



# NEWS

## June/July 2012

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### *Featured Stories*

### *SHI – Where Are They Now?*

As part of an ongoing series, we will profile former participants of the Bunche Center's Summer Humanities Institute (SHI). Funded through a generous grant from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation and by the University of California Office of the President, SHI is a highly successful program providing rigorous academic training to high-potential undergraduate students primarily from Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) to prepare them for successful graduate study in the humanities and humanistic social sciences.

SHI has successfully prepared students from HBCUs to flourish in graduate school and in the workforce as they pursue humanities or humanistic social science careers – vital areas of study in which minority scholars are woefully underrepresented. SHI alumni have received advanced degrees or are enrolled in Masters and Ph.D. programs at a wide range of prestigious institutions, including Yale, Brown, Cornell, Auburn, Harvard, Penn State, Duke, and UCLA. They have also been recipients of prestigious Fulbright Fellowships and gone on to pursue careers in academia.

We recently caught up with two alumni and discussed their experiences in the program. Kelvin White participated in the program in its first year and is now an Assistant Professor in the School of Library and Information Studies at the University of Oklahoma, Norman. Selah Johnson, a Spelman graduate, took part a few years ago and is currently pursuing her PhD in history at UCLA.

**Kelvin White**



Ed. You were in the first year of SHI in 2001. Tell us about your experience.

K.W. I think SHI basically opened the doors for the career I have today. When I was an undergrad, I had no idea that I was going to pursue a graduate degree or a career in academia. SHI introduced me to the world of research and that's where I really fell in love with it. SHI at UCLA was a wonderful start and the reason I am where I am at now.

## ***Featured Stories (continued)***

Ed. What do you feel you got from participating in SHI?

K.W. Definitely an introduction to graduate school, in terms of this is the way it is, like it or not. For people who are experimenting, it was a good way to discover if it was for you.

Ed. Mentoring has always been a large component of the SHI program. Do you stay in touch your mentor?

K.W. Yes, mine was Paul Von Blum (Senior Lecturer, UCLA Department of Communications Studies/African American Studies). Paul and I are in contact on occasion.

Ed. Do you stay in touch with members of your SHI cohort?

K.W. Yes, yes, yes, just for fun, not professionally really. But I like to see where everyone went and what they did with their studies.

Ed. How else has SHI influenced you?

K.W. Right now with a grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services, I'm involved in a program which helps develop emerging archival scholars. It's not an immersion program like SHI, but the goal is similar – to try to encourage diverse young scholars into information studies. Do you know that I'm the only African American archival studies professor with a PhD in the nation? That's why we're trying to diversify the field.

To read the full article, visit the Bunche Center website at: [www.bunchecenter.ucla.edu/index.php/2012/05/center-talk/](http://www.bunchecenter.ucla.edu/index.php/2012/05/center-talk/)



**Selah Johnson**

Ed. Tell us about your SHI experience.

S.J. I attended in 2008. My research project was a comparative study of the 1959 Cuban revolution to the Black Power and Civil Rights Movement in United States. I compared and contrasted health care, poor housing conditions, and jobs as factors triggering revolt.

Ed. What do you feel you learned at SHI?

S.J. I got exposure not only to what would be expected once [I] got into grad school, but to research training at that level. That was definitely a plus. And I think the experience of the seminars really prepared me for the heavy reading and what was to be expected. I'm glad I got that exposure early. There is a lot of reading in grad school – I have roughly 500 pages during the next week. At SHI, I learned the art of skimming!

Ed. What are you doing today?

S.J. I am finishing the course work for the second year of my PhD History program, with a focus on American history. It is the last quarter before moving into my thesis prospectus (proposal). My thesis will be about the impact of residential segregation in Washington, D.C. and how it impacted civil rights in that region.

Ed. Do you stay in touch with your SHI mentors?

S.J. First year I was better about staying in touch with my faculty mentor, Paul Von Blum. He wrote my recommendation to get into graduate school. The only reason I applied to UCLA is because of my mentor's suggestion.

To read the full article, visit the Bunche Center website at: [www.bunchecenter.ucla.edu/index.php/2012/05/center-talk/](http://www.bunchecenter.ucla.edu/index.php/2012/05/center-talk/)

## Announcements



### Black Music Month

In honor of Black Music Month, TV One celebrates with concerts, movies and specials that acknowledge the contributions made by African-American artists to America's music industry, such as Denise Williams (pictured), Stevie Wonder, Michael Jackson and others. In addition, TV One is bringing back the first of eight all-new episodes of its series *Unsung* on June 25 at 9p. The series opens with a look at the '60s and '70s funk and soul group Sly and the Family Stone.

For TV One's lineup, please visit <http://tvone.tv/press-releases/669-tv-one-kicks-off-black-music-month>

## Programs & Events

### UCLA COLLEGE COMMENCEMENT

#### Commencement Ceremonies

June 14 – June 17, 2012

3:00 pm, Various - Campus Locations

Graduation ceremonies and celebrations. Tickets required to some events. Please check here for details: [www.commencement.ucla.edu/tickets.cfm](http://www.commencement.ucla.edu/tickets.cfm)

June 17, 2012, 6:00pm – 8:30pm

**The 33rd annual Afrikan Peoples Graduation Ceremony**  
UCLA's Royce Hall



This year's theme for Afrikan graduation is the Adinkra symbol, "SE WO WERE FI NA WOSANKOFA A YENKYI" which translates to "go back for that which you have for gotten; go back and get It", signifying the continued quest for knowledge and life-long education. The class of 2012 has become masters of forming community on campus in order to navigate the university and refuses to forget the communities from which we come that have molded us into the graduates that we are about to become. For more information, visit the Bunche Center website at [www.bunchecenter.ucla.edu/index.php/ai1ec\\_event/2012-afrikan-graduation-ceremony/?instance\\_id=76595](http://www.bunchecenter.ucla.edu/index.php/ai1ec_event/2012-afrikan-graduation-ceremony/?instance_id=76595)

## Faculty News



**Antronette Yancey**

Bunche Center affiliated faculty member **Dr. Antronette Yancey** received the Pioneering Innovation Award from the Center for Disease Control for her efforts on behalf of obesity prevention & control initiatives. [www.marketwatch.com/story/cdc-recognizes-obesity-prevention-and-control-initiatives-with-pioneering-innovation-awards-2012-05-09](http://www.marketwatch.com/story/cdc-recognizes-obesity-prevention-and-control-initiatives-with-pioneering-innovation-awards-2012-05-09)

**Dr. Mignon Moore**, sociologist and Bunche Center affiliated faculty member, received the American Sociological Association Sex and Gender section's 2012 Distinguished Book Award for her book, *Invisible Families* [www.soc.ucla.edu/faculty-honors-awards-grants.html](http://www.soc.ucla.edu/faculty-honors-awards-grants.html)



**Mignon Moore**

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Gifts to the Bunche Center support our commitment to teaching, research, and service, ensuring that a UCLA education remains accessible and that the caliber of its scholarship and research is peer to none. Your individual gift helps support vital research, programs and services.

For information on how to include the Bunche Center at UCLA in your giving plans, please contact 310-825-7403, visit the Bunche Center website at [www.bunchecenter.ucla.edu](http://www.bunchecenter.ucla.edu), or go to: <https://giving.ucla.edu/Bunche>



## Library & Media



The Bunche Library and Media Center (LMC) will host a booth at the **Leimert Park Village Book Fair**, June 30<sup>th</sup> from 10:00am to 5:00p.m. Please stop by and discover what the LMC has to offer. For more information about the fair, please visit: [www.leimertparkbookfair.com](http://www.leimertparkbookfair.com)

During the summer, the library is open by appointment only. Research and reference questions by phone and email are always welcome. The Librarian can be reached at 310-825-6060 or by email at [dhunter@bunche.ucla.edu](mailto:dhunter@bunche.ucla.edu). For more about the library visit:

[www.bunchecenter.ucla.edu](http://www.bunchecenter.ucla.edu), click on Library and Media Center. Regular hours will resume at the start of the Fall quarter. Have a great summer!

## Interdepartmental Program Afro-American Studies



### Afro-Am Graduation, Saturday, June 16, 11:30am\*\*\*

The UCLA AFRO-Am Graduation for Afro-Am majors, double-majors, minors, MA and MA/JD students will be held on Saturday, June 16. The Ceremony will be from 11:30a.m. to 1:30p.m. in the Fowler Museum, Lenart Auditorium. A reception will follow. A limited number of free tickets for the event are available and information on obtaining tickets is forthcoming. \*\*\*Please note – this event is NOT the same as the *Afrikan Graduation* on Sunday, June 17. For additional information, please contact: 310-825-9821 or visit [www.afro-am.ucla.edu](http://www.afro-am.ucla.edu).

In recognition of his outstanding scholarship, Jonathan Collins, a first year student in the UCLA Afro-American Studies MA Program, was recently bestowed with a Corda Robles Fellowship and acceptance into the PhD program in Political Science at UCLA. He will accelerate work on his masters and begin his PhD in the fall. Collins, a graduate of Morehouse College where he majored in English and Political Science, hails from Jackson, Tennessee, but as he says, “has found a new home at UCLA.”

Collins is extremely grateful for the support and opportunities he has been given since coming to UCLA. While still an undergrad, he was selected from a highly competitive group of junior and senior applicants to participate in the Ralph J. Bunche Center Summer Humanities Institute. “SHI provided me with a taste of what life would be like as a graduate student at a top-tier research institution.” Collins was then accepted into the UCLA Afro-American Studies graduate program. “The university has extended me a set of amazing opportunities. UCLA has shown an extreme willingness to invest in my development as a scholar.”

Collins is effusive when it comes to talking about the professors and staff who have supported him through this process. “Professor Mark Sawyer has helped carve the academic path at UCLA through which I tread, and Dr. Lisbeth Gant-Britton fought hard for me, both of them making my stepping stones toward success possible. I am extremely appreciative of their work.”



**Jonathan Collins**

## ***External Opportunities***



### **New Cosmic Frontiers International Science Essay Competition**

The New Cosmic Frontiers International Science Essay Competition on the Nature of our Universe and its Habitats is open to college and high school students worldwide. The competition is designed to inspire students to consider careers in science, to nurture their enthusiasm for the subject, and to engage young minds in creative, intellectual activities essential to scientific endeavors. The first-prize winners will be awarded cash prizes of \$25,000 (for high school students) and \$50,000 (for college students). Winners also will be given an opportunity to meet world-renowned scientists and scholars at a conference and award ceremony, to be held in Philadelphia, October 12-13, 2012. Deadline for entry is June 15, 2012.

The college category is open to undergraduate students registered full-time at a college or university at the time of submission. Part-time college students are not eligible. For additional information, visit the Bunche Center website at [www.bunchecenter.ucla.edu/index.php/category/research/fellowships-research-grants-external-opportunities/](http://www.bunchecenter.ucla.edu/index.php/category/research/fellowships-research-grants-external-opportunities/)

### **WGA Feature Access Project**



Open to WGA members, this peer judging program seeks to increase access of minority feature film writers to studio executives and feature film producers as well as agents and managers. The deadline is July 6, 2012. For more information visit: [www.wga.org/content/default.aspx?id=4849](http://www.wga.org/content/default.aspx?id=4849)

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[www.youtube.com/user/uclabunchecenter](http://www.youtube.com/user/uclabunchecenter)

You can also get info on the new Institute for American Cultures (IAC) website at [www.iac.ucla.edu](http://www.iac.ucla.edu) or visit the Afro-American Studies Department website at [www.afro-am.ucla.edu/](http://www.afro-am.ucla.edu/)

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