What a time of year it is. It’s hard to really describe where we are. We live, (and work), in an environment that has so much to offer if we simply stop and pay attention to what’s around us. When you think about it, for those who enjoy water, we’re in close proximity to some of the best beaches anywhere. If you like snow and a bit cooler climate, we’re just a short drive from the mountains where you can frolic in the snow all you want, (ski, snowboard and snowball fights), and when you get tired, you’ve got those darn beaches and mean temps of 75 degrees to come home to. For the more adventurous, we live just over an hour drive from another country! Granted Mexico is having some tourist challenges these days, it is still an option and offers some wonderful places to go. For a different type of adventure, and for those lovers of the outdoors, there are numerous locations within reasonable proximity to do some camping and/or fishing. We’ve got Performing Arts Centers in Costa Mesa, Cerritos, Laguna, and Los Angeles where everything from live theater, dance performances and music concerts of all types can be enjoyed, and those are just the ones I can think of off the top of my head. We certainly have a lot to be thankful for that helps provide a certain lifestyle we all try to enjoy. Perhaps it’s not as convenient as we would like or we say, it’s too far or it’s too much work. I was once told anything worth having was worth the time and effort it took to get it.

With all of the wonderful opportunities that surround us, there are some other opportunities that we would do well to take advantage of that are right here and need our attention. Last month, I asked the question of you to see if you were being all you could be for yourself. Much of that had to do with giving...of time, energy, and support both physically and financially. While I encourage all to get involved with the campus community, the Black community in particular, and what we do here to make a difference, it is not the only place to be actively engaged. I’m reasonably certain that many of you have your ways and means of giving back and paying it forward, so to speak, and I applaud you for your commitment to what ever it is. I am, however asking you to share a bit of that blessing of time, energy and support with us, the Black community at UCI, your BFSA. It can be as simple as writing an article for this newsletter, or submitting a short bio to be included here so we can know what outstanding folks we have here at UCI making a difference in the lives of our young people and in this campus community. It can be volunteering for a committee which helps our mission of creating a visible and viable organization. The possibilities are limitless, the benefits, immeasurable.

Here’s another question for you. What would your life be like if you had someone, or a group of folks that were there providing guidance, were nurturing and supportive? There is something to be said for the paraphrasing of a part of Dr. King’s Drum Major Instinct speech, (which was biblically inspired), which suggests everyone has the opportunity to be the best they can be, because everyone can serve.

I invite you to think about ways to serve the family that is here, and to work with the garden that is a community of colleagues students and friends that need you. I ask you, how much sweeter the scent of a rose that you helped grow? Let’ us in remembering to “spring forward”, this weekend, also “spring forward” in our personal drive to be great.

Hotep, (peace)
Gerald
Veronica Wilson is a native of Tennessee, but grew up in Columbus, Ohio. She relocated to Southern California nearly 26 years ago. Veronica is a graduate of the Ohio Institute of Technology where she majored in Computer Programming. In 1986, she accepted a position at UCLA School of Law where she spent 19 years serving in various administrative roles. Her most memorable role at UCLA Law is the Director of Financial Aid. Veronica states that “it was extremely rewarding to help students realize their dream of completing law school – I had an open door policy that made students feel welcomed and important.” While she did not know that her role as a fund’s manager would someday equip her to transition to the role of a fundraiser, in 2009, that is exactly what happened. In 2008, Veronica accepted a position as the Director of Financial Aid at the newest public law school in Southern California, UCI Irvine Law. After a year of establishing the law school’s financial aid program, she accepted an offer to help generate funds for scholarships and became the third member of the Law School’s Development Team!

Outside of UCI, Veronica serves on the board of the Black Pre-Law Conference where she volunteers her time to conduct a financial literacy workshop for students who attend the annual conference held in Houston, Texas and is co-chair for BFSA’s Membership Committee. She is a mother of three sons and recently engaged to be married this Spring.
## March 2012

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### Special Events:

For additional events information please visit the calendar page on our website at [http://sites.uci.edu/bfsa/calendar/](http://sites.uci.edu/bfsa/calendar/)
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/
Black Faculty and Staff Association: http://sites.uci.edu/bfsa

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
Christ Our Redeemer http://www.corchurch.org/