The ALANA Mentoring Program at Brown University

Questions?

Please call (401) 863-2120, or email Anthony_Mam@brown.edu or Maitrayee_Bhattacharyya@brown.edu.
What is ALANA?

Our Mission

Created as a mentoring program for African American, Latino, Asian/Asian American, and Native American students, ALANA was founded in 1994 at Brown University. ALANA fosters meaningful interaction between students of color and mentors of color (staff, graduate/medical students, and alumni) to provide support, guidance and resources for these students. The program begins in a first-year student’s second semester and carries through to the end of the student’s sophomore year.

Events

ALANA organizes several events throughout the academic year for mentors and mentees to share ideas and connect with one another. These events include a holiday party in December, semi-annual receptions, and an end of the year barbeque.

FAQs

Q: How can mentoring relationships benefit a student, and vice versa?
A: Mentors can serve as role models, confidantes, friends, teachers, and advisors. They can also often assist students in building confidence, setting realistic goals, developing personal and professional networks and transitioning from home to the University. A mentor can also expose a student to interests, opportunities and talents that may have been overlooked. Mentors benefit from their relationships by learning from students and by being a positive force in students’ lives.

Q: What activities do mentors and students share?
A: Activities are determined completely by common interests and the nature of the mentoring relationship and can range from social activities, academic/ career advice, and/or cultural exploration. Mentors and students are also encouraged to participate in group gatherings which are offered on a regular basis for all ALANA participants.

Q: What commitment is asked of participants?
A: Participants should plan to meet monthly throughout their first year at Brown. We also encourage bi-monthly phone calls or emails. Both the mentor and the student make a personal commitment to developing a relationship, which sustains their interaction in both quality and quantity.

How do I get involved?

Students may apply online to become ALANA mentees at the end of the Fall Semester; a link to the application form will be sent to all self-identifying ALANA students. Students will be matched to mentors for the beginning of the Spring Semester; we will make as many matches as possible based on mentor/mentee preferences. Mentors and mentees will meet each other at a reception held in late January after students have returned to campus.

Who We Are

Maitrayee Bhattacharyya — Senior Associate Dean of the College for Diversity and Inclusion

Maitrayee earned an A.B. at Brown University with dual concentrations in International Studies and French Studies. She earned her M.A. and Ph.D. in sociology from Princeton. Maitrayee organizes orientation and advising programs for Sidney Frank Scholars, Resumed Undergraduate Education Students, Transfer Students, and Visiting Students; provides additional support to international students and first-generation students; and directs the Brown-Tougaloo Partnership.

Anthony Mam — Assistant Director for First Year & Sophomore Programs, Brown Center for Students of Color

Anthony earned a B.S. in Actuarial Mathematics from Bryant University. He also has his M.S. in College Student Personnel from the University of Rhode Island. In addition to ALANA, Anthony provides support to the ALANA mentoring program, Minority Peer Counselors, Social Justice Peer Education Program, and Third World Transition Program.

Marlina Duncan — Associate Dean of Diversity Initiatives, Graduate School

Marlina earned her Ed.D. from the University of Massachusetts, Amherst in science education and her B.S. in Biology from Westfield State University. Marlina is responsible for recruitment and retention of graduate students, oversight of diversity fellowships and student organizations, and departmental assistance with issues related to recruitment, advising, academic achievement and degree completion of diverse populations.