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ON THE COVER: The Howard University, "Ooh La La" Dance Team; Photographer Reggie Culbertson



LETTER FROM THE PUBLISHER

Thank you for picking up this issue of HBCU CONNECT On Campus. We are full of optimism for this first issue of 2013 and believe that great things are in store. Since our founding in 1999 as a website allowing HBCU alumni to connect and stay in touch, we have grown into a useful resource for not only alumni, but HBCU students, staff, faculty, prospective students, and their families. We wouldn't have made it this far without you so again, thank you!

One feature that you want to be sure to peep out is our "Campus All Stars" section, full of photos and profiles of our featured students from HBCU's. We have a great article to prepare you for "the real world" entitled "Life after College", as well as an insightful "Interview with an Alumnus" to give you a taste of what to expect after the student phase of your life is complete. This quarter we feature an interview with Central State University alum Jeffrey Coulter.

For seniors, graduation time is upon us! For other students we are looking forward to another successful year completed. Here's to you, and whatever you do, don't lose sight of your goals!

Enjoy the summer, whether you are still in classes, or taking a much needed break.

Please feel free to reach out to me with your feedback, comments or suggestions at will.moss@hbcuconnect.com.

Will Moss

Will Moss, Publisher – will.moss@hbcuconnect.com

Studying Abroad:

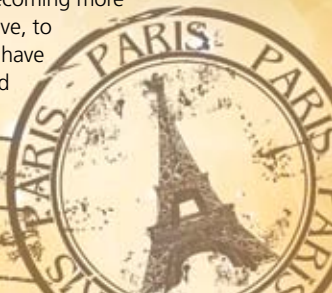
Golden Opportunity or ‘Glorified Vacation’?

By Lashonda Cooks

If life is the ultimate Olympiad, then college commencement is simply the opening ceremony. After caps and gowns are disrobed, degrees are distributed and the pomp and circumstance has come to a close, the real games begin.

Today's graduates may not face the pressure of competing before a panel of taciturn judges or stadiums full of cheering fans, but they nevertheless will compete against the best and brightest of their fields across the globe for jobs, careers, and advancement. Studying abroad is one option that can offer the college student a leg up on the competition. A 2010 NAFSA: Association of International Educators survey of 1,222 American likely voters found that 63 percent polled believed that “in order to thrive in the global workplace, more students need the opportunity to participate in a study abroad program” while in college.

“With companies’ business strategies becoming more global and less U.S.-centric, it is imperative, to be an executive in the future, for you to have a study abroad experience,” Dallas-based Human Resources Consultant Marvin Jones echoed.

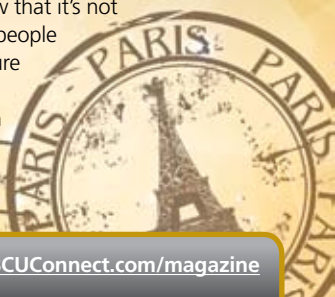


A 2009 Institute for International Education survey found that 30 percent of 206 corporate CEOs surveyed had studied abroad, yet relatively few American college students take advantage of the opportunity. Only 270,000 of the estimated 12.2 million undergraduate students, less than 1 percent, enrolled in four year colleges and universities studied abroad in the 2009/2010 school year.

Of those 270,000 students taking advantage of study-abroad opportunities, less than 5 percent were African-American. Data from the 2012 Open Doors Report by the Institute of International Education (IIE) shows that while these numbers are on the rise, the fact remains that the vast majority of students simply don't study abroad at any time during their academic programs.

The U.S. State Department sought to address this discrepancy with key countries through its "100,000 Strong" initiative. The initiative was launched in May 2010 with the goal of increasing the number and diversity of students studying abroad in China by making the voyage more affordable through scholarships and grants. In March 2011, it was expanded to include opportunities in Latin American and the Caribbean countries.

"Many young people are struggling just to afford a regular semester of school, let alone pay for the airline tickets and the living expenses to go halfway around the world. So we know that it's not enough for us to simply encourage more people to study abroad. We also need to make sure that they can actually afford it," First Lady Michelle Obama told Howard University in January 2011.



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Yes or Yes!

By Keilah Joyner

Is Hampton University still a historically black university? I found myself nervously answering that question when asked by an older Caucasian woman. "Yes it is."

The conversation went on as normal, reciting the coerced answers. At the end of the conversation I pondered why I was nervous. While I am confident to announce that I attend a historically black university when questioned by other minorities, I asked myself do I have the same pride in conversation with the majority. In the competitive society, people tend to discredit the HBCU education

My freshman year at Hampton University, I was required to take a course to enlighten students on the history of Hampton University. I admit at the time I was not a fan of University 101. At the time, I was naïve to the significance of courses such as University 101.

University courses serve as the bond between the student and the university. They are set into place to strengthen pride in your school pride. So much so that when asked whether your school is a historically black university by majority, you can proudly say "Yes" eliminating the trepidation and replacing it with power. The boastful "Yes" stems from reminiscing when you learned that you attended the same university of noted educator Booker T. Washington (Hampton), 2001-2005 US Secretary of Education Roderick Paine (Jackson State), prominent television host and entrepreneur Oprah Winfrey (Tennessee State).

The criticism surrounding historically black colleges and universities will never cease. However, we must remember that our actions are a direct influence on how society perceives historically black institutions. Do not be intimidated when the majority asks whether you attended an HBCU. Do not be a disservice. Instead proudly declare, "Yes, I did" and begin to proclaim the knowledge the university instilled.

LIFE *after* COLLEGE

By Zeena Garnett

I can remember it like it was yesterday. May of 2011, I proudly walked across the stage at Harrisburg, Pennsylvania's Forum Auditorium, to receive a bachelor's degree in corporate communications from Central Pennsylvania College. Finally all of my hard work had paid off; late nights studying, early morning cram sessions, noisy roommates—it was all worth it! Despite the ups and downs leading up to the event, it remains one of the proudest moments in my life. Graduating from college is a great accomplishment, especially if, like myself, you are one of the first in your family to do so.

Fast forward a few months ahead. Instead of landing a job as a journalist, public relations specialist, social media coordinator or another fancy title within the communications field, I found myself as a team member at a fast food restaurant, juggling two jobs on and off. I didn't understand how this could be! I had maintained good grades throughout my college career, even making Dean's List on numerous occasions. I had established a good rapport among classmates and faculty members. There wasn't a professor who wouldn't give me an outstanding recommendation. I was active in campus activities, assuming the role as president of my school's public relations club and the list goes on and on.

It was mind boggling and discouraging that I found myself in this predicament. The very point of attending college was to get a degree that would allow me to have a career, not just a job, or so I thought. Out of all of the things that I learned in school, this was the one thing that college did not prepare me for.

>> Continue reading this article on HBCUConnect.com/magazine



How not to Blow Your Refund Check

By Masani
Bailey

It was the fall semester of 2010. I was a freshman at Florida A&M University with both newfound funds and newfound freedom. Rick Ross' B.M.F. was the number 1 song on the radio and after waiting for my net check a grueling month and a half after my scheduled disbursement date I was ready to ball. I thought I was "Big Meech," Larry Hoover—But I wasn't. Three months, one homecoming, and a holiday season later, I had balled too hard. Every semester, students anticipate their financial aid refund, also known as a "net-check" to "drop," that is to say, to add a few zeros to their bank accounts. But are we abusing this money? With interest rates doubling for student loans, I asked students about their experiences with their net-checks and tips on how not-to blow it.

For college students, the impulse to spend is natural, but if left untamed it can cost you later. Kenya Strickland, a third year African American Studies major, says that spending and saving is a balancing act. "I know you want to look fresh for the set and get tickets to every party but you're going to be looking rather sad once the partying is over and all you have left are these material items looking back at you."

Charnise Sanders believes that saving for necessities is imperative. Sanders, a third year pre-physical therapy major, stressed the importance of saving for food: "You will definitely regret it when your flex-bucks run out and you're tired of café food and you can't afford groceries."

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**Veterans Health
Administration**

* Campus All Stars *



Laurel Huffman

University of Maryland E.S.
Human Ecology
Class of 2014



Jimmika Robinson

Howard University
Marketing
Class of 2015



T'Edra Jackson

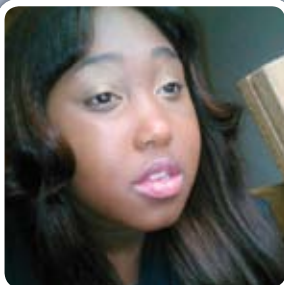
Paul Quinn College
Business Management
Class of 2015



Paije Bluit

Paine College
Nursing
Class of 2016

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Ciera' Harris
N.C. Central University
Political Science
Class of 2014



Imani Rodman
Howard University
Public Relations
Class of 2013



Kendall Barksdale
Clark Atlanta University
English
Class of 2014



Latrice Stevenson
Clafin University
Mass Communications
Class of 2013

* Campus All Stars *



Jerome Bailey Jr.
Dillard University
Mass Communications
Class of 2013



Whitney White
Willberforce University
Mass Communications
Class of 2013



Zarreen Johnson
Virginia State University
Mass Communications
Class of 2014



Marcus Swanson
Stillman College
History/Pre Law
Class of 2015

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Edgar Williams

Jackson State University
Music Education
Class of 2013



DeQuana Jones

Claflin University
Biology
Class of 2015



Brianna Stewart

Spelman College
Biomedical Engineering
Class of 2015



Ericka Chambers

Savannah State University
Visual & Performing Arts
Class of 2013

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Matthew Ellis
Morehouse College
Business Management
Class of 2013



Jamon Pulliam
Tuskegee University
Psychology
Class of 2015



Ambril McLaurin
Clark Atlanta University
Fashion Design
Class of 2015



Dominique Walker
Bennett College
Political Science
Class of 2015

* Campus All Stars *



Paris Proctor

Florida A&M University
Business Administration
Class of 2013



Kara Washington

Spelman College
Math & English
Class of 2015



Jason Walls

Livingstone College
Computer Info. Systems
Class of 2013



Siniyah Smith

Howard University
Public Relations
Class of 2015

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Maurice Jackson
Florida A&M University
Accounting
Class of 2014



Alycia Singletary
Hampton University
Political Science
Class of 2016



Brian Stewart
Morgan State University
Business Administration
Class of 2014



Willette Hudson
Voorhees College
Sociology
Class of 2013

* Campus All Stars *



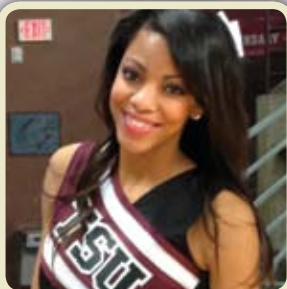
Jonela Rogers

Fayetteville State University
Biotechnology
Class of 2013



Elijah Buford

Morehouse College
Business Management
Class of 2014



Dani Wells

Texas Southern University
Biology
Class of 2015



Bharati Singh

Claflin University
Business Administration
Class of 2015



Tiasara Arties
Hampton University
Pharmacy
Class of 2016



Alicia Elcock
Howard University
Legal Communications
Class of 2015



Erica Lawson
Morgan State University
Business Administration
Class of 2013



Allisiana Davis
Huston-Tillotson University
English
Class of 2013

* Campus All Stars *



Christine Jenkins
Howard University
Telecommunications
Class of 2013



Jonique Lynch
N.C. A&T State Univ.
Public Relations
Class of 2014



Shakya Taylor
Johnson C. Smith Univ.
Criminal Justice
Class of 2014



Nichelle Olivier
Howard University
Physician Assistance
Class of 2015



Cydney Fisher
Spelman College
Women's Studies
Class of 2014



Shari Gardner
Howard University
Dance
Class of 2015

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Samantha Williams
Hampton University
Environmental Sciences
Class of 2015



Tochukwu Nwozor
Huston-Tillotson Univ.
Accounting
Class of 2015



Jasmine Jenkins
Spelman College
Psychology
Class of 2013



Ashley Buchanan
Bennett College
Business Administration
Class of 2013



Kiara Williams
Grambling State Univ.
Social Work
Class of 2015



Faith Kibuye
Benedict College
Env. Health Science
Class of 2015



INTERVIEW WITH AN ALUMNUS:

Jeffrey Coulter

By Elynor Moss

There is nothing better than first hand advice from someone who has traveled the same road as you. Jeffrey Coulter a Central State University graduate would like to give you insight on what his college experience was like. Learn from his challenges and successes!

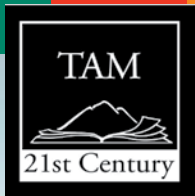
HC: What was your major and why did you select it?

JC: My major was manufacturing engineering. Originally, I wanted to major in architecture, but the school did not have that major available and the next best thing relating to it was engineering. I started to like engineering in my second year, I started learning cool stuff and what applications you can adapt to it.

HC: What was the toughest part about college? If you could go back, what would you do differently?

JC: The most challenging part about college is time management, especially when you advance to higher, upperclassman status. If I could go back to that time I don't know if I could conquer time management but I would put more concentration into my major. One of the biggest mistakes I made was my lack of concentration and dedication toward my senior design project during my senior year. Unfortunately, the lack of time management prolonged the completion of my senior project and I had to come back and spend half of a school year and a couple of months to finalize the senior design project!

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(Keyword: Tamalpais Union High School District)

What You Should Be Doing the Summer Before Starting Law School

By Evangeline M. Mitchell, Esq., Ed.M.

The summer before law school began, I was eager and excited about starting the journey to earn my J.D. I knew that I would be attending the University of Iowa College of Law beginning that August. My big concern was that I wasn't sure if I actually wanted to go to the state of Iowa. Looking back, although that was something important to consider, that was really the least of my concerns. There was a lot more I should have been preoccupied with. I was actually going to be a law student but I really had no idea about what that really meant or what I should be doing to prepare. I spent that summer after college graduation working at a Houston-area museum to earn extra money for expenses until I received my financial aid.

I figured that I had done well academically in school all of my life, so why should law school be any different? The only thing I did to "prepare" was read two recommended books including *One L* by Scott Turow (chronicling the first-year experience of a former Stanford professor turned Harvard law student which is considered a classic in law student circles) and *The Alchemy of Race and Rights: Diary of a Law Professor* (a book in the category of an area of legal study known as critical race theory which examines the intersection of race and the law) by Patricia J. Williams. These were interesting and enlightening reads that I would recommend, but reflecting back I sincerely believe I should have done so much more.

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HBCUConnect.com, the #1 resource for students and alumni of Historically Black Colleges and Universities, is proud to offer the 2013 HBCUCONNECT.COM Scholarship Program for HBCU students.

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