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2022 BLSA Spring Alumni Weekend: Banquet Welcoming Remarks, Student Awards, and New Executive Board

Black Law Students Association

Notre Dame Law School

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2022 BLSA Spring Alumni Weekend: Banquet Welcoming Remarks, Student Awards, and New Executive Board

March 26, 2022

Location: Duncan Student Center Ballroom, University of Notre Dame

Speakers in order of appearance: G. Marcus Cole, Joseph A. Matson Dean and Professor of Law, Monica Bell, BLSA President; Jakim Aaron, Incoming BLSA President; Max H. Gaston, Director of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

Awardees: Joshua Mannery, Dwight King Community Service Award; Jakim Aaron, Dean's Circle Award; Naomi Price, Community Advancement Award

Incoming BLSA Executive Board: Will Irvin, Secretary; Esther Adeyemi, Treasurer; Jazmyn Ferguson, Vice-president; and Jakim Aaron, President.

On March 26, 2022, Black Law Students Association alumni, current students, faculty, and friends gathered for a banquet reception. This video shows the welcoming remarks for the event, as well as the presentation of student awards, recognition of the graduating students, and presentation of the incoming BLSA executive board.

English (auto-generated)

0:00

i just want to take this opportunity

0:02

um

0:04

to thank

0:05

i just want to take this opportunity to

0:07

thank uh

0:08

all of our students but in particular

0:11

our third year class i think that you

0:14

you shaped the environment for all of us

0:17

uh and hopefully

0:18

uh the second year class and the first
0:21
year class have learned from you and
0:23
learned how to
0:25
to carry this forward because i think
0:27
this is a beautiful um
0:29
a beautiful environment that you've
0:30
created uh and i and i do have to say
0:32
and this is not in the script
0:34
that this is a dream for me to see this
0:37
many of us in one room at one time
0:45
and the only thing that could make this
0:47
better
0:48
is if we have to book a bigger ballroom
0:51
next year
0:52
and that's my goal is just to keep
0:54
growing this until notre dame can't hold
0:57
us anymore
0:59
so
1:00
my job is
1:03
is to simply introduce our
1:06
balsa president for this year monica
1:08
bell monica
1:11
[Applause]
1:25
i'm a little bit shorter than the dean
1:26

so i have to pull the mic down a bit
1:29
so of course like dean cole said thank
1:30
you everybody for coming we're very
1:32
happy to have you here so we just want
1:34
to recognize a few of our students who
1:36
have really just stood out in their
1:37
dedication to the organization this year
1:40
so first we are going to start off with
1:42
the dwight king community service award
1:44
we are also thrilled to have dwight king
1:46
with us today
1:47
um
1:48
so this will be going to josh mannery
1:51
[Applause]
2:00
the dwight king community service award
2:02
is gifted to a student for demonstrated
2:05
commitment and outstanding dedication of
2:07
time effort and energy to the notre dame
2:09
black law students association and the
2:12
notre dame law school community as a
2:13
whole
2:14
josh has been our admissions liaison for
2:16
this year so he's been responsible for
2:18
reaching out to all of our admitted
2:19

students he's been doing a fantastic job
2:21
i rarely have to tell him to do anything
2:23
he just takes charge and handles it very
2:25
well so thank you josh for working with
2:27
us this year
2:40
our second award of the evening is the
2:41
dean's circle award presented to jake
2:44
maron
2:47
[Applause]
2:52
this award is given to a student a
2:54
first-year law student in the notre dame
2:56
black law students association who
2:58
continuously displays exceptional
3:00
leadership teamwork and initiative in
3:03
service to the law school community and
3:05
the mission of the black law students
3:06
association thank you jakeem for
3:08
everything you've done for us
3:15
and our third and final award is the
3:17
community advancement award this award
3:19
honors a member of the notre dame black
3:20
law students association who has
3:22
demonstrated a deep commitment in
3:24
advancing the goals and mission of the
3:25

black law students association both
3:27
within the law school community and the
3:29
broader african-american community as a
3:31
whole and our war recipient this year is
3:33
naomi price
3:35
[Applause]
3:43
naomi was our president last year and
3:45
she was responsible for getting my class
3:48
the 2l class really oriented and
3:50
situated in the law school so we are
3:52
eternally grateful to her
3:56
[Applause]
4:04
okay
4:21
thank you
4:28
so thank you again to all of our award
4:30
recipients and now i've been looking
4:32
forward to this moment all year so i'm
4:34
very excited to introduce next year's
4:37
e-board so if we could have
4:39
all of you come up so i can introduce
4:41
you to our entire crowd
4:45
it's not hard you know who you are
5:01
so first and foremost we have our
5:02
secretary will irvin
5:06

[Applause]

5:10

our treasurer esther adeyemi

5:17

our vice president jasmine ferguson

5:21

[Applause]

5:25

and our president next year will be

5:27

jackie marin

5:28

[Applause]

5:35

after this year i can say that this

5:37

organization is in very good hands i am

5:39

i had a great time this year but i am

5:41

very ready to pass it on to them

5:44

um so in doing so i would just like to

5:46

have jackie maron come up and say a few

5:49

words about next year

5:56

as you all can see from my look of

5:57

surprise i'll keep it brief

6:00

um but i'm just so excited and humbled

6:03

to be

6:04

given the opportunity to lead such an

6:06

illustrious

6:07

organization such as the notre dame

6:09

balsa

6:10

i think that what makes affinity groups

6:12

special is the scope of the work that we

6:13

do
6:14
so we do everything from community
6:16
building to professional development to
6:18
academic support and really just
6:20
whatever else is needed to keep to keep
6:22
us moving forward
6:24
but to remain effective we have to
6:25
remain connected with everyone who's
6:27
represented in this room we have to
6:28
remain connected with administrators
6:31
faculty members current students and our
6:33
alumni
6:36
so i'm excited to just partner with
6:38
everyone who's here and to continue to
6:40
sort of keep that ball moving so we can
6:42
not only impact the black community at
6:44
notre dame but we can compact oh excuse
6:46
me so we can impact the notre dame law
6:48
school community as a whole so thank you
6:51
i look forward to working with you all
6:52
and have a great evening
6:54
[Applause]
7:10
good evening everyone
7:13
i'm gonna be completely honest
7:16

i'm a little emotional

7:22

[Applause]

7:28

this is so beautiful

7:30

to see all of you in this room

7:33

and

7:34

you know when i think about my time as

7:36

when i was a law student at notre dame

7:39

this is one of the only times that i can

7:40

be in the room and i'm not a minority

7:42

you know it's

7:44

i'm so happy to see all of you

7:46

um and i'm so proud of the balsa that we

7:50

have the current balsa the incoming

7:52

executive board and all of the alumni

7:54

that are in the room this evening and

7:56

thank you all so much for continuing to

7:58

make the legacy of excellence that we

8:01

carry something that can be instilled in

8:03

the admitted students that are coming

8:05

and the generations that will move

8:06

forward

8:07

uh

8:09

we're already off to a beautiful start

8:11

i've only been here for five months but

8:13

i'm really excited about what we're
8:14
gonna do next um we've got a great team
8:16
coming up
8:18
and i didn't mean to make this a speech
8:19
but somehow it became that um i'm just
8:22
here to tell you we're taking a break
8:23
but
8:25
um but i just want you to know that this
8:27
weekend has filled me with such
8:29
enthusiasm and has really touched me and
8:31
i
8:32
am so grateful to all of you for being
8:34
here and i'm
8:35
especially grateful to monica bell for
8:38
really leading the balsa especially
8:40
through a very difficult time uh covid
8:43
was a tough year for the school in
8:44
general and for the bosa in particular
8:46
not being able to have the programming
8:49
that they're used to her on her own
8:51
making sure that this held together um
8:55
it
8:56
you did a great job
8:59
[Applause]