

Alumnae of Color Committee Report

February 19, 2014

Submitted By: Cynthia A. Guevara'04, Chair

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.

Past Events:

Sunday, November 17, 2013 – Thanksgiving potluck with Black Women's Collective BWC – RAH

Friday, December 6, 2013 - Scholarship donor appreciation cocktail reception. – Bender Room

Sunday December 15, 2013 - Potluck brunch with President DeCoudreaux – RAH

Sunday, January 26, 2014 Brunch with Students, Founders Common Dining Hall

Alumnae of Color Scholarship Update:

Calling Party – The calling party is, Tuesday February 25, RAH. Cynthia has informed committee members that she feels the donations are down when comparing the total to last year. The AoCC is also exploring creative ways to raise money for the scholarship. Some ideas include;

- A mini film festival – charge admission
- concert program booklet - selling ads to community sponsors
- Linda Stingily – has an idea about a family contribution

Sharon Robinson is recipient of the FY13 scholarship. Sharon will graduate in the spring of '14 with a BA in Public Policy and been accepted into the Masters of Public Policy program at Mills. Sharon also has written a thank you letter that was mailed to each donor February 13. (Letter attached.) Sharon and will also participate with Alums at the calling party February 25.

Jazz Concert

The 3rd annual benefit jazz concert is scheduled for, Saturday June 21, 2014.

Alumnae of Color Event Los Angeles – more details to come With the help of the AoCC members living in the LA area we are hoping to co-host an event and invite President DeCoudreaux. Laura Gobbi, Senior Director Alumnae Relations, will contact President DeCoudreaux secretary to verify her ability for this upcoming event. Lynette Castille-Hall '76 is the event lead.

Phenomenal Women, Seniors of Color Event – Wednesday April 16, 2013

The committee has selected Sabrina Kwist as the 2014 recipient of the Phenomenal Woman Award. Sabrina, a 2014 Ed.D candidate, is the Co-Curricular director of the Summer Academic Workshop (SAW) and the Director of Engagement and Inclusion Diversity and Social Justice Resource Center. The AoCC e will ask SAW director, Professor Bruce Williams, introduce and present the proclamation to Sabrina. Sabrina will also be the keynote speaker at the event. Past honoree are, 2011 - Janet L. Holmgren; 2012 Mills alumna Sharon Tatai; 2013 Mills alumna, Dr. Viji Nakka Cammauf.

Black History Month

The AoCC and the Educational Outreach Committee are co-sponsoring along with Alumnae Relation's the reception following the Dimensions Dance Theater dance performance. The African-American dance company proudly presents "Forty Years Strong". This momentous occasion will celebrate Dimensions' rich cultural history of over four decades of creativity and community-building, during which the company has premiered more than 50 evening-length works, many created by company Co-Founder and Artistic Director and Mills alumna Deborah Vaughan, and others by distinguished guest choreographers. Reservations are required! Concert tickets \$12 for non-alumnae with advance purchase; free for alumnae who RSVP. The reception will follow the event. Please RSVP on the Mills Community upcoming event page.

Upcoming Events:

- Black History Month Events – Please visit Ethnic Studies website for upcoming events. See above for the Dance performance – Friday February 28, 2014
- Sunday, February 23 -- Brunch with students – Founders Common Dining Hall, 10:30am – 1pm
- Sunday, March 30-- Spring Pot-luck dinner with students —Reinhardt Alumnae House 5:00pm
- Wednesday, April 16-- Phenomenal Women: Senior of Color Event – 5:30pm - Student Union
- Saturday, June 14 – Cal Shakes Performance – A Raisin in the Sun 4pm, Orinda – co-sponsored with the Educational Outreach Committee

Next AoCC meeting: Saturday, March 1, 2013, 10am -12pm RAH

Sharon Robinson's thank you letter to schoalrsip

Dear XXXXX:

Thank you for contributing to the Alumnae of Color Scholarship in Honor of President DeCoudreaux for the 2013-2014 academic year. I am honored to receive this prestigious award for the second year. This scholarship provides critical financial support that allows me to finish my last semester as an undergraduate at Mills. Although, it seems only a short while ago that I entered Mills College as a resumer student in fall 2012, I now look forward to participating in the many Senior traditions this Spring.

I had an incredible fall semester. During my holiday break, I had a moment to reflect on all I learned during the semester as well as the many interesting and insightful conversations I had with my colleagues and professors. I took my first anthropology class—Cross-Cultural Perspectives on Women. It was an intriguing class and helped me better understand how women gain power in male-dominated societies. It also reinforced the importance of solidarity among women. Furthermore, it showed how “when women succeed, we all succeed.” An educated, prosperous woman will help her family, her village, her country and the world!

I am currently enrolled in the Women's Leadership in Politics class. The class reminds me and others just how powerful women are and the need for women to participate in the political arena to ensure that issues that help to improve the quality of life for all, such as quality education, wage equality, and health care accessibility, are on the policy agenda for the U.S. and the world.

During the winter break, I worked on my application for admission to the Master in Public Policy program at Mills. I am pleased to say that my application was submitted. I will know in late March if I am accepted in the MPP program for fall 2014 enrollment.

Thank you all for supporting me as I continue my incredible learning and living experience. I look forward to seeing many of you at Commencement on May 17 when I walk across the stage as a Mills Woman!

Peace,

Sharon Robinson

Class of 2014