Brown University

Samuel M. Nabrit
Black Graduate Student Association
Presents . . .

Samuel M. Nabrit (1905-2003)
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Artist: Robert Freeman

A Black Ivy-League
Graduate Student Conference Proposal

February 2007
Welcome/The Occasion

The following pages are the culmination of months of meetings, collaboration, discussion, debate, and consensus among members of the Samuel M. Nabrit Black Graduate Student Association at Brown University. The idea of hosting an Ivy League black graduate student conference at Brown University some time in the near future is one in which the members of the recently re-named association fully support.

In an effort to foster academic and social networking, collaboration among persons of similar backgrounds at similar institutions, and to promote a love of learning, we thought it appropriate to advance such a proposal.

The initial details concerning the proposal were arranged within a committee consisting of Courtney Frederick, Andrea Owens-Jones, and Ravi Perry.

We recognize that being a proposal, details are subject to change, and we welcome any such amendments. However, we ask for the opportunity to include all members of the association in the decision-making of such changes, as we wish to keep the spirit of the proposal a group effort.

We hope you enjoy reading the following pages and invite any questions or concerns you may have.

Sincerely,

Ravi Kumar Perry
06-07 “Coordinator,” NBGSA
General Details

- Preferably a Fall Conference (Friday-Sunday)

- Conference Name:
  Black Ivy Graduate Conference (The B.I.G. Conference)
  *Inviting All Ivy League Graduate Students of the African Diaspora*

- Theme Suggestions:
  Theme 1: Contemporary Approaches, Crucial Solutions
  Theme 2: Confronting Reality, Altering the Course

- Keynote Speaker Ideas:
  Cornel West, Ruth Simmons; Lani Guiner; Johnetta B. Cole; Johnella Butler;
  Beverly Tatum; Michael Eric Dyson; Ben Carson; Michael Dawson; Katherine
  Tate; Cathy Cohen; Toni Morrison; Nikki Giovanni; Marc Morial; Derrick Bell

- Initially invite (early) Harvard/Yale and see how submissions go and then see about other Ivy League schools

- Provide Conference Gifts with registration (shirts, folder, pens, bag, portfolio, mug, etc)

- Seek sponsorship with local hotels, bookstores, restaurants; grocery stores, etc.

- Give out surveys with registration packet for feedback on conference

- Think about a tour of places of interest in Providence (RI Black Heritage Society; Black Repertory Company, etc).

- Registration fee to be determined, pending budgetary arrangements

- All meals to be catered by Brown Catering Services and to be located in ballroom-style rooms

- Workshops are to be lead by the appropriate leaders in the various areas being discussed

- The Roundtable discussion will be lead and organized by Samuel M. Nabrit Black Graduate Student Association members

- The conference welcomes all levels of graduate students and post-docs as presenters.
Tentative Schedule

Friday

7-8 a.m. Breakfast and Registration

8:15-8:45 a.m. Welcome Reception with President Ruth Simmons (pending schedule approval)

8:45-9 a.m. Networking Break (Coffee/Tea Available)

9-10:45 a.m. Concurrent Sessions and Select Poster Presentations on Display*

*This section will be organized by sub-themes based on the submissions and will be vaguely related to the broader theme (see above). The Concurrent Sessions will include a discussant who keeps time, introduces panel members, and fields questions from the audience. There will be 3-4 participants per panel in rooms with the appropriate media equipment and who are allotted 15-20 minutes for their presentation and the entire group is given 15-20 minutes for questions after the conclusion of all presentations.

The poster sessions – primarily for the science students – will take place in a room like Sayles Auditorium where people can, at their private perusal, view different posters.

“Poster Presentations on Display” designates the poster presentations being available to view without the presenter.

“Concurrent Poster Presentations” designates poster presentations being available to view with the presenter available for questions.

10:45-11 a.m. Networking Break (Coffee/Tea Available)

11:00 a.m.-12:45 p.m. Concurrent Panel Sessions and Concurrent Poster Presentations

12:45-2:00 p.m. Luncheon (Featuring Musical Talent and the Recognition of Conference Supporters)

2:15-4:00 p.m. Concurrent Panel Sessions and Concurrent Poster Presentations

4:15-5:15 p.m. Workshop I: Title: CV Development

5:30-6:30 p.m. Workshop II: Title: Grant Proposals

6:30 p.m. – until Dinner on your own
10:00 p.m. Social Activity (TBA)

Saturday

8-9:00 a.m. Registration and Breakfast by Discipline (Meet in a specific room for continental breakfast with fellow colleagues in your related field)

9-10:45 a.m. Concurrent Panel Presentations and Poster Presentations on Display

10:45-11:00 a.m. Networking Break (Coffee/Tea Available)

11:00 a.m.-12:45 p.m. Concurrent Panel Presentations and Concurrent Poster Presentations

1:00 p.m.-2:00 p.m. Lunch

2-3:00 p.m. Workshop III: Title: Subgroups within the Black Diasporan Experience

3-4:00 p.m. Workshop IV: Title: Getting Published

4-4:15 p.m. Networking Break (Coffee/Tea)

4:15-6:00 p.m. Roundtable Discussion: Topic: The Future of the Talented Tenth: Can America’s Black Intellectuals Lead the African American Community into the Future?

6:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m. Dinner (Keynote Speaker & Recognition of Best Paper Awards - Best ABD Paper: “Ruth Simmons Award;” Best Pre-ABD Paper “Inman Page Award;” Best Overall Paper; “Samuel M. Nabrit Award”)

8:00 -10:00 p.m. Host Reception (Hosted by the Samuel M. Nabrit Black Graduate Student Association; on campus; beer/wine, conversation)

10:00 p.m. Social Activity (off campus – Black Repertory Company, perhaps)
Sunday

12:00 p.m.  Gospel Brunch (Either travel to the Jazz Brunch at the Westin Hotel; or to gospel brunch locations in Boston; or host a catered gospel brunch on campus)

6:00 p.m.  Imani Jubilee Worship Service – Manning Chapel

For More Information

Contact Ravi Perry at ravi_perry@brown.edu