

Seniors victorious in Black History Bowl

The annual Black History Bowl took place in the auditorium on Feb. 28 during Pride Time.

The event is organized in a trivia-based manner with the rules being fairly simple. The two teams that went head to head this year were comprised of five juniors going against four seniors.

Each participant has a signaling device and is allowed to buzz in once the question is read. The first contestant to buzz in gets to answer the question and if they answer correctly, their team is awarded one point. However, if they answer incorrectly, the question becomes available to the other team to answer.

The senior team, consisting of Jonathan Assefa, Ayman Elhag, Abbey Yared and Rohan Miah came away victorious as they defeated the junior team made up of Frances Montevilla, Karla Mercado, Ayia Ismael, Elizabeth Dula and Susan Connell.

“It was exciting to have the crowd chant for us and support us,” Assefa said. “I am proud of myself and my teammates for the performance we put on.”

The Black History Bowl opened with the speech by the event’s host, Technology teacher Phil Harris. There were a total of 12 questions asked with the range of categories including music, television, art, science, military, sports, politics, sports, movies and the civil rights movement.

“We spent a lot of time deciding on who would study which subjects from the study guide because it had a lot of information on it,” Miah said. “So it felt good to know that all that time we spent studying paid off even though some of

the categories weren't touched upon."

Questions asked included "Carl Burton Stokes was the first African American mayor of which major U.S. city?" with the answer being Cleveland, and "Which prize fighter won the middleweight title a total of five times?" with the answer being Sugar Ray Robinson.

Other questions required more complex answers such as playing 10 seconds of a song and having to respond with the name of the song and the artist.

"Our team felt really good on stage because we were confident," Miah said. "Also, I heard we were the first to beat Mr. [Joseph] Valentino's in six years so that was pretty cool."

2018 Black History Bowl

Annandale's very own Black History Bowl was a success in the eyes of many Annandale students and staff. The auditorium was packed with students and teachers eager to learn more about African American history. The bowl, which was hosted by coach Phil Harris, had many students in attendance during W4/Pride Time. The jeopardy style bowl was an exciting event, that showcased many African-American accomplishments and breakthroughs in history. The seniors, who were the favorites to win, came in dead last, followed by a strong junior class. The freshmen came in second, and the sophomore class came out on top.

Sophomores win Black History Bowl in two-year sweep

With the remnants of music blaring from the speakers and the chants from the interactive event, the reigning champions, the sophomore class won today's Black History Bowl for the second year in a row. The senior and freshman class came in second place with a tie, followed by the junior class which came in third.

The much-anticipated event was plagued with numerous stops and gaffes by students who at times struggled to answer the highly selective questions. Split into five categories – Political Leaders, Inventors, Nelson Mandela and Amiri Baraka, Sports, and Music – the event was highly interactive with a dynamic MC found in Technology Education teacher and Track Coach, Philip Harris

Throughout the event, students were struggling to buzz-in correctly, only after the questions was finished being read out loud, could students buzz-in. Many then found themselves being disqualified from answering questions.

"We've studied like crazy," freshman Rachel Soon said. "I thought it would be a good experience doing it and my friend is doing too."

Nonetheless, the winning sophomore class remained consistent throughout the event, leading to their victory.

Before the competition, many competitors cited the senior class as their biggest threat.

"We've done scrimmages and practiced together," senior Elisha Musih said. However, due to numerous questions missed at the start of the event, the seniors struggled to regain their standing. Including their first missed question: Who organized

the March on Washington in 1963? The correct answer, Bayard Rustin.

Hosted by the BCAA, or Black Cultural Awareness Association, the Black History Bowl is an annual event created to celebrate Black History month while raising awareness of the importance and impact of African-Americans.

“The bowl creates an awareness of history and culture, and the importance of the bowl is to deal with some of those stereotypes that say that African Americans are just interested or able to do certain things and not others,” BCAA sponsor Kathlyn Berry said.

“[They]show the broad pictures of not only contributions but experiences and how African Americans have contributed to American life and culture and society.”

According to Berry, the goal of the bowl, as well as gaining student interest in the topic, is to teach African- American history in a fun way.

“There are people that don’t know what we’ve done in other areas of academics,” event organizer senior Marilyn Quist said.

“There are people that have done things in math and science (other than George Washington Carver). There is more to it and [we] want to let people know.”

The Black History Bowl consists of four teams, one from each grade, and a teacher sponsor. Members of the BCAA work together to create questions, as well as a study packet for the event.

During the bowl, various questions are asked to the teams. Each round consists of direct questions, asked first to a specific class and if unanswered to all students. The second round of questions consist of toss-up questions and

whoever rings the buzzer first and answers correctly gains points for their team.

Preview to Black History Bowl

“Which African- American founded the Tuskegee Institute?”

If you answered Booker T. Washington, than you are one of many students who should participate in the Black History Bowl.

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“Since we are the sponsors the bowl we basically plan everything out for the bowl ranging from The sponsors for each class, to categories and what questions, what kind of questions can be asked,” Quist said.

“Right now we are still in the process of doing that. There is also the contestants, and them getting packets to learn from.”

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The Black History Bowl will take place in the auditorium on Feb. 20 during extended W4.

Black History Bowl arrives on Feb. 28

AHS prepares to honor Black History Month with the annual Black History Bowl. Interested students have begun meeting with team coaches and will soon start training for the quiz show-like competition.

“What we have attempted to do over the years is just to teach and enlighten people as to how African-Americans have

contributed to our culture, society, our history, and also make it a kind of fun experience,” Black History Bowl (BHB) co-sponsor Kathlyn Berry said.

The BHB is a long-standing tradition at AHS and could date back more than ten years, to 2000 or 2001. Over time, the BHB has become an anticipated event at AHS.

“This is an activity that the entire school community looks forward to,” Berry said. “Teachers are excited about it and over the last couple of years, I’ve tried to involve more people.”

Both students and teachers at AHS get involved with the Bowl: students are contestants and teachers coach teams or organize the event. Teams are organized by grade, with a coach for each team of several students. This year, the seniors will be led by Katherine Gould, the juniors by Joel Jepson, the sophomores by Whitney Hardy, and the freshmen by Joe Valentino.

“[We’re proud to be] representing our grade as freshmen,” freshman Meriem Awlaki said.

Students and teachers preparing for the bowl receive a list of questions and answers about “awareness of African-American contributions or contributions of people of African descent to history and to the greater world culture, but particularly to American history,” Berry said.

While the BHB may honor African-American contributions, teams typically represent several ethnicities.

“I know that for us, this year, we’ve got several different nationalities, not just African-American,” freshman team coach and former BHB judge Joe Valentino said.

Participating students like Awlaki and freshman Rebecca Soulen train with coaches by studying the provided questions and answers.

"[The hardest part will be] the learning and memorization," Soulen said. "[Our team is looking forward to] learning more about Black History."

Participants do not go unrewarded for their hard work. The BHB is funded by the PTSA and they provide the winning team with \$200, half of which goes to their class treasury. The remaining money is divided among the team members.

AHS will hold the BHB on Feb. 28 during school hours. Limited sign-up is available for auditorium seating, and sponsors are hoping to stream a live video of the competition to W4 classes.

"I hope that my team and everybody else will learn more about the subject," Valentino said. "That's really the whole goal for everybody, the audience and the participants, that they leave smarter than they were when they came in."

Juniors win annual Black History Bowl

The audience falls silent with anticipation as host Jeremiah Davis announces the last question of the Black History Bowl. After playing to a tie in regulation, junior and sophomore contestants sit tensely at their buzzers waiting to answer the sudden death bonus question and, with it, win the title of Black History Bowl Champions.

"Besides the long jump, what other events was Carl Lewis known for?"

Almost immediately, junior Freddie Johnson hits the buzzer and

answers, "He was known for the 100 meter sprint, 200 meter sprint, 4×200 meter relay and 4×100 meter relay."

And with that, the junior class took home the win and \$150 to their class fund.

The annual Black History Bowl was held on Feb. 18 in the auditorium, with dozens of students and classes packed into the main level floor as well as the balcony.

The Black History Bowl is an event in which student representatives from each class compete in a questionnaire relevant to black history. These contestants were given material to study a month ahead of time to prepare for the event.

This year, there were six categories: Sports, Government and Politics, Science and Medicine, Great African Americans, Music and the toss-up section where any team can answer.

The freshman team consisted of Omnia Saed, Elisha Musih, Jordan Scroggins and Michael Dardin. The sophomore team consisted of Alexis Garretson, Olivia Buckley, Thien Mai and alternate Robert Truong. The junior team consisted of Johnson, Bryna Harrod, Andy Tran and alternate Quan Ngo. The senior team consisted of Gabe Litvin, Zoha Khan, Sandra Lee and alternate Kelvin Galos.

The junior team emerged victorious with a score of 280 points, while the sophomores were in a close second with 260 points. The freshman took third with 80 points and the seniors finished in last with -20 points.

After the final Music section, Davis announced the tie between the sophomores and the juniors, and that they would both have a final showdown for the win with a new question that anyone on those two teams could answer.

"Good job to the juniors; they studied hard," the sophomore

team said after the showdown.

“[It was a] great bowl, [the] kids were absolutely wonderful. We had a lot of help from leadership and teachers and the crowd was great,” Kathlyn Berry said. Berry is the sponsor of the Black Cultural Awareness Association and was the organizer of the event.

The crowd was great, breaking into a chant to bring senior alternate Galos back at one point, and were entertained with Davis dancing and singing to an LL Cool J song.

Black History Bowl tomorrow in flexes

With posters of famous African Americans lining the hallway, [Black History Month](#) has officially kicked off at AHS. The posters, created by students in the Social Studies Honor Society, are among the many traditions that are occurring during the month of February. Students in each class are also preparing to compete in the annual Black History Bowl.

The Black History Bowl is sponsored by the Black Culture Awareness Association (BCAA) and the history department. Each grade will be represented by three students in the competition and the winning team receives \$100 for their class treasury and \$20-\$25 for each team member. The event will be held during an extended W6 flex on Feb. 18 and teachers can sign their classes up to attend. The questions will range from historical events, music, famous athletes, politicians and other people who changed the course of history.

“The black culture is often not seen throughout daily life and

it is a great culture that can be seen through many people," senior and president of the BCAA Zeni Saife-Selassie said. "It is very vibrant and that is what started AHS on the road to diversity."

The BCAA, which meets every Monday at 2:15 in room 287, has also contributed the Black History Month acts of the day to the afternoon announcements.

The turnout for participants for the bowl has been large this year. History teacher Joel Jepson, who is coaching the junior team, had eight students express interest and had to hold tryouts to limit the team down to three students. Out of the eight students who tried out, four are members of the Social Studies Honor Society. The junior team has been practicing with the It's Academic buzzers to prepare for Friday. "I competed last year and I liked the competition and there's a \$100 prize," junior Andy Tran said, who was trying out for Jepson's team.

Each class coach has been holding practices with their students in preparation for the bowl. Though each sponsor would like their team to win, they are all keeping the good humored spirit of the competition intact. "I gave them packets on topics that we be covered. They are divided up so that each person can be more of an expert," history teacher Gregory Commons said. "I've been doing this for three or four years."

In addition to Jepson and Commons, history teacher Meghan Saladino is the coach of the sophomore team and health teacher Peggy Capehart is the coach of the freshman team.

According to the Library of Congress, the theme of National Black History Month is "African Americans and the Civil War." The theme is especially topical because last year was the 150th anniversary of the start of the Civil War. The focus of this theme is how African Americans worked to earn freedom and equal civil rights. The month-long event is sponsored by the

Library of Congress, National Endowment for the Humanities, Smithsonian Institution, National Gallery of Art, National Archives and Records Administration, National Park Service and United States Holocaust Memorial Museum.

The event began as [Negro History Week](#) in 1926 during a week in February that encompassed both President Abraham Lincoln and abolitionist [Frederick Douglass](#)' birthday. In 1976, it was expanded to a month-long event, during the United States' bicentennial and 50 years after the first Negro History Week.

As the participants of the bowl cram knowledge into their heads, many students are eagerly awaiting the competition. The winning award is something that each class could use in their treasury and the bragging rights are an excellent added bonus. For the BCAA and the history department, the bowl represents an attempt to educate the students about important people who made a difference in history. “[I hope that] people become more knowledgeable and tolerant about other cultures,” Saife-Selassie said.