

# FOLLOW ME.

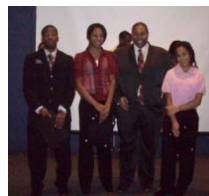


## Leaders of Tomorrow (LOT) Year in Review

### 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Oratorical Competition



In February, the 7th Annual LOT Oratorical Competition was held at Howard University's School of Business. Ten students presented original Spoken Word pieces based on the topic "My New America", an exploration of the meaning of President Barack Obama's election. Scholarships in the amount of \$500, \$300, and \$200 are awarded to the top three students.



Repeating in first place was Matthew Hester, a graduating senior from Oxon Hill High School in Oxon Hill, MD. In second place, was Maya Fletcher, a rising junior with a 3.8 grade point average at Crossland High School in Temple Hills, MD. DeLicia Boyd of

Bowie, MD came in third, becoming the second 8th grader in our history to place in the top three.

### Eighth Annual Leaders of Tomorrow National Business Case Competition



Also in June, five students participated in the 8<sup>th</sup> Annual LOT Case Competition. This year, the competition was held at the University of Michigan. Students participating were seniors Jazmin Tanner and Matthew Hester, junior Alicia Williams, and 8<sup>th</sup> grader Asia Hart. Sophomore Omar Saibou, whose two sisters matriculated through the program provided backup support to this year's team. Competing against 22 teams from around the country, the DC team won the first round, made it to the finals, and took home the 5th Place trophy. The Washington DC chapter is one of the founding

chapters of this unique competition for the high school students. These high school students receive a Harvard business case and must perform all of the same methodological steps that graduate students undertake to present their business case before a panel of industry experts. *Photo: with William Wells, Jr., Chairman of the Board, National Black MBA Association (far left) and Barbara L. Thomas, President and CEO, National Black MBA Association (far right).*

## STUDENT PERSPECTIVE>>



### **TAKING ONE FOR THE TEAM**

#### **A PROFILE OF THE LEADERS OF TOMORROW BUSINESS CASE COMPETITION CAPTAIN**

*by Tiah Hodges, LOT Vice President of Marketing and Communications*

**Former LOT President and CEO Jazmin Tanner shares the benefits and challenges of her three years as captain of the Washington, DC LOT National Business Case Competition team.**

In the Leaders of Tomorrow Mentoring Program (LOT) this year, we had an opportunity to audition for our Case Competition Team, and the individuals that were chosen went on to compete in national competition in Detroit, MI. They had to do hours and hours of endless practices to perfect their standpoints and presentation. I had the pleasure of interviewing our case team captain, the 2008-2009 LOT President/CEO Jazmin Tanner, about her experiences at the competition. She has been team captain for the past three years.

The competing teams are given four months to prepare a presentation of an intricate graduate level business case. The students then present their solutions and defend their analyses before a panel of senior executives, who evaluate the teams on presentation skills, thoroughness, and creativity evident in the analyses. Jazmin progressed quite a lot from her first to third year. The first year, her sophomore year, a very significant member of her group dropped out so she was forced to step up and take the lead. This gained her the position of captain because of her ambition and will to succeed. That year, she learned to not doubt her abilities and to believe in herself. She learned how to speak and project well, how to use creativity in a business manner, and she improved in algebra, her least favorite subject. The team presented an analysis of Apple Corporation at the competition held at the Wharton School of Business in Philadelphia, PA.

In 2008, Jazmin's second year on the team and her junior year in high school, Jazmin learned more about how to become a leader and also the notion that "taking one for the team" is necessary for success. For example, Jazmin had to take responsibility and do the "dirty work." During her second year, Miss Tanner got even better with her math, learned how to speak better while using her hands more, and learned how to how to create an active kiosk on PowerPoint. The team presented a strategic plan for Starbucks at the competition, held at The Ohio State University. The Washington, DC team won second place in 2008 and \$4,000 in scholarships.

While preparing for Case Competition 2009, Jazmin says "she used this year to polish off the skills she gained from the previous years." She perfected her math skills and learned the hard way to not procrastinate on little things because they turn into big problems by the end of the process. She was able to learn her roles more rapidly, construct an original commercial, instruct the group without her mentor Cedric Mobley giving step by step instructions, and to greatly enhance her Photoshop skills. Overall, from the case experience, Jazmin completely learned better communicating skills, focus, leadership, and technological skills. By the end of the journey, she realized that she did not join the Case Team because of the money. It was something she simply enjoyed doing. The Case Team has influenced her decision to become a consultant instead of a PR specialist. "I must say Case truly has changed my life and I encourage everyone to do it at least once," she says.

## Graduating Seniors



In August, four students collected scholarship dollars for successfully completing the LOT regimen. Scholarship awards are possible through on support from chapter members and partners and are based on competitions won by students and their number of years in the program. Graduates, their schools and scholarship awards are:

**Matthew Hester, 5-year Leader**  
**\$4,300 scholarship, North Carolina A&T University**

An Oxon Hill High School alumnus, Matthew (not pictured) is now majoring in computer engineering. While in LOT, he served as Executive Vice President, represented the DC chapter at the national LOT leadership camp in London, England, and served on the case competition team for three years. In high school, he was active in the Future Business Leaders of America, NAACP, National Society of Black Engineers, and on the Varsity Swim Team. He was a student ambassador to Australia with the People to People program. He would one day like to earn a doctorate in engineering and start his own defense networking company.

**Jazmin Tanner, 3-year Leader**  
**\$3,500 scholarship, Virginia Commonwealth University**

An alumnus of Bowie High School, Jazmin (pictured, left) was the LOT President and CEO and made history by becoming the youngest and longest-serving Case Competition captain in DC history, leading the team from her sophomore year through her junior year. In high school, she was participated in the school yearbook staff, Elite Modeling Team, poetry club, and band. Currently a business major, she wants to one day earn a doctorate and own a major business consulting firm.

**Brittani Williams, 3-year Leader**  
**\$1,750 scholarship, The Ohio State University**

Currently studying nursing, Brittani (pictured, right) one day hopes to become a physician. In LOT, she served as Chief Information Officer. In high school, she was active in the Junior ROTC, basketball team, softball team, the National Honors Society, and the Washington National Cathedral Scholars Program, who she traveled with to England, Wales, and France. She was captain of the school's tennis team for four years.

**Elverado Ehahoun, 2- year Leader**  
**\$1,200 scholarship, Montgomery County Community College**

A Bladensburg High School alumnus, Elverado (pictured, top) is currently studying architecture. In LOT, he served as Senior Class Managing Director. At school, he played soccer and basketball. Outside of school, he served as a leader in two dance teams, "Swift Silence" and "DC Show Biz", in addition to being active in church. He hopes to become a well-known architect eventually.

## STUDENT PERSPECTIVE>>



### **ENDLESS PREPARATION, ENDLESS REWARDS** **THE LEADERS OF TOMORROW NATIONAL CONFERENCE IN NEW ORLEANS, LA**

*by Tiah Hodges, LOT Vice President of Marketing and Communications*

Here in the Leaders of Tomorrow Washington, DC chapter, we had an opportunity of a lifetime. A very selective group of us was chosen to attend the NB MBA Business conference in New Orleans, LA. In preparation for this we did endless research on entrepreneurship, black males, education, and social networking. We also researched various businesses that were at the career fair. Lastly to prepare we went over etiquette, and did workshops on how to talk to people and ask great questions.

The conference team consisted of: Asia Hart, Delicia Boyd, Brooke Evans, Imani Adrea, Melanie Furr, Evelyn Chappell, Maya Fletcher, and Tiah Hodges; and four boys: Kyle Saxon, Devin Brown, Omar Saibou, and Dami Onilogbo. While in New Orleans, we were strictly in business mode; which was not alien to us because we have to dress in business dress every bi-weekly meeting we have to attend.

As soon as we got off the plane, we were introduced to the city by a tour. He took us to most of the historic landmarks in the city. We saw the levees that broke when Hurricane Katrina broke. We went pass Café du Monde, where we all got to try their delicious French-style beignets (fried dough), which are deep-fried dough and sprinkled in confectioner's sugar. "Staying in the Marriot on Canal St, we felt as if we were in the middle of the excitement," says Maya Fletcher. Right across the street was the infamous Bourbon Street; which we walked down to get some gumbo.

On our way to the convention center, on the bus we saw the Superdome, a large, multi-purpose sports and exhibition facility located in the Central Business District of New Orleans, Louisiana. This dome is used to host major sporting events, such as the Sugar Bowl, and the home games of the New Orleans Saints. It was used to house 30,000 people when Hurricane Katrina hit Louisiana in late August 2005. The exterior was ruined due to the strong winds of Katrina, FEMA spent \$115 million and the state put up \$15 million to repair and refurbish the stadium.

There we all got to display our talents. There was a talent show followed by a dance. Some people sung, danced, recited poetry, or did something completely made up. We all had fun and got a chance to bond with new friends.

The conference was indeed a learning experience for all of us. We learned a lot about ourselves and others. We learned a lot about networking with other chapters of LOT also. We conversed with a lot of business people. The business people we talked to gave us the opportunities through that mutual connection. For example, they would give us their business card and help us if they can.

Everything was better in New Orleans. Simply just being in the CVS there excited us so much. Leaving New Orleans, we realized that no matter where you go, even if you are not going to see someone again, you should represent yourself doing so to the fullest of your ability.

## Golf

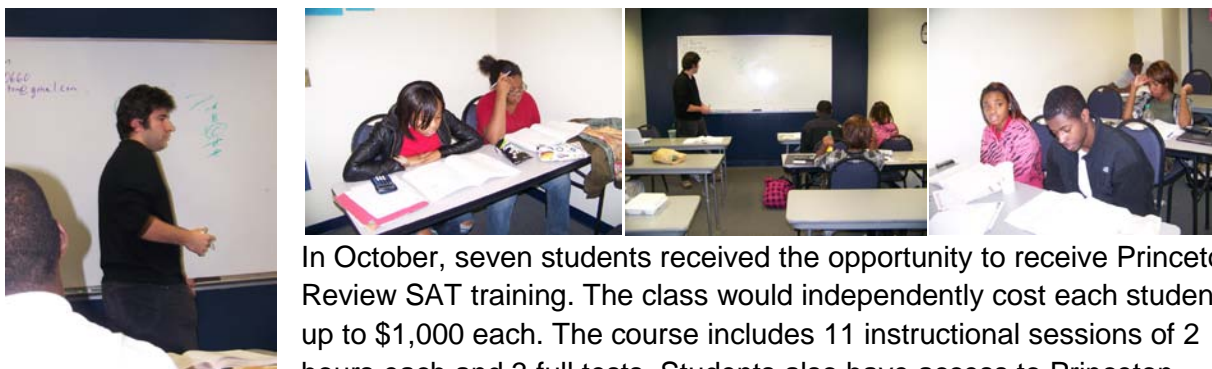


In July, LOT students and alumni had the opportunity to improve their skills in golf, the unofficial sport of the business world. Taking advantage of donation of a Langston Golf Course foursome fee donation from John Staurulakis, Inc. and former mentor Terri Granison Parilla, students were partnered with former National Black MBA Association-Washington, DC chapter president Anthony Pollard, an avid golf enthusiast and coordinator of the chapter's 2008 golf tournament. Anthony helped the students understand golf fundamentals, rules, scoring, technique, and explained the importance of networking on the golf course. Participating Leaders were incoming LOT President/CEO Devin Brown, graduating senior Jazmin Tanner, and LOT alumnus

Marcus Daniels, a recent graduate of Morehouse College.



## SAT Prep



In October, seven students received the opportunity to receive Princeton Review SAT training. The class would independently cost each student up to \$1,000 each. The course includes 11 instructional sessions of 2 hours each and 3 full tests. Students also have access to Princeton

Review online test prep materials. The courses were led by Princeton Review trainer Paul Morton, a Fullbright scholar. Princeton Review training can help increase SAT scores by up to 200 points. Sessions focused on test taking techniques and strategies, as well as fundamentals of algebra, geometry, critical reading, vocabulary, grammar, and writing.

## STUDENT PERSPECTIVE>>



### **GIVE A LITTLE BACK LEADERS OF TOMORROW COMMUNITY SERVICE** *by Tiah Hodges, LOT Vice President of Marketing and Communications*

The Leaders of Tomorrow have a monthly community service project. We think of ways we can give back to the community so we can be well rounded students. Our community service projects are all non-profit, so we can say we didn't do it for the money.



In the past we have fed the hungry at DC central kitchen, 425 2ND St NW Washington, DC 20001. This is a non-profit organization that has been distributing food to needy people for 20 years. Earlier in the year, they distributed the remainder of the food from the Presidential Inauguration to needy people in the city.

While volunteering our time to the DCCK, we all saw how precious our life is and we should appreciate it more because there are plenty of people who don't have half of what we have. There were families that were hungry and were being blessed with a free hot meal by people who care and want to help.



The ending of October and first week of November, we participated in the Salvation Army Annual Coat Drive. We bought coats that weren't of use to the meetings that we attended. After two meetings they dropped the coats off to the Salvation Army Donation Site in Washington, DC. We looked through our closets for barely used coats that were basically useless to us. We bought in coats that were too small, too big, or coats we wouldn't wear.

While doing this project we learned a great deal of appreciation. We learned to never take little things for granted. Our generation complains about what something looks like, where in reality there are people out on the streets in the cold who doesn't own a coat to keep warm regardless of what it looks like. We understand that we should help others who are too unfortunate to help themselves and that we should appreciate what we have more than we complain about what we don't have because somewhere, someone is in a much worse situation.



For the Thanksgiving holiday, we did a can food drive. We were asked to bring in three or more cans each. The cans we contributed will be distributed to help less fortunate people have a meaningful holiday season. It will feed them and we know they will greatly appreciate it with all their hearts. They will look back and remember those who helped them, and do on to others that are less fortunate than themselves.



This year, the chapter is presenting to you a glimpse of where your donations toward scholarship funds are allocated. In order to preserve the legacy of the National Black MBA Association, we must build a pipeline whereas those that come after us have an opportunity to fill our seats when our time with the chapter becomes limited.