AFRICVOICE

WELCOME BACK ISSUE

SEPTEMBER 2017

DAL

BLACK STUDENT ADVISING CENTRE

BSAC
Welcome, I take this opportunity to congratulate each one of you for your choice to have your education here at Dalhousie University. My name is Oluronke Taiwo and I am the Black Student Advisor for both Dalhousie and the King’s University.

As the Black Student Advisor my goal is to build a centre of inclusion, excellence, love and unity, to ensure that all students that visit the Black Student Advising Centre (BSAC) feel safe as well as perceive the centre as a “home away from home”. My main role is to provide support through counseling, advocacy, academic encouragement and advising. The Centre which is located at 1321 Edward Street 2nd floor is a welcoming environment which has many facilities within the building, some of which are 2 computer labs, a very inviting lounge with kitchenette, a quiet study room, a coaching room, a meeting room, reception room and a beautiful back yard. Other services and programs offered at the Centre are:

- Peer tutoring/mentoring program.
- In site writing/study skills coaching
- Social and Educational events
- Volunteering program
- Networking

Coming to the Centre gives you the opportunity to meet friends, relax, and get assistance with the many challenges that you might face in the upcoming year. Sometimes, you may feel overwhelmed about the year ahead and what will be required of you. We will do what we can to support your success and you can do the same by:
- Coming prepared to work hard
- Making use of all resources at your disposal
- Not being shy to ask for help when it is required.
- Not giving up when things are tough

I am taking the opportunity to invite you to our annual welcome Pizza Party that will be taking place on Tuesday September 5th, 2017 at 12 noon in room 307 Student Union Building. This welcome Pizza Party will give you the opportunity to meet with some of our Peer mentors and Black Faculty members and also allows you to be acquainted with the Centre. Hope to see you all. Once again welcome!
“Hurrah!” to our new and returning students. I cannot contain my enthusiasm in meeting all of you. I am a second-year Masters of Engineering student and the new project coordinator for this academic session. I want to use this opportunity to welcome our new student to the BSAC family. For your information, the Black Student Advising Center (BSAC) is one of Dalhousie campus community that provides support, advisory service and provides an opportunity to meet and socialize with other students. From my own perspective, BSAC is more than an advisory center, it’s a family made up of awesome brothers and sisters not to mention the motherly counsel we receive from our marvelous advisor. I implore everyone to make the most of BSAC this academic session. I look forward to meeting and working with you.

By Emmanuel Maduko
Project Coordinator

I have been privileged to work and serve at a center with a great vision and mission towards black students in terms of academic success and enrichment of educational experiences. After working for 1 year as the Project Coordinator, I have experienced different successes of student and the center. I must also say it’s truly has been an amazing experience for me coming to Dalhousie and BSAC made it more like home away from home. Starting with our lovely Advisor fondly called Ronky by all to the staff and the student.

As I move on to the next stage of my life after, I wish everyone the very best in their endeavors, success in the academic and professional life.

By Abdulazeez Sanni
Out-going Project Coordinator
I am a returning MLIS student (Candidate, 2018). I came into the MLIS program in the fall of 2016, as an international student from Nigeria. I have had some opportunities to serve in various capacities within the Dalhousie community. I am the current Graduate Commissioner at the Dalhousie Student Union – DSU, also the current treasurer of the Dalhousie African Students Association (DASA). And most recently the recipient of the Stephanie Down's award (2017-2018) as the International Student Representative for the School of Information Management (SIM)

My Halifax/Dalhousie Experience or Journey

Making a choice to leave my home country – Nigeria, was a very tough one for me, having to leave behind family and friends, job/business, familiar foods and terrain, and my comfort zone. We (my children and I) arrived in Halifax at the onset of the Fall of 2016, what a beautiful weather we met upon our landing. I had booked for a temporary accommodation at the Howe Hall and hoped to get a permanent one in Peter Green Hall within a few days of our arrival. But that was a fallacy by all standards, since I had not booked online in June before arrival, as an international student with family, that was the rule and though I saw it on the website, I just felt since I will be arriving one month earlier to school resumption, I will be accommodated somehow.

Within a span of 3 weeks, my trio and I moved from Howe Hall to Studley Hall and then finally to the beautiful International Center building – the latest edifice in Dalhousie university as at that time. We finally got an apartment in the Peter Green Hall just one week to school’s resumption, I am still so grateful to Mitchell and her able team, for all their assistance even now.

As an international student and a mom with 3 teenage children on ground here in Halifax, my activities at Dalhousie has moved beyond a mere academic pursuit of a master’s degree to finding ways in which I can cope as a single parent and get the benefits of being both a mature student and a parent on campus. This has enhanced my knowledge about the available resources at Dalhousie that enables me to know; where to get what; how what works; what I need to get what done; and who to contact on both academic and non-academic needs.

Black Student Advisory Center (BSAC) and the Multi-Faith Center

I discovered the BSAC (Black Student Advisory Center) in the very week of resumption at Dalhousie, and it has been like a haven for my trio and I, even though they are not direct students of Dalhousie University. The warm reception by staff of both the BSAC and the Multi faith center is always so appreciated by us. As a single parent starting on a new life in Halifax with three children, there is so much demands I have been faced with, around meeting school replenishments in assignment completion for both me and them, finding extracurricular activities fit for family, and generally getting information about everything.
Being a member of BSAC has been a rewarding experience to us as a family, we are free to hang out here and use the facilities available to us, whenever they are open. We get firsthand information about various exciting immigration programs, job openings, Black Nova Scotian activities and events around Halifax, not just limited to Dalhousie. Worthy of mention is the scary kidnap incident of my elder sister and sponsor, back home in January 2017, this incident shock us to the very fabrics of our being as a family. I was at the point of opting out of school in the winter term due to the psychological trauma from that incident, but for the timely intervention by the head of BSAC in the person of Mrs. Oluronke Taiwo, who counselled and directed me to the appropriate offices to get further help in my situation. The International Student Center, the Student Union, Faculty of Graduate Studies, Dalhousie Health, and Counselling Center were of tremendous assistance to us in counseling, advisory services, and financially. Being a member of BSAC community makes settling into a new life as a parent student at Dalhousie University and in Halifax such a simple and seamless experience for my family and me.

Signed: Rita Ugbebor (MLIS ’2018)

My name is Oritsedere Akindoju. I graduated from Dalhousie University in 2013 with a degree in Business Management, while pursing my education at the university, I worked at the Black Student Advising Centre as a receptionist, events planner and Africvoice coordinator. It was an awesome and learning working experience for me. The position gave me an opportunity to meet with people from all backgrounds on a daily basis, which was insightful and exciting experience. BSAC is a Centre that provides various opportunities for students to meet and connect with others and I will forever be grateful to the Centre for giving me the opportunity to have my first job on campus. It was the foundation I needed to get my foot into the job market, once I was done with my degree. My advice for anyone will be to have fun, study hard and always pay a visit to the Black Student Advising Centre.

Cheers
Oritsedere Akindoju
“Choices, not chance, determines your destiny.” – Aristotle.

Congratulations and welcome to Halifax, Dalhousie University and to the BSAC family. My name is Unity Cooper, I am currently in my 4th year at Dalhousie studying Biology and Psychology with hopes of getting into Medical school after my degree is complete. Halifax is an amazing city and offers so much for every student. I must say, my journey so far at Dal is defined by the word “perspective.” Discover the things that help to remind you of the bigger picture and learn to create space for them. It’s exhilarating to know that you hold the power to unlock opportunities to realize your dreams and crave out an absolutely awesome future for yourself. This is, of course also an enormous responsibility. With university study comes a great deal of responsibility, and at times, even sacrifice. On your journey, you may experience peaks and valleys. When the road becomes winding and you start to become weary, do not fret! Help is available... all you need to do is ask! The Black Student Advising Centre is a welcoming environment where many services are offered in a friendly and loving manner. BSAC is here to help you receive the help and support you need to make your educational journey as smooth as possible. At BSAC we encourage one another to strive and excel to our optimal goal. In university, learning is your job and yours alone, but keep calm, BSAC is here to help lead you to the fountain of resources and networks whether you drink deeply or only gargle is entirely up to you. Oh, and yes there is one thing that beats the feeling of being accepted to your favorite university.... achieving your goals especially after you have worked exceptionally hard!!! Therefore, remember NEVER EVER loose the HUNGER to acquire new KNOWLEDGE by being an eternal student! So, go on, DARE to dream BIG!!! Best wishes to everyone this semester and hope to see you around.

Unity Cooper
4th year student
To all of you joining us at Dalhousie for your first year of university, Welcome! The whole process can seem daunting at first but you will adjust to the pace very quickly. For those of you coming from high school be prepared for the independence; that means staying on top of your responsibilities. For those of you joining us from the work force or a long absence from school be confident and make good use of the academic services we offer here at BSAC and the other avenues around campus. We’ve asked students what advice they can offer you to smooth the transition and here’s what they had to share...

In my first year my marks were really bad. I was a great student in high school and expected to be a great student here but it took me some time to earn those same grades. So definitely don’t get down if you start off a little rough, you’re going to have to learn new ways of studying and time management before you get back to your former grades.

Finessa Williams

Welcome new students!! It’s great to have you with us. My advice for you all is to get to know your professors and TA’s. A TA is a teacher’s assistant. In most courses you will have one or a few working with your professor to help grade and even give assignments. In my first year I had a prof that I had a TA that I felt was marking me unfairly. I arranged to meet with her and after getting to know one another and explaining my reasoning I think she gave me a better chance. Bottom line since they’re decisions are so important to your academics introduce yourselves to them and try to build appropriate relationships.

It will make a difference trust me!

Kareem Wallace

Being in fourth year I’ve gotten used to the financial crunch of University and have learned some tricks of the trade. First buy your groceries on Tuesday. Both Sobeys and Superstore give student discounts then so make sure you have your school ID. Second is text books. Most Prof’s will put a few copies of their text books on reserve at the Killam library. What this means is that you can sign them out for two hours at a time for free. If this doesn’t work for you check out www.kijiji.ca/Halifax for used copies for a lot cheaper than the bookstore. Again if you have no luck use sites like amazon.com and abebooks.com for ordering text books. Best of luck.

Dominique Oliver-Dares

Hey new students! My advice for first year is to get involved. With so many people here at Dal it can be easy to turn into your own shell but if you put yourself out there you will really feel a part of it. There’s a ton of societies here but if there’s nothing to suit you try making your own! There’s Dal After Dark for cheap or low cost activities and BSAC has lots of great events to bring us together. Make new friends or volunteer just don’t put yourself in a bubble.

Dominique Johns

My word to new students is ask for help! We have services here at Dal to help us with our academics so please take advantage of them. In the Killam there’s the Writing Centre where they will read over you’re written assignments and help you edit them for no charge! Also BSAC brings in a writing and math tutor one day a week which is also free. I was struggling with my French course and Mrs. Taiwo set me up with a peer mentor to give me a hand. So if you’re having trouble reach out.

Renae Bean
With over 18,000 students at Dalhousie it can be easy to feel lost in the sea of people during the daily marches to class. As much time as you spend here on campus take some time to explore the quiet corners of the campus. Whether it’s to grab a bite to eat or simply study in peace check out a few of our hidden gems.

**LSC Rooftop Overlook**

Life Sciences Center

This space located on the 5th floor of the LSC gives a mesmerizing view of the greenery surrounding Dalhousie and the Wickwire Field. This space is best enjoyed in the spring, summer and fall, as we all know how fierce the cold is come winter.

**Killam Study Cubbies**

Killam Libraries

These study cubbies can be found on the perimeter of sections containing books on the third and fourth floor of the Killam Library. They are the perfect place for studying as the space remains silent year round.

**Fireside Lounge**

The McCain

The fireside lounge is located on the first floor of the McCain Arts and Social Sciences building. The lounge is almost entirely contained by glass which floods the space with natural light and a relaxing view of the court.
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<th>Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>September 2</td>
<td>Residence move-in, first year students</td>
<td>October 9</td>
<td>Thanksgiving Day, University closed</td>
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<td>September 4</td>
<td>Labour Day - University closed</td>
<td>October 31</td>
<td>Last day to drop X/Y courses without a &quot;W&quot;*</td>
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<td>September 4</td>
<td>Residence move-in, returning students</td>
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<td>Last day to change X/Y courses from Audit to credit and vice versa</td>
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<td>September TBA</td>
<td>Induction Ceremony - Halifax Campus</td>
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<td>Last day to drop fall term classes with a &quot;W&quot;</td>
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<td>September TBA</td>
<td>Induction Ceremony - Agriculture Campus</td>
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<td>See refund schedule for fee implications</td>
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<td>September 5</td>
<td>Classes begin, fall term</td>
<td>November 6-10</td>
<td>Fall Study Break</td>
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<td>September 18</td>
<td>Last day to register</td>
<td>November 13</td>
<td>University closed in lieu of Remembrance Day</td>
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<td>September 18</td>
<td>Fees due for fall term</td>
<td>November 13</td>
<td>University closed in lieu of Remembrance Day</td>
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<td>September 18</td>
<td>Last day to add fall term courses</td>
<td>December 1</td>
<td>Last day to apply to graduate in May 2018 via Dal Online</td>
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<td>September 18</td>
<td>Last day to drop fall term courses and fall term X/Y courses with no financial implications</td>
<td>December TBA</td>
<td>Summer timetable available via Dal Online</td>
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<td>September 18</td>
<td>Last day for a complete refund</td>
<td>December 5 *</td>
<td>Classes end, fall term</td>
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<td>September 18</td>
<td>Last day to apply for honours programs</td>
<td>December 7-17</td>
<td>Exam Period</td>
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<td>September 18</td>
<td>Last day to change from Dalhousie to King’s and vice versa</td>
<td>December 16</td>
<td>Residences close at noon (Truro Campus)</td>
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<td>October 2</td>
<td>December Exam Schedule posted</td>
<td>December 18</td>
<td>Residences close at noon (Halifax Campus)</td>
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<td>October 2 and 3</td>
<td>Fall Convocations</td>
<td>December 18</td>
<td>Residences close at noon (Halifax Campus)</td>
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<td>October 2</td>
<td>Last day to change fall term courses from audit to credit (and vice versa)*</td>
<td>December 18</td>
<td>Residences close at noon (Halifax Campus)</td>
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<td>October 2</td>
<td>Last day to drop fall term courses without a &quot;W&quot;**</td>
<td>December 25-29</td>
<td>University Closed</td>
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<td>See Refund Schedule for fee implications</td>
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Welcome Pizza and summer birthday party, Tuesday September 5th, 2017 at 12 noon. Venue: Room 307 SUB

BSAC Annual Professional Career Day event, Wednesday October 18th, 2017 from 6pm—8pm in Room 307 SUB

BSAC September/October birthday get together will take place on Friday October 20th, 2017. Time: 4pm-6.30pm. Venue: TBA

BSAC Christmas and November/December Luncheon Celebration will take place on Tuesday December 5th, 2017 at 12 noon in room 303 Dalhousie Student Union Building

EDITORIAL CREDITS

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