**, **Shayna**, **Nikita**,

Jocelyn, and **Kristina**) have become members of Delta Sigma Theta sorority. **Fey Ogunfemi** was voted VP of UPenn's NSBE chapter. **Britney Crooks** will be interning at Microsoft. **Chakiera Harris** will be at Bloomingdales. She, **Stacie Smith**, and **Nana Baffoe-Bonnie** are now a part of Onyx Senior Honor Society. **Ryan Marks** brought Juelz Santana to perform at Penn

(Dipset!). Ase Alums **Tracee Thomas** and **Chantelle Smith** are finishing up their first year as Philadelphia Teaching Fellows, while fellow alum **Deborah Woods** does Teach for America in New York. Another alum, **Nicole Nurse**, is completing her first year of med school. There are more big things, but sadly, no more space. Check for further updates in the next edition!

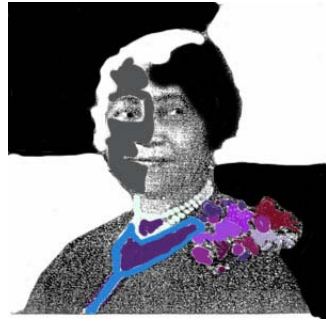


The Future Begins, Fall 2007



This Fall, Ase will be launching an innovative high school program to allow new and returning students to further enhance their skills.

Ase Futures will offer a wide range of activities and workshops, including career and college preparation, SAT skills, community engagement, business development, and much more. Students will also have the unique opportunity to learn advanced arts and creative media, including music and film production. We are excited about this new program, and are looking forward to it helping more students and families get ready for college.



Digital photo collage from Ase's Visual Arts class.

Go online for a full-color version of *The Drum*.

www.aseacademy.org

About Ase:

Ase is an academic and cultural enrichment program linking secondary school students in Philadelphia with students at the University of Pennsylvania. Ase provides reading, writing, and math instruction, interactive seminars, and arts education.

Through its parent organization, Lion's Story, Inc., Ase operates as a non-profit organization. To make a tax-deductible contribution to Ase, please visit www.aseacademy.org.

Ase Academy

PO BOX 30717
Philadelphia, PA 19104
1-877-734-1479 (phone/fax)
mail@aseacademy.org
www.aseacademy.org



What's HOT this summer

Odunde Festival, 24th and South, June 10

Gospel Friday Night at Penn's Landing, June

R&B Friday Night Concert Series, July

Unity Day, Ben Franklin Pkwy, August

**Amarna, Ancient Egypt's Place in the Sun
University of Penn Museum, through Oct.**

Next Fall at Ase

October 6, Ase Begins

(Applications for new students will be available online in June; Returning students will be contacted over the summer).