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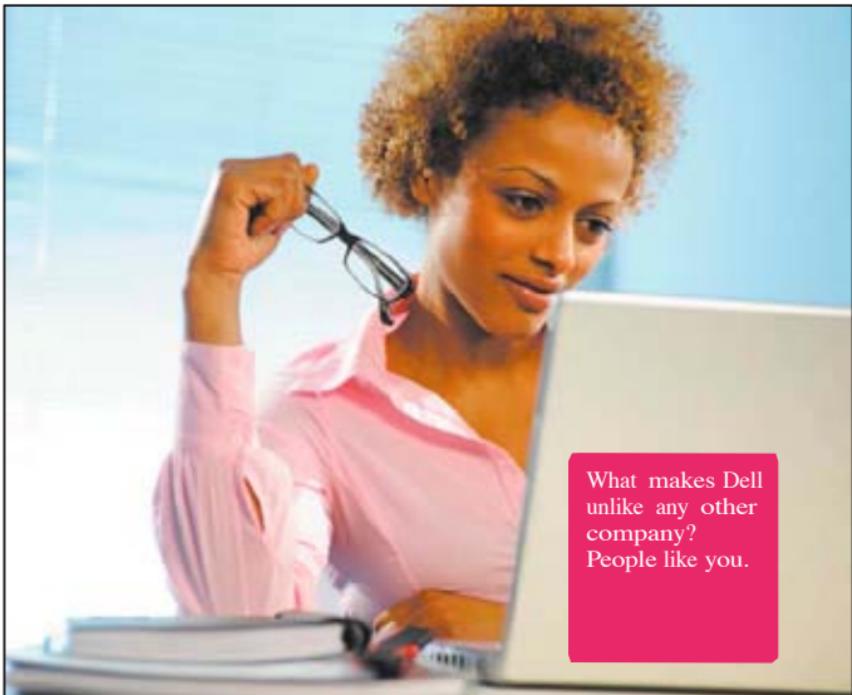
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ON THE COVER: The Howard University, "Ooh La La" Dance Team; Photographer Reggie Culbertson



## 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](mailto:will.moss@hbcuconnect.com).

*Will Moss*

Will Moss, Publisher – [will.moss@hbcuconnect.com](mailto: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.



# 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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**Laurel Huffman**

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



**Jimmika Robinson**

Howard University  
Marketing  
Class of 2015



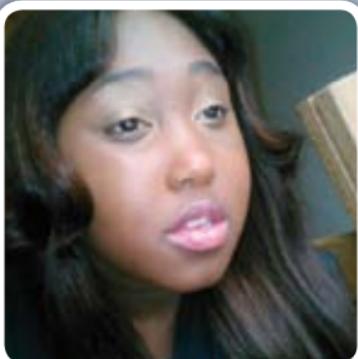
**T'Edra Jackson**

Paul Quinn College  
Business Management  
Class of 2015



**Paije Bluitt**

Paine College  
Nursing  
Class of 2016



**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**  
Claflin University  
Mass Communications  
Class of 2013

### \*Campus All Stars\*



**Jerome Bailey Jr.**  
Dillard University  
Mass Communications  
Class of 2013



**Whitney White**  
Wilberforce 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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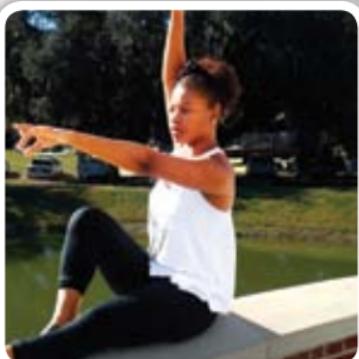
**Edgar Williams**  
Jackson State University  
Music Education  
Class of 2013



**DeQuana Jones**  
Claflin University  
Biology  
Class of 2015



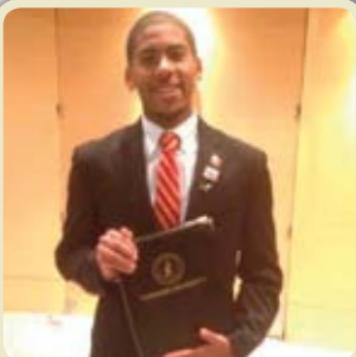
**Brianna Stewart**  
Spelman College  
Biomedical Engineering  
Class of 2015



**Ericka Chambers**  
Savannah State University  
Visual & Performing Arts  
Class of 2013



**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



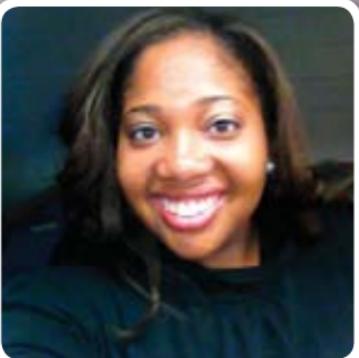
**Maurice Jackson**  
Florida A&M University  
Accounting  
Class of 2014



**Alycia Singletary**  
Hampton University  
Political Science  
Class of 2016



**Brian Stewart**  
Morgan State University  
Business Administration  
Class of 2014

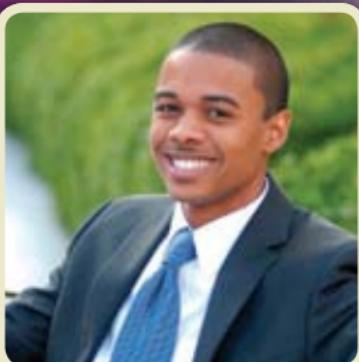


**Willette Hudson**  
Voorhees College  
Sociology  
Class of 2013

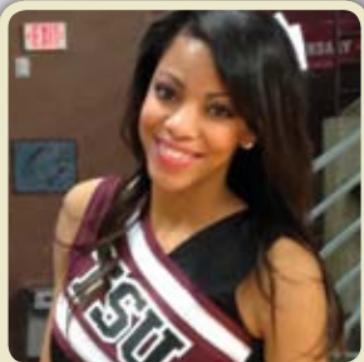
### \*Campus All Stars\*



**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



**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



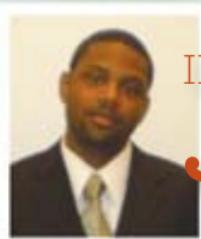
**Ashley Buchanan**  
Bennett College  
Business Administration  
Class of 2013



**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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