

Alumnae of Color Committee Alumnae Association Mills College

Mission: To foster retention and recruitment of alumnae, students, faculty, and administrators of color; to serve as a force for change, confronting racism, prejudice, and discrimination; to support a thriving, multicultural Mills community where people of color are valued and empowered as full participants.

Student Outreach/Mentoring

- The AoCC continues to meet the last Sunday of the month to have Brunch with the students. This has become very popular with the alums and students. It has been suggested from a student to post this event on the Student News. Unofficial mentor/mentee relationships have been created as a result of this monthly event.
- **Mariah Taylor, '15** has volunteered to be the AoCC social media advisor and has created a “new” Mills College Alumnae of Color and Student of Color Facebook Group page.
- The annual Thanksgiving potluck dinner was held Sunday, November 18, 2012 at Reinhardt Alumnae House. Co-hosted with the Black Women’s Collective, the event featured traditional Thanksgiving foods and many desserts. Attending were; 7 alumnae, 8 guests from the Oakland community, 23 Mills under graduates and 2 Mills graduate students.
- **Connie Swan Davidson '73** has graciously offered to host an off campus gathering at her home for alums and students for spring 2013.
- AoCC attended the Mills College election night party which was held at the Student Union. Our host was **Dawna Williams, '13**, Senior Class Treasure.
- The AoCC wishes to thank the Senior Class for the use of their beverage dispensers at the Thanksgiving Potluck.
- Please visit the Mills website for a listing of Black History Month events which are being co-sponsored by Ethnic Studies Department, Black Women's Collective, Diversity and Social Justice Resource Center, Queer Studies Program, Spiritual and Religious Life, Gender Splendor, Associated Students of Mills College, and Women's, Gender and Sexuality Studies Department.

Alumnae of Color Scholarship in Honor of President DeCoudreaux

- *One Hundred Women On Hundred Dollars* – email appeal launched November 30, 2012
 - Cynthia wants to thank **Lynette Castille-Hall '75 and Lynette Williams-Williamson '72**, AoCC members, for their brilliant idea and for writing/creating the *One Hundred Women One Hundred Dollars* email campaign. *One Hundred Women One Hundred Dollars* initiative is for at least 100 alumnae of color to commit to giving at least \$100 during the 2012-2013 fiscal year which will mean \$10,000 raised for the scholarship in honor of President DeCoudreaux.
 - A special giving page for the AoC scholarship that features just that designation as well as Mills’ greatest need has been set up especially for this appeal. The email blast was sent to 3500+ Alumnae of Color.

- The AoCC wishes to thank the OIA and Alumnae Relations teams, especially, Laura Gobbi, Dawn Cunningham, Lisa Spivak and Heather Hass for giving the AoCC superior support as the appeal was unfolding.
- Our named scholarship was awarded to **Sharon Robinson '14**, a junior transfer student majoring in public policy. She also plans to complete the masters in public policy (MPP 4+1) at Mills. Before coming to the College, Sharon worked for over 20 years with community-based organizations to serve the needs of diverse, under-resourced communities. Sharon wrote a thank you note and it was mailed to all the donors of the 2011-2012 appeal.

2013 UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday, January 27 – Brunch with Students

Founders Dinning Hall 11am – 1pm
No Host \$8.25 at the door

Friday, February 22 – Jazzzzz@Reinhardt

Benefit concert to support the Alumnae of Color Scholarship in honor of President DeCoudreaux., 7pm – 11pm,
Location: Reinhardt Alumnae House
Tickets \$25.00

Sunday, March 3 -- Mrs. Browns Beauty – A Story of Art and Inspiration - Film and Reception

Mrs. Brown's Beauty – A Story of Art and Inspiration" is a 12-minute documentary produced and directed by Inez Brown's niece, Nancy Thompson'72. Videography by Lis Cox.

"Mrs. Brown's Beauty highlights the artwork of 78-year-old Inez Brown, who discovered her artistic talent at the age of 74... Mrs. Brown's Beauty honors the strength and resiliency of the human spirit and affirms that miracles can happen no matter one's age or circumstance."

An introduction and post-screening discussion will be led by Nancy Thompson followed by a reception. This event is being presented in collaboration with the AAMC Educational Outreach Committee.

Location: Danforth Auditorium
Time: 4:00pm

Sunday, March 17 Spring Potluck with students

Location: Reinhardt Alumnae House
Time: TBD

Thursday, April 11- Phenomenal Women, seniors of Color Celebration

Location: TBD
Time: 6pm

Sunday, April 28 – Brunch with Students

Location: Founders Dinning Hall 11am – 1pm
No Host \$8.25 at the door

Respectfully Submitted by,
Cynthia A. Guevara '04
Chair, Alumnae of Color Committee

Mills College Black History Month Events

❖ **Black History Month Kick Off**

12:15 pm, Wednesday, February 5, 2013, Suzanne Adams Plaza

The Black Women's Collective invites the college community to join BWC members in Adam's Plaza to celebrate the kickoff of Black History Month.

❖ **Black Wom[b]anhood: Herstory in the Making**

7:00 pm, Tuesday, February 5, 2013, Student Union

Join the Black Women's Collective for a riveting night of original poetry and prose from the Mills College Black community. Performers will express their personal conception of their individual Black identities through creative pieces.

❖ **Expressions of Faith: Our Sources of Strength**

7:00 pm, Thursday, February 7, 2013, Mills Chapel

Join us for an unforgettable evening of song, story and inspiration! Expressions of Faith will celebrate the many different ways we turn to spirit for encouragement and sustenance. Featuring uplifting gospel music by local choirs, traditional rhythms from Sistahs of the Drum Collective, as well as reflections from community members regarding their varied spiritual sources of strength.

For more information or accessibility concerns, please contact Spiritual and Religious Life at SRL@mills.edu or 430.3123.

❖ **Please Don't Touch My Hair**

7:00 pm, Tuesday, February 12, 2013, Student Union

The Black Women's Collective presents "Please don't touch my hair," an exciting and engaging hair show featuring diverse representations of blackness and black hair. A woman's hair is her crown of glory and we'll show you why. Join us as we explore Black women's hair as it relates to their unique sensibility and complex identities. Hear personal experiences and stories from Black women and learn about the complexities of black hair choices and maintenance.

Early arrival suggested. You don't want to miss out on this event!

❖ **Panel Discussion: Criminals or Victims of Crime? Exploring Community and Criminal Justice Based Solutions to Human Trafficking**

7:00 pm, Tuesday, February 19, 2013, Student Union

Take a ride down International Boulevard on any given night and you'll likely see young women of color walking street corners in heels. Are they criminals or victims of human trafficking? The Black Women's Collective invites the Mills Community to engage in a lively discussion of Oakland's severe human trafficking issues. Panelists will make their cases for framing the human trafficking issue as a social or criminal problem and discuss various solutions. Light refreshments will be served.

❖ **Guest Speaker Marion Bethel and Film Screening Freedom, Womanish Ways and Democracy: The Women's Suffrage Movement in the Bahamas: 1948-1962**

7:00 pm, Thursday, February 21, 2013, Student Union

November 2012 will mark the fiftieth (50th) anniversary of the suffrage movement in the Bahamas. The objective of this project is to produce a ninety (90) minute documentary that narrates the story of the movement of the nineteen fifties (1950s) from a diverse viewpoint and with special attention to: a) the

five women who were central to the movement, namely, Mary Ingraham, Mable Walker, Eugenia Lockhart, Georgiana Symonette and Dame Dr. Doris Johnson; and b) the voices of the women who stood shoulder to shoulder with these leaders

❖ **The Art of Living Black—Open Studios Art Fair**

11:00-5:00, Saturday and Sunday, February 23 and 24, 2013, Student Union

Part of "The Art Of Living Black", Bay Area Black Artists Exhibition and Art Tour 2013, sponsored by the Richmond Art Center.

Featuring 15 Bay Area artists of African descent, including our very own Mills Professor Ajuan Mance's acrylic paintings as well as artwork by Mills student, Desire Johnson!.

For more information: <http://blackartatmills.com>

❖ **Victor LaValle**

5:30–6:45 pm, Tuesday, February 26, 2013

Mills Hall Living Room

Sponsored by Contemporary Writers Series

Victor LaValle is the author of four books, most recently the novel *The Devil in Silver*. Of his third novel, *Mos Def* writes "Big Machine is like nothing I've ever read, incredibly human and alien at the same time.. He is an assistant professor at Columbia University's writing program, and lives in New York with his

❖ **Film screening: Audre Lorde: The Berlin Years**

7:00 pm, Thursday, February 28, 2013, Danforth Auditorium

Directed by Dagmar Schultz, in cooperation with Ika Hügel-Marshall and Ria Cheatom, 2012.

Audre Lorde's incisive, often-angry, but always brilliant writings and speeches defined and inspired the American feminist, lesbian, African-American, and women of color movements of the 70s and 80s. Her contributions as an American social justice and literary icon have overshadowed an entire rich chapter in her life that has been called "The Berlin Years" (1984 to her death in 1992).

❖ **Black History Film Premier and Book Launch: "Unearthing the Dream" and "Proud Legacy: The "Colored" Schools of Malvern, Arkansas and the Community that Made Them"**

7:00 pm, Thursday, March 7, 2013, Student Union

A multi-city tour of the new documentary, *Unearthing the Dream* comes to Oakland with a film and book launch event sponsored by the Mills College Black Women's Collective and the Mills College Ethnic Studies department. Named best documentary at this year's Arkansas Black Independent Film Festival, *Unearthing the Dream* highlights the history of a small Black African American community and the Black schools that existed before integration.

For more event information please visit

<http://www.mills.edu/academics/undergraduate/eths/blackhistorymonth.php>