OBSA Spring News

Alumni Issue

Celebrating Black Graduates of The Claremont Colleges

OBSA's yearly programming concludes with the annual Dr. Agnes Moreland Jackson Awards and Black Graduation, with keynote address by HMC alum Dr. Sheldon Logan (class of 2006) on Friday, May 17, 2019. We invite The Claremont Colleges community to join us in uplifting graduates of African descent at this annual ceremony. This month we celebrate Black achievement and success by highlighting the accomplishments of current students and alumni, and looking back at the 2019 Black Intersections Conference and the Black Alternabreak service project. As 2019 marks OBSA's 50th Anniversary, we plan to reflect upon the history of the center and the many ways Black students create space, thrive and make significant contributions to The Claremont Colleges, surrounding communities, and on national and global platforms, including our monthly Good News detailing the achievements of our graduates. Don't miss the opportunity to submit ideas for OBSA's 50th anniversary theme and logo contests!

https://services.claremont.edu/OBSA/
ALUMNI-STUDENT MENTORSHIP
BEHIND OBSA’S ONLINE COMMUNITY of 7C GRADUATES & CURRENT STUDENTS

MEMBER QUOTES

“[My mentee] and I are in our second round of communication and I’m so excited to be paired with her!”
Mentor (November 2018)

“The program is really cool and [my mentor] is an awesome mentor.”
Mentee (November 2018)

“I think establishing the program and making this a resource available to students is incredible in of itself.”
Mentee (November 2018)

“I think the program is doing well. I love having a mentor and getting the messages from [my mentor] about her experiences and how they relate to mine.”
Mentee (December 2018-January 2019)

“I really think that you all were intentional with the mentee-mentor matches because I think I connect with my mentor in a lot of ways.”
Mentee (December 2018-January 2019)

“I appreciate recapping the topics we’ve discussed via survey”
Mentor (December 2018-January 2019)

PROGRAM STATS

7 Claremont Colleges represented

33 Mentor-Mentee groups

60 Mentors and Mentees enrolled for the 2018-2019 academic year

141 Black Alumni in OBSA’s database*

MEET THE CGU DOCTORAL STUDENT BEHIND OBSA’S ALUMNI ENGAGEMENT INITIATIVES

Cleopatre Thelus

OBSA’s Black Alumni outreach, data, mentoring and LinkedIn communities are managed by Cleopatre Thelus, Claremont Graduate University doctoral student and OBSA’s graduate student manager for outreach and development. Thanks to Cleo’s research, partnerships and diligence, OBSA’s alumni engagement has skyrocketed in only three years, and the alumni-student mentoring program piloted successfully in 2018. Additionally, Cleo sources, identifies and secures the Black Graduation speaker from OBSA’s alumni database. OBSA and the Claremont Colleges are proud of Cleo’s many contributions to the office and on behalf of an array of 7C communities.

CLEOPATRE THELUS

Connect to OBSA’s Black Alumni communities today!
Contact: obsa_cleopatret@cuc.claremont.edu

*OBSA’S BLACK ALUMNI DATABASE BY INSTITUTION

Claremont Graduate University- 29
Harvey Mudd College- 3
Claremont McKenna College- 11
Pitzer College- 25
Scripps College- 26
Pomona College- 42
Keck Graduate Institute- 1

OBSA’s Black Alumni database reflects the Black Alumni currently enrolled in OBSA’s database via our yearly survey. Members of this group elect to virtually mentor Black 7C students, with opportunities for in-person connection.
STAY CONNECTED

OBSA 7C STUDENT ALUMNI VIRTUAL MENTORING PROGRAM

OBSA STAFF MATCHES APPLICANT BASED ON PREFERENCES TO PARTICIPATE AS AN ALUM OR CURRENT STUDENT!

APPLY ONLINE

FIND OBSA'S BLACK ALUMNI ASSOCIATION ON LINKEDIN: HTTP://BIT.LY/OBSABKALUMS
THE OFFICE OF BLACK STUDENT AFFAIRS PRESENTS

SUNDAY MAY 5, 2019 - 11 AM-1 PM
FOURTH ANNUAL ALUMNI WEEKEND OPEN HOUSE BRUNCH

Mingle with Alumni, Students, Faculty, Staff, and Families. Learn more about OBSA. Enjoy an early afternoon of great food and community!

Office of Black Student Affairs Bungalow
139 E. 7th Street, Claremont, CA 91711

To Register: https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/2019OBSABRUNCH

CONTACT: OBSA_CLEOPATRET@CUC.CLAREMONT.EDU
Join the Black Alumni Community of the Claremont Colleges!

450+ Alums on the OBSA LinkedIn Page

150+ Alums in the OBSA Black Alumni Database

100+ Alums in the Black Alumni Association LinkedIn Group
Join us in congratulating our OBSA Alumni Mentor of the year, Pitzer College alum Jamilah King (class of 2007), and celebrating the accomplishments and contributions of Claremont McKenna College alumni Winona Dorris (class of 1987) and Mylene Fotso (class of 2016).

WINONA DORRIS, CMC ’87
Winona Dorris is Chief Financial Officer (CFO) of Liberty Hill Foundation. Since graduating, Winona has continued to live in Los Angeles. During her 30+ years in business, she was head of finance at the XPRIZE foundation, and then transitioned as CFO at Liberty Hill Foundation at the end of 2018. She obtained an MBA from the University Of Phoenix in 1993, and has an extensive background in accounting, operations management, and financial analysis on behalf of an array of Fortune 500 companies.

Winona describes herself as a social justice advocate and believes that effectively communicating with all members of the organization has allowed her to grow in her field and develop skills to collaborate and work effectively with others. Winona is a mom of one, a daughter, who works as a social worker, housing veterans.

OBSA ALUMNI MENTOR OF THE YEAR
JAMILAH KING
PITZER COLLEGE ’07
Jamilah King is currently the Race and Justice reporter at Mother Jones, having previously worked as a senior staff writer at Mic, and a senior editor at Colorlines. Her writing and reporting have appeared in the Washington Post, Salon, NPR, MSNBC, and in the Advocate. As a Senior Fellow, Jamilah tested the curation and production of stories, strategies and big ideas at the intersection of pop culture and social justice. She produced two content packages called Break the Story for Pop Culture Collaborative to engage stakeholders and potential change agents in social justice, philanthropy and entertainment. newsletter and social media platforms. Jamilah’s content focused on critical narrative conversations, big strategy questions and emerging culture change models. Jamilah is an active mentor in OBSA’s alumni-student virtual mentoring program.

MYLENE FOTSO, CMC ’16
Mylene (Milly) Fotso graduated from CMC with a degree in Organizational Studies (concentration: social entrepreneurship), and began her career at L’Oréal in NYC, where she worked in the Management Development Program. Milly then entered the tech industry, and currently works for Facebook as an Account Manager under the retail vertical. Here, she works with 40 different brands on their marketing strategies. interfaces with their marketing teams, advises them on how to reach their business goals using the organization’s tools and so much more.

Milly is also launching a business called Peace of Home (www.peaceofhome.co) where people can find, move, and decorate their home all on one platform. Users communicate their needs via quiz and Peace of Home matches them 1:1 to professionals and coordinates the process.

JOIN THE BLACK ALUMNI COMMUNITY: HTTP://BIT.LY/OBSABLKALUMS
THE OFFICE OF BLACK STUDENT AFFAIRS
PRESENTS THE ANNUAL
DR. AGNES MORELAND JACKSON
SERVICE AWARDS AND

BLACK GRADUATION 2019
FRIDAY, MAY 17 | 11AM-2PM | LUNCH RECEPTION TO FOLLOW
POMONA COLLEGE SEAYER THEATRE
300 E BONITA AVE, CLAREMONT
KEYNOTE ADDRESS BY
DR. SHELDON LOGAN, HMC '06
WITH SPECIAL PERFORMANCE BY AFRICAN SOUL INTERNATIONAL

VISIT HTTPS://SERVICES.CLAREMONT.EDU/OBSA/BLACKGRAD FOR INFORMATION ABOUT:
SERVICE AWARD NOMINATIONS THRU APRIL 26
[FOR GRADUATES] REGISTRATION THRU MAY 3
DRESS REHEARSAL MAY 15
FREE HEADSHOTS APRIL 10 & 11
FREE KENTE STOLES* 
*AVAILABLE THE DAY OF BLACK GRADUATION ONLY

FACULTY & STAFF STAGE SEATING SIGN-UP THRU MAY 10
1. **SIGN UP**
   for participating Graduates, for Faculty and Staff stage seating, and to make Service Award Nominations.

Registration required for graduates by May 3. Faculty and staff stage seating sign up deadline is May 10. OBSA's website (below) has links to all registration forms including nomination forms for the Dr. Agnes Moreland Jackson service awards and FAQs. No registration required for general audience members.

[HTTPS://SERVICES.CLAREMONT.EDU/OBSA/BLACKGRAD](https://services.claremont.edu/OBSA/BLACKGRAD)

2. **SHOW LOVE**

   to your graduate and to each other. Black Graduation is a celebration, period.

Invite your besties, your squad, your fam, your ride-or-dies and your people. Black Graduation encourages you and your guests to express support freely throughout the ceremony. Whether you bring friends and family or attend solo, **Black Graduation is a communal articulation of Black Joy**. The event is free and open to the public.

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**THE DR. AGNES MORELAND JACKSON AWARDS AND BLACK GRADUATION:**
**FRIDAY, MAY 17, 2019 11AM-2PM**
POMONA COLLEGE SEAVER THEATER
3. WEAR THE GEAR

Cap and gown and/or kente stole suggested but not required

Graduates who register online are guaranteed a free kente stole courtesy of OBSA. Stoles are distributed to graduates at the lineup before the processional (beginning at 10am in Allen Theater, next to Seaver Theater). If you miss Black Graduation, contact latreace.cox@claremont.edu to arrange pickup from OBSA. We cannot arrange weekend pickup of stoles or guarantee stoles for those who do not register by the deadline. Contact your college to arrange obtaining your cap and gown (OBSA cannot provide these).

4. TAKE THE MIC

for your 30 second shout-out

In addition to a dance performance by African Soul International, the Black national anthem vocal performance by Jeremy Taylor (POM ’19) and keynote address by Dr. Sheldon Logan (HMC ’06), each graduate is invited to make a speech about their journey, share appreciation, and recognize those who helped along the way.

Acknowledge friends, family, yourself—anyone who helped make getting your degree happen! You have 30 seconds to do it, so preparing and bringing your speech is suggested.

GRADUATES REGISTER BY MAY 3
HTTPS://SERVICES.CLAREMONT.EDU/OBSA/BLACKGRAD
IGNITE. IMAGINE. INVEST.

OBSA's signature conference celebrating and showcasing Black scholarship at The Claremont Colleges

Black Intersections was founded on the strength of a student idea: The creation of Black caucus space to explore meaningful issues and concepts. The ability to share and learn from the groundbreaking scholarship of Black students, faculty, staff and alumni. With multiple partnerships and support, Black Intersections this year offered a single-day event with themed concurrent panels and workshops, as well as an exciting master class and keynote performance. Hosted at Scripps and Pomona, 130 attended from all 7 Claremont Colleges and institutions across the United States. Join us in 2020!

PANELS & WORKSHOPS

• Overturning Dominant Narratives: Prioritizing the Voices of the Unprotected
• Black Feminist Thought
• Navigating Black Resilience in Higher Education
• Theorizing Blackness & Anti-Blackness through Funk Music and Theoretical Physics: New Engagements with Fred Moten, Frank Wilderson, and Jared Sexton
• Making Queer Histories and Life Matter
• Body Politics: Access and Inclusivity
• Dislodging Data to Uncover Institutional Injustice
• Clarence, Cosby and Kelly: Black Excellence and Black Patriarchy in Service to White Supremacy

SPECIAL EVENTS

• Registration Luncheon and Closing Dinner
• Lula Washington Dance Theatre Master Class and Keynote Performance
• Brown Voices Spoken Word Speakeasy

SPONSORS

Claremont McKenna CARE Center
Pitzer College President’s Fund for Excellence
Harvey Mudd College Office of Institutional Diversity
The Claremont Colleges Marian and Charles Holmes Performing Arts Fund
Scripps College Office of the Vice President for Student Affairs and Dean of Students
Claremont Graduate University Dean of Students, Graduate Student Council and the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee
Pomona College Office of the President

COMMUNITY PARTNERS

Scripps College Dance Department
Pomona College Department of Theatre and Dance
Intercollegiate Department of Africana Studies
Pomona College Museum of Art
Brown Voices collective
DID YOU PRESENT AT THE BLACK INTERSECTIONS CONFERENCE IN 2017, 2018 OR 2019? MAKE YOUR WORK VISIBLE: UPLOAD YOUR PRESENTATION TO SCHOLARSHIP@CLAREMONT!

For three years, OBSA has highlighted academic excellence among Claremont Colleges Black students, faculty, staff and alumni at the annual Black Intersections Conference. Now, we invite all current and prior conference presenters to make their work public for viewing, searching and recognition on a global platform. In partnership with the Claremont Colleges Library Scholarship@Claremont repository, presenters for any conference year may upload their work (paper, poster, powerpoint, streaming media and other formats accepted).

BENEFITS OF SCHOLARSHIP@CLAREMONT:
Google indexes your work and the citation appears in google search results. You can track downloads of your work in real time. This is an excellent way to raise visibility for speaking engagements, collaborative research, job or fellowship opportunities and more. It’s also useful for those planning graduate or postdoctoral work, since you can link your presentation to résumés and curriculum vitae.

HOW TO UPLOAD YOUR PRESENTATION:
1. Register for Scholarship@Claremont at http://bit.ly/signupSaC
2. Check your email for the confirmation link.
3. Go to: https://scholarship.claremont.edu/obsa_bi/
4. On the left banner, under Presenter Corner click "Submit your BIC presentation."
5. Follow the instructions for uploading your paper. If you need help, contact scholarship@claremont.edu

Your paper will be visible for download on the site's main page under the appropriate conference year (within 1-3 business days). Be sure to review the Author FAQ and policies/guidelines, and let us know if you have additional questions or needs!

The Black Intersections Conference returns February 2020. Contact: blackintersectionsgmail.com
BLACK ALTERNABREAK 2019

OAKLAND BOUND!

For a fourth year, Black Alternabreak engages and challenges students on service based excursions. The OBSA/Draper Center 5C Black Alternabreak has become a staple service program for undergraduate students of African descent at The Claremont Colleges. Black Alternabreak connects 5C students to Black communities in California, where students are invited to explore and engage around issues of access and marginalization while taking measures toward resolving social problems that affect people of African descent.

TRIP LEADERS

Pomona College students Marie Tano and Katlyn Young.

PARTICIPANTS

10 Claremont Colleges students from across the 5Cs

ACTIVITIES

Visit to Marcus’ Books and Murals
Tour of Alcatraz
Free time in San Francisco
Visit to Aggregate Space Gallery
Social with UC Berkeley students

SERVICE LOCATIONS

URBAN RELEAF

Nonprofit community organization serving Oakland with various renewal and education programs, and employment and stewardship opportunities for local at–risk youth and young adults.

ROSES IN CONCRETE

Founded by Jeff Duncan-Andrade, this school is anew model for urban education, using healing practices, self expression and centering the child in the learning process.

BAY AREA BLACK WORKER CENTER

Organizes power and grassroots leadership for Black workers in the Bay Area. Supporting all workers including immigrant, formerly incarcerated, youth, unemployed and union/non–union. Working to bridge Black Labor Movement and Black Communities by creating workplace equality and ending racial and economic injustice.
CLSA & OBSA (as well as IDAS & IDCLS) ARE CELEBRATING 50 YEARS!

We’re commemorating our anniversaries with a shared celebration of African Diasporic, Chicanx, Latinx and multiple other shared and intersecting identity programming and events throughout the 2019-2020 Academic Year.

WIN $100 FOR YOUR LOGO DESIGN:
We invite current students to design one or more LOGOS to accompany our advertisements for the commemoration. Designs should be circular or square in shape, be high-resolution, and in PDF, JPG, and/or PNG formats.

We also invite current students to submit THEMES* to help us guide our programming and events for the 50th anniversary celebration.

The theme would ideally be a single word or phrase that we can use to anchor our programs, for example: if we chose "Pathways," subthemes could be "Emerging Pathways," "Bridging Pathways," etc.

Contact Nick Daily (NickD@claremont.edu) for more information or to submit additional themes!

*recognition only; no prize offered for theme ideas.
OBSA'S GOOD NEWS

IVAN SOLOMON
(POMONA CLASS OF 2019)
After four years of studying Arabic, three years of leading a mentorship program, and a year abroad, Ivan was selected as a 2019-2020 Fulbright Scholar! He will leave for Morocco in mid-April to teach English to public university students for one academic year. Ivan has also been selected as the 2019 Commencement Speaker at Pomona College.

BASHHEL LEWIS
(PITZER CLASS OF 2019)
Bashel was selected to be the Keynote Speaker for the Annual Greenhouse Glass Half Full Event. The mission of Greenhouse is to create a community of leaders, via scholarship and programming, who will evolve the communities of the world. As the first ever Georgia Scholar, Bashel's speech will highlight the experiences of low-income people of color in higher education and the struggles of being a first generation college student.

OBSA is bragging about good news in the Black Community and we want to hear your story! Share yours at: https://tinyurl.com/OBSAGood