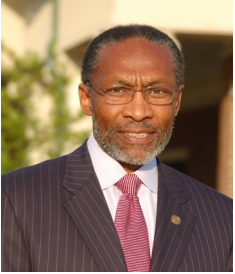




President's Message



The recent visit by filmmaker Stanley Nelson took me back to an earlier time and space in my personal and professional life, and reminded me of why Allen is important and why I am here as my hair grays. HBCUs matter today more than ever.

Notwithstanding the "successes" of the civil rights movement an African American youth is still more likely to be shaped by popular culture than a traditional household, attend public schools with comparatively inferior assets and attributes, less likely to be called on by a teacher, more likely to be suspended from school, more likely to be confronted by law enforcement, and more likely to be poor. These are not direct choices but the confluence of events and circumstances for which Allen and HBCUs are still antidotes.

Implicit in the "dinosaur argument" against HBCUs is an elitist notion that only some segments of the college-age population should have an opportunity to pursue higher education. While it is beyond question that some students will bring dispositions to campus that will not allow them to succeed, none arrive with the mark of Cain such that they can be reasonably precluded a chance to try. Such notions are downright un-American. Further, where do African American students attend college when their life's purpose is to serve others and to make a difference for the greater good. Such preparation is cultural as well as cognitive and contextual. There is a black culture not tied to youthful fads or popular culture. Traditional black culture is defined by noble struggle, triumph over adversity, untethered talent, inventiveness, creativity, and propelling spirituality. HBCUs are the keepers of that culture.

Ernest McNealey, Ph.D., Interim President



National Environmental Justice Conference



On Tuesday March 7, 2017, students and faculty members from Allen University travelled to Washington, D.C. to participate in the National Environmental Justice Conference and Training Program. The conference brought together leaders from various sectors of society to engage in three days of conversation, planning and strategizing in order to develop approaches to achieving environmental justice.

Dr. Daniel T. Hembree, Program Coordinator and Dr. Oluwole Ariyo, Principal Investigator of the Allen University Environmental Justice Institute along with 10 Allen University students attended the conference. On Wednesday morning March 8, 2017, Allen University students presented a workshop on the harmful impact of toxic wastes in our drinking water. The workshop was well attended and participants had the opportunity to listen to Allen students discuss this important issue and engage in meaningful dialogue afterwards. Congressman Jim Clyburn was also a conference participant and served as the keynote speaker for Thursday morning's session. On Friday Morning, Allen University Vice President for Institutional Advancement Mr. William Robinson, served as the moderator for a session on the Environmental Justice Academy which is scheduled to begin this Fall at Allen University.



Allen University had the pleasure of hosting, Producer/Director & multiple Emmy Award-winning documentary filmmaker, Stanley Nelson on Thursday, March 31st in Chappelle Auditorium. Mr. Nelson presented the first ever pre-screening of his latest documentary on an HBCU campus, *Tell Them We Are Rising: The Story of Black Colleges and Universities*, which will air nationally on PBS in early 2018.

"I set out to tell a story of Americans who refused to be denied a higher education and—in their resistance—created a set of institutions that would influence and shape the landscape of the country for centuries to come. HBCUs are a uniquely American phenomenon, and they reflect America's troubled relationship with the Black community, and African Americans' inexhaustible will to overcome.", stated Mr. Stanley.



Did You Know?

By: Andrew Peart (Classification: Senior | Major: English)



Women's rights advocate, Hallie Quinn Brown was a captivating teacher and public speaker during her time. She received her bachelor's degree in 1873 from Wilberforce University, an African Methodist Episcopal Church institution in Wilberforce, Ohio. Brown began her teaching career in South Carolina by teaching adults and children how to read on various plantations. She expanded her labor of love when she administered a school on the Sonora plantation in Mississippi. Her love for teaching also landed her teaching positions in the city public schools of Yazoo, Mississippi, and Columbia, South Carolina.

Brown was the dean of students at Allen University from 1885 to 1887. During her time at Allen University, Brown studied at the Chautauqua Lecture School and graduated in 1866 as salutatorian of her class. She also served as the dean of women at Tuskegee Institute, under the leadership of Booker T. Washington from 1892 to 1893.

In 1894, Brown decided to move to Europe for several years. Lecturing for the British Women's Temperance Association, she was made a member of the Royal Geographical Society in Edinburgh. Brown also went on to become a representative to the Woman's Missionary Society of the African Methodist Conference held in Edinburgh. In London, she was a speaker at the Third Biennial Convention of the World's Women's Christian Temperance Union in 1895 and a representative to the International Congress of Women in 1897. Her hard work granted her the opportunity to be a dinner guest of the Princess of Wales and deliver a command performance for King George and Queen Mary.

Coming back to America after her sojourn in Europe, her accomplishments continued to grow as she served in the following positions:

- Vice president of the Ohio Council of Republican women.
- President of the Ohio Federation of Colored Women's Clubs.
- Chair of scholarship committee for the higher education of women.
- Director of Colored Women's Activities at the Republican national campaign headquarters in Chicago.



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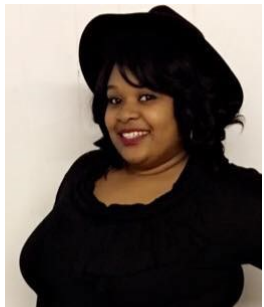
"We teach the mind to think, the hands to work, and the heart to love."

Alumni Updates



Proud alumnus, Lieutenant Donnie Roderick, c/o 1979, represented the South Carolina Department of Corrections on March 27th at the Annual Student/Alumni Career Fair held in the Student Activities Center on campus. He had the opportunity to talk to many of our students about the employment services SCDOC has for them once they graduate from Allen. He shared the steps it will take for students to get hired and be successful once there.

Some of the companies/organizations that attended the 2017 Career Fair were: U.S. Secret Service; SCANA/SCE&G; Boeing Corp.; iT-oLog; Rock Hill Police Dept.; Army; Navy; Marine Corp.; SC DSS; SC DOC; SC DHEC; Midlands Fatherhood Coalition; Lincoln Heritage; Richland Public Library; and many others.



Alumna, Angel Risher, c/o 2016, was just promoted to T1 AppleCare Advisor of Apple Inc.

The former Miss Allen University stated, "Allen University has prepared me in many different ways for this position. Not only was I granted the opportunity to network and branch out during my undergraduate years but I was given the opportunity to do so much more. As an Allen University alumna, former head resident assistant, and former Miss Allen University, I know all about working with others and ensuring great customer service and hospitality. I get so many compliments on a daily basis as to my kind gestures and willingness to help. I am thankful to be an Allen University Alum. Students if you aren't taking full advantage of all the opportunities that life has to offer, rethink your steps, set realistic goals, pay close attention in class, and with every sour lemon that's thrown your way... make the best lemonade ever. I guarantee someone will be asking what are your ingredients?"



Student Updates

Athletics - Yellow Jackets Softball is on its Way



TAKE ME OUT TO THE BALL GAME... WHO IS READY FOR SOME SOFTBALL?

"It's an exciting time at Allen University in Athletics. The Lady Yellow Jacket Softball team will be returning to Allen in the Fall of 2017. The team will compete in the Appalachian Athletic Conference (AAC), along with the other nine sports the university has.", stated Athletic Director, Chad Washington.

Melanin Mosaics an absolute SUCCESS

The Allen University Honors Program in recognition of Women's History Month (2017), hosted its Artist After Dark Series: Advocacy. Activism. Artistry. with an emphasis on Black women in hip hop and their sociocultural influences. This spring's theme, Melanin Mosaics—Respect My Assets, was co-produced by Dr. Rachele Washington and Creative Director, Ms. Valerie Isaac c/o '14. This extraordinary event, attended by 150, revealed captivating segments to represent mosaics, pieces of Black women's stories. The stories were told mostly by millennial women who serve as bridges to and for advocacy, activism and artistry. Allen University students from interdisciplinary majors illuminated the experience with readings, poetics/spoken word, music, performance and art which included—old and new perspectives. Cleverly titled and well-executed segments (Hairpieces, Kitchens and Edges, Miss-Education of Black Women, Praise On It and Melanin Mosaics—Respect My Assets) provided an evening of profundity and celebration.



This event included an art exhibit and art-talk by Kelly Burke (Kelly Burke)

Artworks; Baltimore, MD), a socially conscious artist, who inaugurated the series last spring with her Reimagined American Flags (Black Lives Matter and All Lives Matter). This year, Ms. Burke showcased her Women's Rights Stars Series. Allen University welcomed Charlotte-based rapper, Black Linen, who spoke on the beauty of and respect for Black women. Event participants were treated to hair and makeup makeovers courtesy of Tesia Jackson, TJaxDesign (stylist to Miss Allen University).



Graduating Seniors: On to the Future

By: Kenneth T. Brown (Classification: Senior | Major: English)

With the semester winding down, Seniors are getting ready to pass the torch and pave the way for underclassmen. May 6th is around the corner and the class of 2017 is preparing to venture different roads in life as they leave Allen University. Some students will move onto grad school while some will decide to work. As a graduating English Major with the concentration of Professional Writing, I decided to reach out to a fellow English Major, Ms. DeAsia Williams, who is doing wonderful work representing Allen. She is an example of the pathways seniors are taking to make a difference in tomorrow's world.



DeAsia Williams, English Major with a Literature concentration, is now interning for the South Carolina Legislative Black Caucus (SCLBC) under House Representative Joe Jefferson of District 102. Her responsibilities include assisting and representing in whatever needs to be done. Williams during her internship at the SCLBC learned about the, behind-the-scene work that is involved with making bills, the day-to-day life of a politician, and how things are done in political processes. Williams' plan is to either teach elementary grades K-5 or go off to graduate school at North Carolina A&T to study African American Literature with hopes of teaching the subject to the next generation. If her choice is grad school, she hopes to get loan forgiveness and have the school she gets employed by pay for her education. Whatever choice she makes, she will make the University proud.

Williams, like many other seniors at Allen, is making positive moves that will one day shape the lives of many in our African American Communities. We have made contributions in organizations and communities, worked hard in classes, and struggled through to the end of college. For Allen University Class of 2017, it's on to the future.



Summer 2017 Internship



U.S. Senator Tim Scott (R-SC) has announced he is accepting congressional internship applications for available positions in his North Charleston, Columbia and Greenville offices for the summer of 2017. The internship program offers undergraduate and graduate students practical experience in constituent services and government policy. The internship provides students with the ability to work with and learn from public service professionals. All internships are unpaid, but students will learn valuable work experience and skills throughout their internship that will help them gain a better understanding of how their government functions.

Internship hours are flexible to accommodate students' course schedules, but generally run between 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. Interested South Carolina students should contact the internship coordinator at internships@scott.senate.gov.



Upcoming Events

National Library Week/ Yellow Jacket Pride Week
April 7, 2017 - April 14, 2017

Class of 1967 50th Golden Anniversary/GAAAU, Inc. Alumni Weekend
May 4, 2017 - May 6, 2017

2017 Commencement Exercises
May 6, 2017

Allen University - Division of Institutional Advancement

Ms. Alycia Albergottie, Administrative Assistant · **Dr. Flavia Eldemire**, Director of Career Services & Special Events

Mr. Nimai Garrett, Director of Alumni Affairs · **Mrs. Michelle Young**, Director of Title III & Sponsored Programs

Mr. William Robinson, Vice President of Institutional Advancement



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