OBSA FROM HOME

THE OFFICE OF BLACK STUDENT AFFAIRS IS A CULTURAL CENTER AND SERVICE UNIT WITHIN THE CLAREMONT COLLEGES SERVICES. ON BEHALF OF THE CLAREMONT COLLEGES, OBSA IS DEDICATED TO PROVIDING SUPPORT, RESOURCES AND SPACE FOR STUDENTS OF AFRICAN DESCENT TO FEEL SAFE, VALUED, INFORMED AND CONNECTED. OBSA OFFERS A RANGE OF PROGRAMMING ON BEHALF OF ENROLLED 7C STUDENTS OF AFRICAN DESCENT, FACULTY, STAFF AND ALLIES.

SPECIAL FEATURE

BLACK VOICES & MOVEMENTS
AT THE CLAREMONT COLLEGES
TABLE OF CONTENTS

03 BLK & UNFLTRD

04 Guide to Black Student Organizations @ Claremont

05 Movements for Black Lives at The Claremont Colleges

06 OBSA staff profile: John West

07 Spotlight on Pitzer alum Donald Singleton, Esq.

08 OBSA Peer Mentorship: apply today!

09 Campus Partner shout out: QRC Events & Opportunities

10 The Dean’s List: Black Artists on digital platforms

11 PAUSE support sessions for Black students: July dates

12 Virtual internships & Opportunities

THE OFFICE OF BLACK STUDENT AFFAIRS

139 E. 7th street | Claremont 91711
obsa@claremont.edu
https://services.claremont.edu/obsa/
IG @obsaclaremont
FB Obsa Claremont
I feel that keeping up to date is very important with everything that is going on, but also trying to limit exposure to social media really helps clear your mind and keep you sane. Taking breaks allows you to recharge, if need be, and has definitely helped me a lot during this time, especially when I’ve felt drained from all of this.

I feel pressure all the time to outperform to compensate for my skin. I want the Black Latinx communities to be remembered by their accomplishments, for changing the world for the better... I started to hide my race from my job applications. How do you hide your name though? My name brings my race, my background. It’s already a greeting card that leaves nothing to the imagination. It invites prejudice. I contemplated changing it. But why should I give up my identity to please others? One day I’m bound to get so good, there’s no excuse but to hire me. I don’t need forced acceptance, nor pity. I need a chance to show I can deliver.

I hope the colleges put forth effort to show us that our lives are valuable and cared for considering the entire country has shown that it doesn’t... I hope the schools do more to go beyond making themselves “accessible” to Black students, that is the bare minimum. Folks are listening but we have a long way to go.

I just would like to see the Colleges (particularly the administration) do more to support the Black students by listening to our concerns and putting their money where their mouths are. It’s one thing to be invited to the dance and it’s another to actually be asked to dance.

The above are submitted viewpoints from students of African descent at The Claremont Colleges

compiled by John West
Claremont Colleges
BLACK STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS

These are the 7C organizations that engage with their campuses and advocate for resources for Black students year round. Many are the central African diasporic organization on their campus and offer space for community, service and social engagement.

by John West

HMC
BLACK LIVES AT MUDD
@hmclblam
FB: @BLAM15
BLAM seeks to form a community of individuals in support of Black students at Mudd, celebrates Black culture, and raises awareness about issues facing the Black community.

CMC
BLACK STUDENT ASSOCIATION
@cmc_bsa
http://www.associatedstudentsofclaremontmckennacollege.org/black-student-association
BSA strives to create a safe space for African-American students of CMC and their allies to learn, grow, and implement positive change together.

POMONA
BLACK STUDENT UNION
@pomonabsu
https://pomona.campuslabs.com/engage/organization/pomonabsu
Pomona BSU was created by Black students for Black students to acknowledge the plurality that exists within the Black experience. The BSU aims to validate all identities - past, present, and future - represented in the Pomona community by fostering a space where all expressions of blackness can be affirmed.

Scripps
WATU WEUSI
@watu.weusi
http://sas.scrippscollege.edu/watu-weusi.html
Watu Weusi's mission is uniting and uplifting Black women through resources, conversation and community. Watu Weusi functions as a collective to support people of African descent at Scripps College, and beyond, in endeavors of socio-political, cultural, personal, and spiritual existence and resistance.

CGU
SISTER CITIZEN
@sistercitizen
FB: @sista.citizen
Sister Citizen addresses the needs and concerns of minoritized women, with a focus on Black Womxn at Claremont Graduate University.

Pitzer
BLACK STUDENT UNION
@pitzerbsu
FB @PZ.BSU
Founded in 1993, the Pitzer BSU is committed to creating and maintaining supportive environment for all students that wish to identify.

KGI
PAN-AFRICAN STUDENTS UNION
@pasu_kgi
PASU is designed to unite all students of African descent regardless of culture class or creed.

5 COLLEGE
PAN AFRICAN STUDENT ASSOCIATION
@pasa_claremont
https://claremont.campuslabs.com/engage/organization/pasaclaremont
PASA is a 5C organization that practices activism, leadership, community service, and social events to celebrate and promote diversity, acceptance, and unity. In conjunction with the Office of Black Student Affairs, PASA seeks to educate students of African descent and the general college community about issues related to Pan-Africanism.

7 COLLEGE
BLACK WOMXN'S COLLECTIVE
@bwc_claremont
BWC Claremont aims to create a space for the Claremont Colleges' women of African descent or Black identifying individuals to share knowledge around resources/opportunities on campus and partner with the broader community.

Guide to BLACK STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS
CAMPUS MOVEMENTS FOR BLACK LIVES
HIGHLIGHTING STUDENT-LED ACTIVISM AT CLAREMONT

7CS FOR BLM
An organization that led the creation of an alliance across campuses to demand change in multiple arenas, including but not limited to support, education, engagement, investment and acknowledgment. Their call to action states, “we demand that the Claremont Colleges be proactive in addressing the needs of Black students beginning today. This is the time to reimagine what your immediate and long term support looks like for Black communities both within and outside of academia. Universities have a responsibility to not only educate their students but to advocate for them. This includes making anti-racist work a priority.” Read more and add a signature to tinyurl.com/7cs4blm. Follow @7cs4blm

SCRIPPS FOR BLM
An organization that demands and advocates for permanent institutional change at Scripps college to combat systemic racism and anti-Blackness. The organization has published a list of demands that range from hiring and retention of Black staff and students to investing in mental health resources and financial support for BIPOC students in need. The group is affiliated with and works parallel to 7Cs for BLM. linktree/Scripps4BLM. Follow @scrippsforblm

BLACK AT CLAREMONT COLLEGES
Inspired by the "Black at [school]" accounts on Instagram, the page offers an outlet for Black students and faculty to voice firsthand experiences of racism and racialized encounters at the Claremont Colleges. Anonymous form link and more information at @blackclaremont.

Want to see other student movements or organizations centering BIPOC experiences highlighted in future issues? Send details to obsa@claremont.edu, subject 7C Activism
My name is John West and I am an unapologetically outspoken, energetic Black man from Chicago's Englewood Campus.

I am an intended Politics and Africana Studies double major with interests in Sociology, Educational Policy, and Social Reform. Being from a segregated city like Chicago, I became interested in finding ways to fight systemic racism, specifically within the education system.

Growing up in a predominantly low-income community has drawn me to fight for social and education reform and specifically focusing on the issues that are affecting minorities and at-risk youth. I believe that youth are phenomenal and I want to invest my time in them to try and better our future.

I am a small business owner and I hope to give back to my community through both innovation and community engagement. I have been involved with ASPC, PEC, and more, but this fall I will be taking on roles within FLI, OBSA, BSU, BLOC, and overseeing Pomona's Posse Mentoring Program. I have been a DJ for 5+ years and a photographer for 3 now and music is basically a lifestyle.

"I became interested in finding ways to fight systemic racism, specifically within the education system."

John West (Pomona, 2023) is working with OBSA as a summer intern with plans to continue through the 2020-2021 academic year. His primary duties will include content, programming, student leadership initiatives and more.

I'm interested in the relationship between music and mental health and its effects on Generation Z. I am committed to be a student advocate on campus and put intersectionality at its forefront because it is crucial to identity development and authenticity.
BLACK ALUMNI FEATURE

DONALD SINGLETON
PITZER COLLEGE, '82

INTERVIEW BY CLEOPATRE THELUS

I first met Donald L. Singleton, Esq., NBCT, at the 2020 Black Intersections Conference last February, and was inspired to interview him due to his engagement at the event and unmistakable passion for teaching and learning.

Dr. Singleton is a graduate of Pitzer College and the social studies Department Chair at Susan Miller Dorsey High School in Los Angeles, CA, where he works to provide youth in South L.A. with the educational opportunities that prepare them to realize their potential to excel in college and their chosen careers. In his 23 years at Dorsey High, Singleton has coached the Academic Decathlon team, which won 75 medals in a ten-year span (95% of his 90 students graduated from college); coached the Mock Trial Team, which placed 12th out of 185 schools in 2020, and coordinates the Dorsey High School Teen Court. Teen Court is a juvenile diversion and prevention program that links high school students, schools, teachers, parents, juvenile offenders, probation officers, and the Los Angeles Superior Court in an effort to reduce recidivism and encourage first time juvenile offenders to accept responsibility for their actions and to stay out of the juvenile court system.

The hope for the program is that a juvenile offender will not continue their criminal behavior after participating in a judicial process in which a jury of their peers - other teenagers - decide the verdict and recommend an appropriate consequence. Singleton has also been recognized by the Los Angeles County Registrar-Recorder/ County Clerk for encouraging hundreds of students to participate in the Student Election Worker Program. Dr. Singleton’s AP U.S. Government students have matriculated to such esteemed institutions as Amherst, Yale, University of Chicago, Boston University, Williams College, USC, and UCLA, just to name a few.

Singleton is a National Board Certified Teacher, a distinction earned by only 2% of U.S. teachers, and for the past eight years has served as a Reader for the AP United States Government and Politics Exam. In 2019, the College Board AP Advocates Program invited Singleton to become the new State Advocate Lead for the State of California, based on his record of strong leadership and contribution to state and federal AP policy conversations. Singleton is also one of the featured educators in the civil rights documentary, “This Is Not A Tour,” (YouTube). Singleton credits his career path to the late, great Dr. Agnes M. Jackson, who taught him that inspiring others brings out the best in yourself.
INCOMING 5C STUDENT?
JOIN OBSA MENTORSHIP

MENTOR AND MENTEE APPLICATIONS NOW OPEN:
https://services.claremont.edu/obsa/obsa-peer-mentorship/

APPLICATIONS THROUGH AUGUST 2020!

OBSA MENTORSHIP IS:
BLACK CENTERED
INTERSECTIONAL
INCLUSIVE
FLEXIBLE

WHY YOU SHOULD APPLY

MENTORING RELATIONSHIPS CAN POSITIVELY IMPACT STUDENT WELLBEING, ESPECIALLY WHILE AT A PWI!
OBSA MENTORSHIP IS DESIGNED TO PROVIDE SAFETY & COMFORT, ACCESS TO OPPORTUNITIES, AND SUPPORT NAVIGATING CAMPUS.

TELL A FRIEND!

WE EMAIL EACH INCOMING 5C SELF-IDENTIFIED BLACK STUDENT TO PARTICIPATE IN OBSA MENTORSHIP

BUT THE CONTACTS WE RECEIVE FROM THE COLLEGES DON'T ALWAYS REACH BROADLY (ESP INTERNATIONAL AND MULTIRACIAL STUDENTS)

HELP SPREAD THE WORD!
NOW RECRUITING: MENTORS & MENTEE!

QQMP
Queer and Questioning Mentor Program

QQMP APPLICATIONS CAN BE FOUND:
MENTOR: BIT.LY/QQMPMENTOR
MENTEE: BIT.LY/QQMPMENTEE

If you have any questions, please email pmca2017@pomona.edu

QQMP is a 7c confidential program that provides students an introduction to the queer community on campus with the support of 2 head mentors and individual mentors. QQMP mentors are trained to provide support and informed guidance on LGBTQIA-related issues including but not limited to coming out, questioning your sexuality, romantic orientation and/or gender identity, navigating campus environment as an LGBTQIA student, learning how to be a better ally, and building queer, questioning, and allied communities!

Queer Staff & Faculty Luncheon
Grab your lunch and join the QRC for fun, chats and community via zoom

WED, JUNE 24 & THUR, JULY 16
12PM ON ZOOM

Queer Resource Center Coming Events

QUEER RESOURCE CENTER

Digital Drop-in Hours

JUNE 4
9am-5p

JUNE 18
9am-5p

JULY 2
9am-5pm

JULY 16
9am-5pm

JULY 30
9am-5pm

EVERY OTHER THURSDAY VIA ZOOM
INFORMAL COUNSELING QUESTIONS FEEDBACK

email pmca2017@pomona.edu to schedule
Over the years, I’ve been an art fan, collector and infrequent creator, and recently began following rising Black artists on Instagram to infuse joy, positivity and inspiration into my life and work.

Genres that intrigue me include hyperrealism, portrait and digital renderings of Black fantasy, pop and comic book art. Fun fact: the artist Nuri Durr (@actionhankbeard)’s comic iterations of the Fresh Prince of Bel Air cast currently hangs in my office in OBSA. My current faves include: @arinze @uzotheartist @lethabohuma_art @asleybarbie @actionhankbeard @sdqsfr @thatartista @kadirnelson
PAUSE.
July 9, 10 & 16 (5C students)
July 17 (GGU & KGI students)
All occur 6-7pm PT

RSVP TO RECEIVE ZOOM ADDRESS

Facilitators:
Lydia Middleton
Dean & Director
Office of Black Student Affairs

Dr. Shawndeelia Drinkard
Therapist, Mounsour Counseling & Psychological Services,
CEO, Urban Mental Health & Wellness Initiative

Agenda:
Session goals
Community Check in
Exploring stressors
Coping tips
Resources
The Los Angeles Chapter of the national organization provides more than half-million dollars annually in scholarships to undergraduates, graduates and doctoral students pursuing careers in business. The program’s mission is to identify and increase the pool of Black talent in business—public, private and non-profit.

Scholarship Levels & Eligibility Requirements:
A. Black/African-American student.
B. Full-time or part-time student pursuing their DBA or PhD in business, management, organizational behavior or other business related field from an accredited doctorate program located in Central or Southern California or Nevada, during the 2020-2021 academic year.
C. Full-time or part-time student pursuing their MBA during the 2020-2021 academic year at an accredited graduate business school located in Central or Southern California or Nevada.
D. Full-time or part-time undergraduate student during the 2020-2021 academic year in an accredited undergraduate business school located in Central or Southern California or Nevada.

Apply: https://www.labmba.org/2020-la-nbmbaa-scholarship

Apply for any one of 35 scholarships and internships for African American students. Many of the application deadlines are near, apply today!

https://www.fastweb.com/college-scholarships/articles/scholarships-for-african-american-students

Provides a comprehensive database of virtual volunteering opportunities with organizations continuing to maintain operations in their communities. These opportunities are specific for those who wish to support COVID-19 relief efforts.

Apply: https://www.volunteermatch.org/virtual-volunteering