We’re back

The Black Faculty and Staff Association is back! After a few years of leading a quiet existence, BFSA is again an active campus organization. We are here to provide support, encouragement, training and development where possible to all members of this UC Irvine family. We’ve all heard the phrase and know the cultural parameters around “It takes a village to raise a child”. I’m reminded in this environment that it is critically important that we take time to cultivate nurturing, productive and professional relationships for our own well-being as well as the well-being of our students. I’ve engaged in conversations with several folks over the past few years as I’m sure others of you have as well, regarding concerns for this next generation of young Black folk. Here is a place and now is the time for us to become actively engaged in shaping the future. Whether we admit it or not we have a responsibility to each other as colleagues in addition to being mentors to these students. Essentially, the contributions made by each of us—whether big or small is significant to the collective body of our students and staff. It is critically important that our students see the Black Faculty and Staff Association as a cohesive body with a strong presence on the campus that is recognized for making positive differences in the lives of others.

If you are not already aware, there have been some historical events this year. For example, there has been a significant increase in the number of first year African American students admitted and who have accepted the invitation to come to UCI. We also have an increase in faculty and staff positions. Most notably, Dr. Thomas Parham, appointed Interim Vice Chancellor of Student Affairs and Dr. Gregory N. Washington, appointed Dean of the School of Engineering. A first to be sure. I invite you to join the Black Faculty and Staff Association in our mission of providing encouragement and support to one another, mentorship to our youth, and visibility on the campus and in the Orange County community.

There are several ways to get involved. Contributing to the newsletter is just one way. We are hopeful to have recurring sections including the “Spotlight” focusing on faculty and staff, Calendar and “Outstanding Alumni” sections. Again, this is only as good as you make it. I encourage you to submit articles and ideas for review and publication. For more information, feel free to contact any of the executive officers or committee chairs directly. I look forward to an outstanding year with you.

Hotep, (peace)
G. Parham, President
Black Faculty and Staff Association

Fall Harvest

Each year there is an event that takes place in the Fall, usually during Orientation week, that provides the first opportunity for faculty, staff and students to come together, spend a little time enjoying a meal and getting to know one another. It is an opportunity to collectively provide support to and through a collaborative that has a cultural significance. The family, in black culture, has always been an integral part of an individual’s success. As many of you know, we would not be as blessed or where we are today without our family. Fall Harvest is an important event and also a great opportunity for the freshmen transfer students, as well as the continuing students, to meet...
“Everyone has an opportunity to be great because everyone has an opportunity to serve”

Martin Luther King Jr.

Joe Lewis, a nationally known artist, arts administrator, educator, and author, is dean of The Claire Trevor School of the Arts, University of California, Irvine.

He has also served as Dean of the School of Art and Design at Alfred University, New York, and on the faculty of California Institute of the Arts (Calarts) while also administering a public art program for the City of Los Angeles.

Lewis is the recipient numerous awards including several National Endowment for the Arts grants, a Ford Foundation Fellowship and a Thomas J. Watson Fellowship. Most recently he was named Deutsche Bank Fellow in Photography by the New York Foundation for the Arts.

Lewis has written for Art in America, Artforum, and was a contributing editor for Artspace and a correspondent for Contemporanea. His essays regarding the confluence of art, technology, and society have been published in anthologies and peer reviewed journals.

Fall Harvest cont’d

Joe Lewis, a nationally known artist, arts administrator, educator, and author, is dean of The Claire Trevor School of the Arts, University of California, Irvine.

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Campus Village Basketball Courts
Friday, September 23rd, 5pm-7pm.
Find Your UCI Kin Through Kinship Groups

Think back to your college years. If you were like many college students, you faced countless life choices, turning points, missed opportunities, and silver linings. You probably could have benefited from an open door and an experienced perspective from an adult on your campus.

To that end we would like to re-introduce/revive The Kinship program. It is a mentoring program that helps provide that necessary connection to one another as well as the campus and surrounding community which can sometimes be very challenging to navigate on our own. It is a collaborative effort between the BFSA and the Black Student Union (BSU).

Kinship Groups consist of up to four undergraduates and one graduate, medical or law student and a mentoring faculty/staff member that meet monthly to enhance opportunities for communication and guidance. The groups are designed to foster lasting relationships between the generations that will allow students to have successful and positive experiences at UC Irvine.

There is a great need in our community for uplift, encouragement, and mentorship. Participation in Kinship Groups is voluntary but valuable to the UCI community. We welcome faculty and staff like you to grab this opportunity to connect with our next generation of leaders and scholars. If you are interested in participating, please contact BSU board member, Jacklyn Uweh, at juweh@uci.edu.
Meet your Executive Officers

Gerald Parham - President. Is a graduate of UCI. He is in his 13th year as the Director of Palo Verde Housing, a graduate and family housing community on campus. He did graduate work in Counselor Education at the University of Florida. His interests include multicultural issues and diversity, sports, music and community service. gparham@uci.edu

Adrienne Grayson - Vice President, graduated from UCI in 2002 with a B.A. in English and a minor in Education. As a UCI freshman she began working with the Early Academic Outreach Program (EAOP) and has been with the program ever since - now as Director of the program. She loves helping students prepare for their future goals, especially those who are the first in their families to attend college, like she was. agrayson@uci.edu

Russell Curry - Treasurer, is an alumn of UC Irvine (class of '09 Biological Sciences). He currently works in the Office of Admissions and Relations with Schools where he has served as an Admissions Counselor for the past year. Throughout his time at UCI as both a student and staff member, he has focused efforts on outreaching to students who are underrepresented in University spaces in order to encourage a more diverse, conscious, active and aware student body. rcurry@uci.edu

Campus and Community Resources

Campus
Ombudsman: http://www.ombuds.uci.edu/
Employee Assistance: http://www.cascadecenters.com
Teaching, Learning, Technology Center: http://www.tltc.uci.edu/

Community
NAACP: http://naacp.org
OC Black Chamber: http://ocblackchamber.com
100 Black Men of Orange County: http://www.100bmoc.com
Special Events:
Russell’s Birthday
Adrienne’s Due Date
Orientation Week
Gerald’s Birthday :)