

Volume 2, Issue 1

Fall 2007

# THE DRUM

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*The Official Newsletter of Ase Academy*

## Welcome Amber Lee, Editor



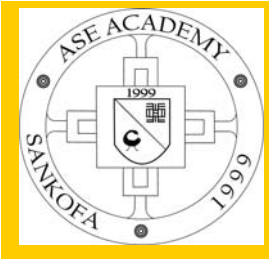
Every year the Ase family grows with a new 6<sup>th</sup> grade class and their parents, along with new additions to previous classes. This year was no different. There was, however, an alteration to the usual

The fall semester of Ase started out with much excitement and anticipation for things to come. Feelings of elation were felt by both students and staff. The Multi-Purpose Room of Du Bois College House was filled with the warm greetings of old friends and the introductions of new faces.

proceedings of Ase. This fall was the first in which a **Rites of Passage** process was introduced to the students. Rites of Passage is way in which all Ase students can undergo a common experience, one which definitively makes them a member of the Ase family. More importantly each rite of passage marks advancement

through the Ase program and it will continue through each student's time in Ase. This year's Rites began with three weeks of seminars, debates, and discussion, and marks a turning point of Ase as a program.

This issue of *The Drum* contains samples from two of the Rites of Passage activities. "I Am" required students to do some self-investigating, and "You Are" allowed them to find out things about other students and staff. In this issue there are also new **2007-08 Coordinator profiles**, a sneak peak into the **Fall Seminars**, and more. So enjoy this beat of *The Drum*!



## Ase Bridges the Digital Divide Brian Peterson

Computers have become a vital part of daily life for students, business owners, graphic artists and photographers, and even people at home who want to do a little shopping or keep up with their friends. It has been widely documented that in the African American community, however, computer access is not as wide spread. Today, the issue is not just owning a computer, but also having a high-speed internet connection.

Web content is no longer designed with a dial-up modem in mind.

For the past six years, Ase has hosted a program to provide high-speed-ready computers to students. This year, returning students who had participated in a full year of Ase were eligible to receive a Dell computer. By providing this service, Ase has helped families avoid some of the costs of participating in the

"technological revolution" and has enabled Ase students to stay connected to their mentors online when Ase is not in session.



## You Are...

### Sakinah Braxton

#### 6<sup>th</sup> Grade

##### By Asia Bey-Smith, 6<sup>th</sup> Grade

Sakinah is from Philadelphia, and she is eleven years of age. One of her favorite things to do is eat, a lot. She eats cheese steaks, buffalo wings, cheese fries, hoagies, and pizza, she also likes to eat Oodles n' Noo-

dles.

Even though she likes to eat, she also likes to do a lot of active work. She loves to jump rope, play basketball, football, and she loves to run track. She calls herself colorful because she likes to wear all different colors. Her favorite places are the Bahamas and Hawaii. She is also a music fan.

Sakinah's role models are her mom, dad, and grandmother. She admires them. They are her role models because they teach her a lot of things and she loves them. When she grows up she wants to be an artist or a nanny.

Sakinah is really interested in being a part of the ASE program. She came to ASE because she wants to learn different and new things.

## I Am...

**What we learned about Ase students, in their own words.**

*"My name means happy and joy."* Allegra Teague

*I want to be a Computer Engineer.* Hadid Thomas

Deni Purcell would rather be happy than rich. *"I wouldn't want to be miserable."*

*I was born in the Bronx, NY.* Gabriel Collins

*I want to be a nurse.* Shaliyah Eaddy

*I was named after Michael Jordan, but my dad wanted to be different, so he gave me 2 d's.* Jorddan Thornton.

*I want to learn how to bungee jump.* Keiasha Lumpkins

*I am calm, cool, and collected.* Reggie Hill

*I have visited South Africa and Nigeria.* Imani Johnson

*My favorite authors are J.K. Rowling and Mary Janice Davidson.* Cierah Greene

## Quotable

*"We allow our ignorance to prevail upon us and make us think we can survive alone, alone in patches, alone in groups, alone in races, even alone in genders."*

— Maya Angelou

## Do We Have Your Address?

**Parents, students, staff, graduates, and friends of Ase, make sure we have your e-mail address so you will get all the latest Ase updates.**

**E-mail us at [aseacademy@gmail.com](mailto:aseacademy@gmail.com)**



Students during Rites of Passage workshop.

## You Are...

### Asia Bey-Smith

#### 6<sup>th</sup> Grade

By Sakinah Braxton, 6<sup>th</sup> Grade

Asia was born in Germantown, Philadelphia. She is 12 years old. Her favorite activity is jumping rope. Asia's favorite foods are pizza and seafood.

Something interesting about Asia is that she hangs out with boys more than girls. She is a fan of sports.

Asia's role models are her parents because they teach her new things she never knew, and they help her learn from her mistakes. Asia's favor-

ite place is home.

When she grows up Asia wants to be a pediatrician. Asia came to ASE to learn different things and to get help on things she struggles with. Asia attends the Imani Education Charter School.

## 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**

## Meet the Coordinators

Name: **Jenna Slaughter**  
 Year: Senior  
 Hometown: Detroit, MI  
 Major: Urban Studies  
 Activities: Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated  
 Future Plans: Starting Masters program in Public Health next year.

Quote: "Ase was the first organization at Penn I joined where I really felt I had a family (common goals, common beliefs, common vision) ."

Name: **Anand Jahi**  
 Year: Senior

Major: Double Major in Sociology and Africana Studies. I'm writing a senior thesis on the Black Panther Party.

Positions: Coordinator, mentor, and seminar instructor.

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## Ase Coordinators 2007-2008

**Michael Glass**, REPS Coordinator  
**Britney Crooks**, Business Activities Coordinator  
**Anand Jahi**, Daily Operations Coordinator  
**Jenna Slaughter**, Curriculum Coordinator

## Fall Seminars

### Sixth Grade (Ms. Tracee)

**We Are One** introduces Ase Prep students to the beauty, history, and culture of the African Diaspora. Using their own family histories as a lens, We Are One students discover the similarities, continuations, and miscommunications of the Caribbean, the American South, South America and even Europe that can be traced directly back our collective roots on the continent of Africa.

### Seventh Grade (Bro. Anand)

In **Community Study** (aka **The Philadelphia Negro**) students form groups and design programs, projects, or organizations that they feel are needed in their community. We have examined the community analytically through taking a walk through the neighborhood, doing interviews, and class discussion. The students will take what they learn from their ex-

aminations to fine-tune their projects.

### Eighth Grade (Bro. Brian)

This is the first year for for Ase's **Black Ink/Writing Power** seminar. The students have been thinking critically about the role of writing, different styles and formats, and

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## Coordinators, Continued

Name: **Mikey Gabrielle Glass**  
Year: Senior  
Major: History  
Hometown: Pittsburgh, PA  
Activities: Du Bois House  
Council, Quest International  
Charter School (opening Fall  
2009).

Name: **Britney Crooks**  
Year: Junior  
Majors: Math & Econ  
Position: Financial  
Coordinator  
Quote: "Ignorance is death in  
disguise."

## Seminars, Continued

underlying themes, especially as it relates to understanding and empowering Blacks in America. Students have been reading, writing, and revising, and will turn in a final assignment, bringing everything together.

### Ninth Grade (Sis. Rhaisa)

In **World Literature**, we read books by Black authors from the diaspora in order to expand student's perspectives of the Black experience. The course also allows the students to make connections between their lives and the lives of Black people around the world. At the end of the semester, the students are to choose the book that capture their interest the most and read it in its entirety during the winter break.



### Now You Know!

Ase would like to congratulate resident artist, scholar, and all-around good guy, **Abdi Farrah**, on the launch of his new visual arts website, [www.abdiart.com](http://www.abdiart.com), and for making the cover of the Fall 2007 **Young Arts** magazine!

### 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](http://www.aseacademy.org).

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## Consider Kwanzaa

Kwanzaa is a non-religious celebration designed to promote strong values and help unify African American families and communities. You can incorporate it into your holiday season without getting in the way of other family traditions. In fact, the Kwanzaa principles are great to recognize and remember all year round.

Dec 26 - Umoja (Unity)  
Dec 27 - Kujichagulia (Self-Determination)  
Dec 28 - Ujima (Collective Work & Responsibility)  
Dec 29 - Ujamaa (Cooperative Economics)  
Dec 30 - Nia (Purpose)  
Dec 31 - Kuumba (Creativity)  
Jan 1 - Imani (Faith)

Visit [www.officialkwanzaawebsite.org](http://www.officialkwanzaawebsite.org) for more information.

