This is a space where this month we’re sharing a little bit about what’s going on around the campus.

First, I want to take a moment to say thank you to all the folks that were able to attend the annual Fall Harvest event. With a sizeable group of students, staff and faculty, along with a visit from the newly appointed Vice Chancellor Parham and Chancellor Drake, a good time was had by all. A special thank you to the Campus Village community for allowing us to utilize their facilities and equipment. Their support certainly contributed to the overall success of the event.

Next, if you happen to be in the bookstore, and are looking for a greeting card, I am pleased to announce a newfound partnership with UCI’s Saturday Academy of Law Program (SAL). Law student volunteers will support SAL’s mission through mentorship and academic enrichment. If you would like to learn more about BLS Alliance, visit the law school’s website.

Please check out the Community Resources page for links to important information.

Other than these items, we encourage you to get involved with us as an active organization. As you will hear me say repeatedly, this organization and what we do is only as good as what we, (you), put into it. There are several ways to get involved. Contributing to the newsletter is just one way. I encourage you to submit articles and ideas for review and publication. I look forward to an outstanding year with you.

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

Black Graduate Student Network (BGSN)

Similar to the revival of the BFSA, we have recently reaffirmed the need to support the Black Graduate Student here on the UC Irvine campus. We certainly know students are spread out across disciplines, and it is for that reason, that we need to become active partners in their success. There are close to 100 or more Black graduate and professional students here that need our help and support. A list serve has been created that will allow folks to keep in contact and in the know about what’s happening around the campus and in the community. It will ideally provide a means for students to get connected, plan activities that support and address their needs. If you know of any students, please share with them that there is an organization here for them. Please share my contact info with anyone you know.

Thanks for your support.
“HipHopracy”: Hip Hop and the University

Building on from the success of the Ghana Project 2010, which examined the cultural axis between Africa and North America, the research now brings the focus back to the USA. Hip Hop dance is a current manifestation of that axis with knowable and traceable roots from the continent of Africa to the diverse ethnicities that now practice hip hop as part of their American identity.

Sheron Wray, assistant professor in the dance department presents a series of events that create an opportunity for students across the UCI campus to come together to explore the nature of Hip Hop dance as it manifests across different sub and mainstream cultures, locally, nationally and globally. The popular television programs; ‘So You Think You Can Dance’ and ‘America’s Best Dance Crew’ have impacted its codification and saturation into popular cultural. In parallel there continues to be new movement innovation being created and shared in discreet communities across the USA.

Hip Hop is a form of dance that comes out of the African-American experience, part of a continuum. On the 26th October, Hip Hop theorist Dr Halifu Osumare will deliver her keynote lecture “Global Hip-Hop, Appropriation, and The Academy” in Winifred Smith Hall at 4.30pm. The following day on October 27th LA based artist Raphael Xavier, known as Viazeen who creates work within the B-Boy/African-American vernacular tradition will present an excerpt of his solo work “Home of the 5 & Dime”. Other panelists will include Elm Pizarro, Sheron Wray, Dr Lisa Naugle and San Diego B-Boy Joe Knox. This panel presentation will flow between debate, demonstration and visual montages that make up ‘HipHopracy’.

Viazeen’s technique is called “Ground Core”. It is a somatic form that ventures into new physical territories of strength, power and movement. He takes the concept of being able to move in an unfamiliar space whereby new connections are made through a reorientation with the environment. Music becomes a partner, there is no separation; dance and music are one.
SPOTLIGHT: Felecia Harris

By: Tamara Storey

UCI is like a treasure trove. Looking around you find the most interesting folks and then...you find a Treasure. I have had the gift of having that experience recently when I sat down to talk with Felecia Harris. Felecia works in the bookstore here on campus and has been connected to it in many different roles since she first walked in looking for employment in 1981. WOW! Her current title is that of Technical Book Manager. Not many people today can boast of having that kind of longevity with any organization. That being said, just talking with Felecia, you can see why she has lasted so long. She is a woman of great spirit and determination.

Felecia sits among the few who can boast a strong marriage blessed with wonderful children and doing a job she likes. Felecia and her husband Patrick recently celebrated their 24th wedding anniversary and have two beautiful daughters who are both about to complete college. one at Cal State Fullerton, the other at Cal State Poly.

I am always interested in what moves people to do the things that they do. I found out that under the bookworm persona, Felecia is an avid seamstress and a crochet guru. But her creative juices do not stop there. She also creates her own line of greeting cards. When I asked what her dream job would be she responded that she would like to be a CEO. It didn’t matter what the company, she just wanted to be the big dog in charge. I do not doubt that she would be a great leader. When she could not find a girl scout troop for her daughters when they were young, she just started her own. And of course the troop thrived. She stays active still with the scouts as a troop leader for the troop at her home church, Friendship Baptist Church in Yorba Linda. She has been a bible study teacher for over 25 years and through that calling has evangelized to her surrounding communities. She not only talks her talk, she walks her walk and invites others to join in. She is now a master instructor and teaches aspiring bible study teachers how it's done.

I asked Felecia what would she like you all to know about her. Her reply reminds me of her creative spirit. Brothers and sisters if you are looking for African American inspired literature/ gifts or cards, Felecia is the go to person. So let a sister hook you up. Take a minute out of your day and shoot Felecia an e-mail, just to say Hi. I am sure you will find as I did, you will gain a new friend and be better for the connection. flharris@uci.edu.

B F S A – T H E V O I C E
Just the Facts

Tamara Storey LSW

October is National Breast Cancer Awareness Month and we often see all kinds of pink items for sale and here the info shorts telling us to take care of ourselves. I would like to believe that we all listen but the numbers tell us otherwise. Here are the facts:

- Breast cancer is the second leading cause of death among African American women
- African American women are twice as likely than white women to die from breast cancer.
- Breast cancer in African American women tends to be more aggressive. Tumors are larger and harder to treat.
- Risk factors include: family history, age at which menstrual cycle and menopause begins
- African American women are not being screened as often as white women and when they do, it is often later in life. Often, the mammograms are done after a woman has felt a mass in her breast. Vital time for treatment has elapsed by that point.
- About one third of African American women who get breast cancer are younger than 50 years old.

What is our community to do. Get educated. Women, do a monthly self breast exam (breastcancer.org). Men, remind the women in your life how important this is. Get an annual mammogram beginning at 35 years old. Get a clinical breast exam with a health professional annually. Don’t take your health for granted. Stay in the pink by being aware.

Additional resources:
African American Breast Cancer Alliance.org
Sisters. Networkinc.org

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
THE Greenlining Institute www.greenlining.org/academy
National Coalition of 100 Black Women of Orange County http://www.nc100bwoc.org
Special Events:

ASALH 96th Annual Convention: http://www.asalh.org/96thconvention.html
Monday Oct. 17th 2:30-5pm; UC Berkeley Diversity Council Best Practices Forum
100 Black Men of LA Annual Gala

For additional events/event information please visit our website at http://sites.uci.ecu/bfsa