President’s Post

Fellow Alumni,

I hope that you all had a great summer. The UCI Black Alumni Chapter (BAC) has been very busy raising funds on behalf of students and creating networking opportunities for Alumni. In July we held a jazz event, "A White and Gold Affair!" It was held at my home. The jazz band, "Something Smooth" was the main attraction and they were good! For those in attendance, I'm glad that you came out to enjoy an evening of jazz and the BAC sincerely hopes that you enjoyed yourselves. We sure did! For those of you who weren't there, you missed out and we hope to see you next time.

In August an orientation for new freshman was also held at my home. Freshman orientations are held all over the state in specific communities. As Long Beach had over 100 students entering the university this year, it was selected as a location for an orientation. We had over 30 students and their parents in attendance. Barney Ellis Perry, Assistant Vice Chancellor of Alumni Relations was present and encouraged freshman to get involved in as many activities as possible. Students were both excited and anxious about starting college (remember those days). It was encouraging to see and hear from this generation of students.

What's next on the agenda for our chapter, we are currently planning a career day. Students have requested and are partnering with us to put on this event. It will include a panel mostly consisting of Black Alumni and other successful individuals representing various professions, including: arts and education, health, social and political sciences, business, law, engineering and physical sciences, etc. It will be held at UCI on Saturday, January 20th. In the coming months, we'll be reaching out to you, our fellow alumni, to participate on the panel. We'd like you to share information, give advice and guidance that will help the next generation to achieve their career goals.

We're looking forward to seeing you!

Tonya Burns, Class of '82
A White and Gold Affair

On July 29 an elegant event was held at the home of our BAC president. Over 50 UCI Alumni, their guests, and other UCI affiliates were in attendance. Alumni from the 1970’s, 80’s, 90’s, 2000 and 2010’s were present. We were pleased to have in attendance an entering freshman as well as one of the first graduates from the school of Biological Sciences, Dr. Edward Scott.

Tonya gave a warm welcome and the band got started. “Something Smooth” (band) was great. There was mixing and mingling, dancing and chatting and photos. A tasty selection of food and beverages were provided.

The event was a great success. We raised funds that will allow our chapter to more effectively support our students. The board appreciates all who came and those who helped to support the event.
Alumni Spotlight
James P. Shirley UCI Class of 1977 currently serves as, President, Nu Tau Lambda Chapter, Orange County of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. Nu Tau Lambda Chapter graciously provided $6,000.00 in scholarships to six students this year. Four of the six students will attend UCI this fall. The four incoming UCI students are listed below and will be recognized during Fall Harvest 2017.

James also serves as Vice President, Mentoring for our UCI Black Alumni Association. He is a UCI Life Alumnus and was one of many UCI Life Alumni members who were honored with their plaques on the UCI Spirit Wall for 2017 at the Newkirk Alumni Center on June 7, 2017.

Scholarship Recipients:
Bill Mansiantima, Chemical Engineering, $1,000.00
Brandon Samuels, Civil Engineering, $1,000.00
Christopher Jordan, Business Information Management, $1,000.00
Shane Johnson, Psychology, $1,000.00

Fall Harvest
On September 29 our chapter supported students are Fall Harvest 2017 by hosting a booth, handing our postcards and interacting with newly admitted students.

“Fall Harvest is a collaborative event co-hosted by the Office of the Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs (VCSA), the Center for Black Cultures, Resources, and Research (CBCRR), Black Faculty and Staff Association (BFSA) and the Black Student Union (BSU). It is attended by UCI faculty and staff, alumni and community partners dedicated to the success of our African American students and is a traditional event that connects newly admitted African American freshmen, transfer, graduate, and returning students to Black faculty, staff and resources from all across the campus. The event is filled with music, games, free food, raffle prizes, and other fun activities!”

UCI Black Alumni Chapter Board Members (2017-2019)
Mentoring students in college is imperative to their academic, personal and professional success.

Mentoring helps students to learn how to:
- Establish career goals and objectives
- Develop effective time management skills
- Obtain counsel from wiser and more experienced people
- Work through and manage conflict
- Receive critical and encouraging feedback
- Regroup, move onward and forward when faced with obstacles (including the loss of love ones)
- Be responsible and accountable for success
- Negotiate and make a “win-win” situation
- Be respectful, kind and helpful to other people
- Develop strong spiritual values & work ethics
- Develop integrity & leadership
- Communicate effectively, plan appropriately and develop interpersonal skills
- Delegate and work effectively with diverse groups and accomplish goals
- Multitask effectively and develop critical thinking skills
- Obtain internship positions in specific fields of study, which helps to get one step closer to career goals
- Use the power of networking
- Utilize the resources available at UCI
- Develop strong and lasting relationships with professors, colleagues, UCI, community leaders, other organizations, and the Orange County Business Commerce
- Always ask for help when needed
- Manage stress, understand business development, and improve writing, humor and presentation skills

Positions Still Open

The Board can still use your help. If you are interested in filling one of the vacancies below please reach out to our president.

- Secretary - vacant
- Parliamentarian - vacant

Upcoming Events

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More about these events will be included in subsequent newsletters.

Send publication ideas to ucibaa@gmail.com
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