

## THE GRIOT

*A Griot is a West African story-teller who preserves the oral history of the village or clan.*

June 2008, Volume 10

### Habari Gani !!!

*Habari Gani is a Swahili greeting for 'What's happening?'*



**Don Dorsey**  
AAN President/  
Dean of Student  
Affairs & Activities

We are pleased to share our spring edition of The Griot with the entire Foothill community, and dedicate it to those who have successfully completed another year of studies. We are proud of your accomplishments and wish you continued success.

The Griot (pronounced Gree'oh) is published by the African American Network, an organization whose purpose is to function in an advocacy and support role for Foothill-De Anza Community College District employees and students of African descent. A "griot" is a storyteller in traditional West African culture whose role is to preserve the oral history of the village or clan. They are revered clan members who commit to memory important events in a village's history like births, deaths, marriages and battles. A griot embodies the collective memory of the village to ensure a perspective of past as well as the news of the day upon which to base its decisions. It is in the spirit of that tradition that The Griot is published. Through this publication we document and celebrate the legacy and tradition of achievement and service that Foothill students of African descent have established over the decades.

In this issue you will find articles that focus on current and former students who have successfully balanced Foothill's rigorous academic, leadership and service commitments, family obligations and/or work.

We celebrate students who have successfully been accepted for transfer to four-year colleges or universities, are graduating or receiving certificates and are advancing to rewarding careers. On behalf of the Foothill College African American Network and supporters, we wish you the best.

Best Regards,

Donald Dorsey, President  
African American Network

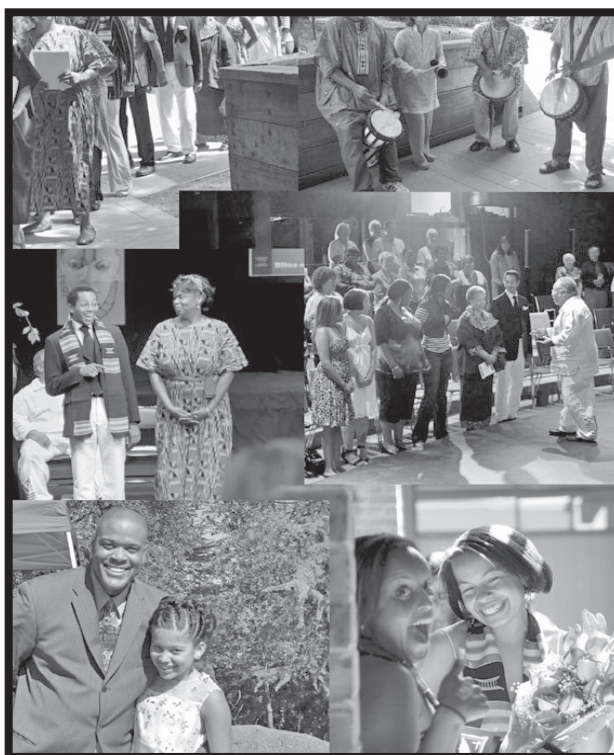
### African Ancestry Student Recognition Ceremony at De Anza

The BSU in conjunction with the African Ancestry Association will present the African Ancestry Student Recognition for graduating and transferring students on Friday, June 27, from 5 to 9 p.m. in the California History Center. All are welcome. Admission is free.

### Harambee 2008: Rites of Passage Celebration

The Foothill College African American Network, Shades of Africa and Brother to Brother invite you to join us for the 14th Annual Rites of Passage Celebration, Harambee 2008. The celebration is scheduled Friday, June 27, 3-4:30 P.M. in the Campus Center Dining Room. The free event celebrates the special rites of passage for graduates, transfer students, certificate recipients, and student leaders of African ancestry in the Class of 2008. Harambee (ha-rum-bay) is a Swahili word primarily used in Kenya in Kiswahili meaning, let's pull together, to work together, all for one. It is the cry of the fishermen as they draw the nets toward the shore. Everyone echoes the same word when a collective effort is made for the common good. We invite you to be honored and recognized for your diligence, persistence and achievement toward the common good of people from African ancestry past, present and future. Featured speaker for the program will be Gloria Walton, Foothill alumna from the Class of 2000, and include ceremonial drumming, Kente Cloth draping ceremony, recognition and service award presentations, food and refreshments. Natalia Menendez and Maisha Haywood Smith are chairing the planning committee which includes, Kim Lane, Dave Ellis, Melanie Hale, Donald Dorsey, April Henderson, Steve Mitchell, and Joyce Henderson McLeod.

To participate you must reserve your seat by calling or e-mailing Maisha Haywood Smith at (650)949.7366 or haywoodsmithmaisha@foothill.edu no later than June 24.



#### Reflections from Harambee 2007

HARAMBEE!!! HARAMBEE!!!! Families and friends are welcome. We look forward to seeing you at the Harambee 2008 celebration.

### Gloria Walton, Class of 2000, is Harambee 2008 Keynote Speaker



Gloria Walton graduated Foothill in 2000 and currently serves as the director of Organizing for Strategic Concepts in Organizing & Policy Education (SCOPE), a Los Angeles community organization, which focuses on grassroots organizing, leader-

ship development, alliance building, strategic research, training, capacity building, and electoral organizing. After graduating at the top of her class from a Jackson, Mississippi high school she attended Foothill College. While attending Foothill, Gloria was very active in campus life and served in many student roles of executive leadership on Campus Council of the Associated Students of Foothill College (ASFC), campus health initiatives, the Black Student Union, and served as president of California Student Association of Community Colleges' Black Caucus. She was selected to be the student speaker for the 2000 Commencement Ceremony. After graduation, she transferred to the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA) and graduated in 2002. She then joined the SCOPE team as an intern with AGENDA, the South Los Angeles organizing component; she later transitioned to full-time staff in 2003. She leads the leadership development and training of African Americans & Latinos in South Los Angeles, Silverlake, Hollywood and Echo Park; helps drive the work of the LA Apollo Alliance and SCOPE's Green Jobs Campaign, and coordinates SCOPE's South Los Angeles voter education and mobilization programs.

### INSIDE . . .

Faculty and Staff in the News	. . . 2
Students in the News	. . . 3
King Luncheon Celebration	. . . 4
February Lecture Series	. . . 4
Black History Month '08	. . . 5
Black Caucus Conference	. . . 5
Where Are They Now?	. . . 6
Shades of Africa News	. . . 7
Brother to Brother	. . . 7
Year in Review	. . . 8
Foothill Gospel Choir	. . . 8
AAN Executive Board News	. . . 8



## FACULTY AND STAFF IN THE NEWS



### **Rose Myers, VP Student Services takes Sabbatical**

This fall, Rose Myers, vice president of Student Development & Instruction will take an administrative development leave from Foothill College, the

first leave in her 12-year tenure. The administrative leave will provide her the time needed to focus on an area of student services that's in need of an enhanced focus; learning outcomes for student services. Given the additional duties assumed over the past several years, she has not had the time to devote to this area.

Her plan is two-fold: To research and identify national and state models on learning outcomes in student services, including development of service-related learning outcomes, assessment of service-related learning outcomes, and the linking of those outcomes to program review and resource allocation. The research will be utilized to develop a new approach at Foothill, based on leading research and best practices at selected institutions. While Foothill College has made progress in developing a process for establishing and assessing outcomes for some student services, there is no formal process that links all of the elements together. This leave will afford Myers the opportunity to review established programs, study best practices that are already in place, and explore ways in which the learning outcomes program at Foothill can be strengthened for student services.

Secondly, she plans to examine the linkages and commonalities between the national Achieving the Dream Initiative and California Basic Skills Initiative. This research will determine how the best practices of each initiative can be used on campus to increase student success at Foothill College. While we will miss her, we look forward to new innovations for Foothill!



### **Dorsey Receives Sankofa Award**

Donald Dorsey, dean of Student Affairs & Activities, was presented the Sankofa Award for Outstanding Community Service & Leadership by

Congresswoman Maxine Waters at the Cal SACC Black Caucus Leadership Conference at El Camino College, in Torrance in February. Additionally, Dorsey has been appointed to serve as the interim vice president of Student Development & Instruction at Foothill from Sept. 1, 2008 through July 1, 2009.

During his tenure at Foothill, Dorsey has provided leadership in the areas of student equity, student activities, diversity and student support services. His work in creating new programs at Foothill to promote a broader understanding of cultural perspectives, diversity and student equity earned him the John W. Rice Diversity Award from the California Community College Chancellor's Office in 2006. Among his many achievements are the co-founding the Foothill-De Anza Minority Staff Association and co-founding the Foothill African American Network and currently serving as its president.



### **Robert E. Griffin, Ed. D.**

Robert Griffin, Ed. D., vice president for Student Services at De Anza College will retire after 30 years of experience in higher education. He began his career in higher education as the director of the Office of Programs & Services at

San Jose State University.

In 1976, Dr. Griffin was hired as the associate dean of Student Services at Monterey Peninsula College in Monterey, California, and in 1986 was promoted to the dean of Student Services at that college.

In 1994 he was hired as the vice president of Student Services at De Anza College in Cupertino, California, where he is currently employed. He has served on a number of state-wide community college boards and commissions, including serving as past president of the Association of California Community College Administrators (ACCCA). His professional experience includes presentations at a number of conferences on the regional, state and national level.

He has served on the executive committee of the Commission on Athletics (COA) where he chaired the subcommittee responsible for rewriting California's Athletic Eligibility Code, in order to address the academic course-taking patterns of student-athletes.

Dr. Griffin has served on a number of community non-profit boards, which include serving as the chairperson of the Planning Commission for the City of Seaside, California and as the president of United Way of the Monterey Peninsula. His public service also includes holding a publicly elected office, as a member of the Monterey Peninsula Regional Park District (a tax-funded environmental protection and land acquisition board) in Monterey, California. Currently, he works with a number of nonprofit organizations in the area of strategic planning. He has recently been asked to serve on the San Jose Jazz Society Board as a member of its education committee.

After years of richly contributing to our college district, Dr. Griffin's presence will be missed. The African Ancestry Association of De Anza College and the African American Network of Foothill College wish him well in his retirement.



### **April Henderson Earns Promotion**

April Henderson was recently promoted to serve as the EOPS Services Coordinator. Her responsibilities

include recruiting and outreach for Foothill's Extended Opportunity Programs and Services (EOPS), oversight of the EOPS tutorial service and compiling data for reports to the state on EOPS service at Foothill College. She will continue to collaborate with her department in the coordination of various campus and community events. She enjoys her new position because it allows her the opportunity to closely connect with and support Foothill students.



### **Melanie Hale Elected President CCCMHWA**

Melanie Hale, director of Foothill College Psychological Services & Personal Counseling wrote a successful application for a

Foothill College President's Innovation Grant in October 2007. She received \$45,000 to implement her vision for the creation of Foothill College Institute for Community College Mental Health (FICCMH). The institute serves, as a center for professional development that promotes best practices and cultural competence in addressing the mental health needs of community college students. The institute sponsored its first professional development-training program on suicide prevention May 21 – 23 at Foothill. More than 98 faculty, staff and administrators from Foothill and other colleges throughout the state participated. Among them were Canada, Chabot, De Anza, Fresno City, Monterey Peninsula College, Moorpark, Santa Rosa, Southwestern College, Stanford, West Valley, and Wells Spring Academic Agency.

Hale is also the founding president of the California Community College Mental Health & Wellness Association. The mission of MHWA is to enhance student success, wellness and retention by the support and promotion of quality mental health services programs throughout the California Community College System. Melanie is the founding president of Foothill College African American Network.



### **Welcome Home Herlisa!**

Herlisa Hamp returns to Foothill College this summer as dean of Student Support Programs & Services. For the past two years, she has worked at College of the Canyons where she was director

of Student Recruitment & School Relations. At COC, she was able to establish a new division and build many strategic relationships throughout the Santa Clarita Valley. She is excited about her return and is excited to launch new innovations for our campus.

She spent six years at Foothill as an outreach specialist, academic programs, where she single-handedly revamped the Early Alert Intervention Program and worked with thousands of students. She briefly worked in a leave-replacement capacity as athletic counselor and facilitated many study skill workshops on campus.

She co-chaired the Student Learning Outcomes Committee for our last self-study report. Prior to joining the Foothill family, she spent 10 years at San Jose State University as an advisor for students interested in the health professions. At SJSU, she also served as part-time faculty for several years in the School of Education. Prior to working in higher education, she worked for an economic development association and as a social worker in Santa Clara County. We are excited to welcome Herlisa home!

*"We build our temples for tomorrow, strong as we know how, and we stand on top of the mountain, free within ourselves."*

Langston Hughes



# STUDENTS IN THE NEWS

## College and High School Students Recognized in the Foothill College Achiever Awards Ceremony

In February, the 10th Annual African American Achiever Awards Program honored seven Foothill students and 16 seniors from peninsula and south bay high schools. The ceremony recognized academic achievement, leadership and service contributions among graduating and transferring students of African descent at Foothill and local high schools in San Mateo and Santa Clara counties. Gloria Walton, Foothill alumna, Class of 2000 and UCLA graduate and community organizer in Los Angeles, was the featured speaker and received the Distinguished Alumni Award. Faculty in the various academic divisions selected the Foothill students for recognition and each participating high school honored one student. The following awards were presented to Foothill College students: The **George Washington Carver Achievement Award** was presented to Ethiopia Sinke by dean Gertrude Gregorio for the Adaptive Learning Division; the **Ronald Lewis Achievement Award** was presented to Sherstin Drobia by Dr. Sara Seyedin for faculty in the Business & Social Science Division. Noah Bennett was presented the **Lewis Latimer Achievement Award** by the Math My Way Team for the Physical Sciences, Mathematics & Engineering Division. Interim dean Kate Jordahl presented the **Lorraine Hansberry Achievement Award** to Jerome Sephers, for the Fine Arts and communications Division. Humphrey Jackson was presented the **Toni Morrison Achievement Award** by Professor Natalia Menendez for the Language Arts Division. Dean Sue Gatlin presented the **Jackie Robinson Achievement Award** to Shakeeva Turner for the Human Performance and Physical Education Division. Lisa Grant was presented the **Thurgood Marshall Award Leadership and Service Award** by Dean Donald Dorsey for Student Activities & Affairs Programs.

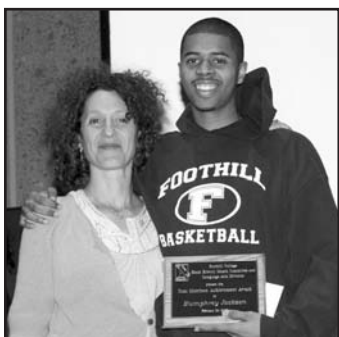
Their respective schools selected the following students for achievement awards: Veronica Smith, **Aragon High School**; Julian Howard, **Bellarmine College Preparatory**; Nina Richardson, **Del Mar High School**; Marquise Jones, **Junipero Serra High School**; Edward Carboni, **Leigh High School**; Marleachia McJunkin, **Menlo Atherton High School**; Jonathan Ford, **Mills High School**; Vincent Jones, **Newark Memorial High School**; Nekela Flack, **Oceana High School**; Demetrius Coleman, **Peninsula High School**; Alfred Artis, **Saint Francis High School**; Ebony Nicholas, **San Jose High Academy**; Abraham Mengistu, **Santa Clara High School**; Crystal Proffitt, **Terra Nova High School**; Asmamaw Wassie, **Westmont High School** and Janice Jordan, **Woodside High School**.



Noah Bennett & Math My Way Team



Lamont Dilwood, Gloria Walton, Myisha Sears



Natalia Menendez & Humphrey Jackson



Lisa Grant, Myisha Sears & Sherstin Drobia



Julian Howard & Steve Pinkston, Bellarmine College Preparatory



Jerome Sephers & Kate Jordahl



Lisa Grant & Don Dorsey



Sue Gatlin & Shakeeva Turner



Sherstin Drobia & Dr. Sara Seyedin



Sherstin Drobia, Kim Lane & Lisa Grant

## “Our Black Gold”

*Congratulations to the following Foothill student athletes of African descent who have completed requirements of transfer for 4 Year Universities*

### Football

**Anthony Jones**

University Of South Florida

**Albertson Alexandre**

University of Toledo

**Jason Tate**

Elizabeth State University

**Joseph Townsend**

University of North Carolina

**Cameron Bradford**

Stony Brook University

### Men's Soccer

**Benjamin Moukoko**

California State University, Chico

**Regis Kouasis**

University California Davis

### Volleyball

**Shakeeva Turner**

California State University, East Bay

### Women's Basketball

**Chloe Ballard**

California State University, Chico

**Leilani Martin**

University California, San Diego

**Jasmine Lowe**

University San Francisco

**Chelsea Price**

Undecided

**Claudia Nelson**

Undecided

### Men's Basketball

**Humphrey Jackson**

Undecided

*“Armed with the knowledge of our past, we can with confidence charter a course for our future.”*



# Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Celebrated

Foothill students, faculty and staff celebrated the civil rights legacy with the college's 14th annual Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Luncheon & March Re-Enactment on, January 16, 2008. The movement and marches of this preacher, Nobel Prize recipient, scholar, author and national hero ignited 13 years of civil rights activism and change, and introduced equality for people of all races and backgrounds to enjoy the American dream.

The event began with the recreation of the 1963 March on Washington in the Library Quad. Students carried picket signs with messages of peace, freedom, civil rights and equal rights for all. Students then marched to the Campus Center Dining Room singing, "We Shall Overcome." The event culminated with a soul-food luncheon and remarks from guest speaker Silicon Valley Community Foundation CEO & President Emmett D. Carson, Ph.D. Prior to his appointment at SVCF in 2006, Dr. Carson served for 12 years as president and CEO of Minneapolis Foundation, where he pioneered several community initiatives and increased assets from \$186 million to more than \$600 million. Previously, he served as the first manager of the Ford Foundation's worldwide grant making program on philanthropy and the nonprofit sector. He also has worked for the Joint Center for Political & Economic Studies and Congressional Research Service.



The African American Network founded Foothill's annual King Luncheon in 1994. Today this event is co-sponsored by Foothill College African American Network, ASFC Activities Board and Student Activities Office.



## Nationally Recognized Speakers Featured During February Lecture Series



### *Ancient African Civilizations*

Manu Ampim, historian and primary (hands-on) researcher, specializes in African and African American history and culture. He is a truth seeker who uses historical research to reveal the rich legacy of African people. Professor Ampim presented a very provocative lecture and power point presentation titled: "Nile Valley and Classic African Civilizations" to kick off the 2008 BHM lecture series. "We study African history and culture because self-knowledge is the foundation of self-identity and self-respect," and "Primary research is the most effective weapon against the distortion of African history and culture," said Ampim. He believes this knowledge will raise knowledge, will raise the self-image and consciousness of Africans. Ampim currently teaches Africana studies at Merritt College and is teaching a seven-step primary research methodology course at advancing the research. He previously taught in the department of history at Morgan State University and San Francisco State University in the department of ethnic studies. A man of deep convictions,

his presentation presented not only the problem of the destruction of African monuments, he provided a plan of action to counter this practice, said attorney Legrand H. Clegg II. Besides his first-hand research in Africa, Ampim has led educational tours of Africa and Central America. He earned a bachelor's degree in BS in business management and master's in History/African American Studies. His master thesis, "The Revolutionary Martin Luther King Jr. (1989)" is being expanded into a two-volume work titled, "Martin Luther King Jr.: The Evolution of a Revolutionary."



### *Black Agency-Individual vs. Collective*

Who are you? The core concept of identity drives our attitudes and behaviors, but within all of us are many identities; the key is to figure out which one of our many selves needs to be front and center at a particular given moment. Alonzo Jones, director of Multicultural Student Services at Arizona State University presented, "Black Agency; Individual Achievement-Black Cultural Progress" as the second presenter for the Lecture Series during Black History Month. Jones' presentation "explored contemporary forces that shape the values and priorities of young people and examined how college students can best position themselves as future decision makers." Themes addressed in his session included a historical timeline of major periods impacting Black life, a matrix exercise dissecting our many identities, and the ever-important role you play as a college student in continuing the progress of our beautiful cultural community.

Jones holds a bachelor's degree in justice studies from Arizona State University and master's in developmental education from Southwest Texas State University. He spent his professional career managing and developing programs within a higher education setting to combat the problematic enrollment retention and graduation rates of Black, Latino and Native American youth. As a lecturer, his message was intellectual and passionate, and addressed contemporary issues ranging from access to higher education and factors shaping the priorities of urban youth.



### *"Hip-Hop Comes to School"*

Is hip-hop a culture? Is hip-hop and rap the same thing? Bryant K. Smith founder and president of Smith Consulting & Networking (CAN) gave a brief history of hip-hop while answering these questions during a featured presentation in February. He asked the question, "what is next for hip-hop and for you?" This and many other questions were addressed in his light-hearted but critical examination of hip-hop culture and its impact on the institution of higher education. He discussed the role of students in society; how women are portrayed in hip-hop; issues of social personal responsibility, AIDS, safe sex, drugs and alcohol, politics; and trends in hip-hop. The presentation was co-sponsored by the Foothill Health Services Office. Smith was formerly the director of Multicultural and International Student Services, Millikin University in Decatur, IL. He is the author of "Black Not Blind," a social commentary on race relations

in the United States.

His second book, "To My Sons and Brothers, Letters of Instruction & Encouragement for Black Men," is in the works. Driven by his passion and interest in student success, he pursued a Masters' Degree in organizational communication. He believes he is doing his part to complete a cycle started by his ancestors; "They were therefore I am. I am therefore they will be." We are so that they will be." He delivered a strong message of hip-hop and inspiration, coupled with his social commentary; he is passing the torch onto the next generation.



### *Are You a "Hot Ghetto Mess" or a "Visionary Global Leader"?*

A phenomenon has swept the nation that equates being a person of color, low income or from the inner city with being the scourge of society, according to researcher Lasana Hotep. Popular media depicts communities as aberrations and social deviants and have been able to find support from members of the very communities they stereotype, Hotep says. His presentation during Black History Month addressed the role of the Civil Rights Movement, Black Power Movement, COINTELPRO, Reagan Revolution and American consumerism play in producing the current "Ghetto Fabulous" depiction of African people, said Hotep. His multimedia presentation challenged the notions of popular media toward people of color by outlining economic, social and political factors that contribute to some of the challenges facing these communities. Ultimately, the workshop outlined strategies, attitudes and behaviors needed to transform one as,

Hotep describes, from a "hot, ghetto, mess into a visionary global leader." Hotep is a research consultant and entrepreneur committed to inciting critical thought about society, culture and politics. He received his bachelor's with a double major in speech communication and history from Texas State University. He currently serves a student success coordinator in the Multicultural Center at Arizona State University. Hotep, along with Alonzo Jones, co-authored a chapter in the book African American Men in College highlighting the African American Men of Arizona State University (AAMASU) Program.





## Foothill College Black History Month 2008 Reflections

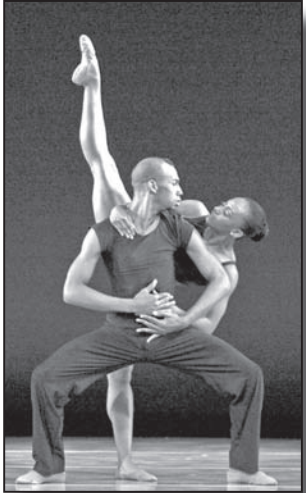
by Lamont Dilwood

The Foothill College Black History Month 2008 celebration was a huge success. The theme around which events were organized was: "Connecting through Universal Understanding: Our Different Shades of Black." During the opening ceremony students were moved by the originality and rich color of African fashion as presented by the Shades of Africa Fashion Show in the opening ceremony.

Angela Dallas was the featured artist for the month and her work was exhibited in Semans Library for the month of February. Her signature piece; "The Gathering" perfectly reflected our theme. She made herself available to the campus community during two receptions and discussed her work with students and community residents. The "Love and Protect" events were sponsored by the Health Center & Black History Month Planning

Committee hosted a successful Valentine's Day Dance and promoted AIDS Awareness Week. Author-Comedian Brian Copeland's, featured in the Foothill Authors Series, read from his book, Not a Genuine Black Man. Brian's reading and the discussion that followed was not only entertaining but also very inspirational. Pan-African City Alive created a culturally rich, artifact filled exhibit for the display cases in the Campus Center, which focused on the beauty and richness of the Pan-African experience.

Four nationally recognized motivational speakers were featured in our lecture series. Manu Ampim returned to campus to present on the Nile Valley & Ancient African Civilizations. His lecture featured recent photos taken during research in the Nile Valley. Bryan Smith presented, "Hip-Hop Comes to School" and opened the eyes of many students to the meaning of Hip-Hop culture, enlightening them on the various topics that rappers touch on within their lyrics. Smith encouraged students to examine the message they received when they listen to different genres of music. He explained that Hip-Hop isn't a real genre of music but a lifestyle. Black Agency: Individual Achievement was the focus of another lecture series presentation by Alonzo Jones. His presentation focused on the many identities we as students have and how important it is to understand the role played by college students in continuing progress and development. He showed that every person has multiple identities and we need to know which one is up front and center. For example, when I am in front of my mom, I am a son; when I am at school, I am a student. Alonzo Jones empowered students to recognize who they are now and take control of their future. Lasana Hotep closed out the lecture series with a powerful presentation entitled, Hot Ghetto Mess or Visionary Global Leader, which challenged those in attendance to more closely examine the notions of popular media toward people of color. He questioned and challenged students' minds on topics like why are urban areas portrayed so negatively. During the presentation he made powerful points by outlying economic, social and political factors that contribute to some of the challenges faced by people of color in maximizing their human potential.



World-renowned Dallas Black Dance Theatre was in residence for its 13th dance residency which included two lecture demonstrations and petite performances for 1900 middle-school students from 17 different peninsula and south bay schools, a master class held in conjunction with the Foothill Dance Department for Foothill dance students, and a VIP matinee performance for senior citizens, which included an exciting director's notes presentation before the show. The Links Inc., Peninsula and San Jose Chapters, Alpha Kappa Alpha Inc., Rho Delta Omega Chapter and Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc., Eta Sigma Lambda Chapter joined the Foothill Commission and Pepsi Cola to make the residency possible which ended with a near capacity evening public performance in Smithwick Theatre followed by complimentary reception for the company in the Campus Center.

The "Make a Joyful Noise Gospel Concert," was a touching and exhilarating experience that many students and people of the community were able to enjoy. The concert featured the Foothill Gospel & Community Choir along with several guest choirs.

One of the final events for the month was the "Improving the College Access & Success of Black & Latino Males Luncheon" co-sponsored by the Basic Skills Initiative and Foothill College Brother to Brother Program. The session featured Dr. Tyrone Bledsoe, founder and CEO of Student African American Brotherhood (SAAB). During his powerful talk Dr. Bledsoe highlighted tools, strategies, affirmations, values and support systems that have proven beneficial for the personal development and success of many young men of Black and Latino descent. The fully subscribed luncheon featured a large cross section of the campus leadership including students, faculty and staff.

For the first time ever at Foothill College, we coordinated our closing ceremony with the Women's History Month opening ceremony. Heritage months are all about sharing culture and not particularly focused on the people of that culture. With us doing our closing ceremony with the next month's opening ceremony, I feel that it opens up the door to more students for embracing each heritage for what they offer.

Most of the Black History Month events offered free admission and we had an average of 100 students attending each event. We were able to share with Foothill College and the community a little of African and African American culture.

It takes enthusiasm, collaboration and leadership skills to plan our annual Black History Month Celebration. We'd love to add your talents, skills and enthusiasm to our planning committee. If you can commit two hours per week, attend all meetings and follow through on assignments join us! We begin planning BHM 2009 this summer. For details call 650.949.7060.



---

---

## Foothill Students Attend Black Caucus Conference

by Jason Simon

The California Student Association of Community Colleges Black Caucus held its annual leadership conference at El Camino College in Torrance in February. With the theme "Sankofa: Honoring Our Past, Celebrating the Present, Building the Future", commemorating the organization's history and growing legacy. The Black Caucus reaffirmed its role as the statewide student-run advocacy organization for community college students of African descent and other under served populations. This was the 10th anniversary of this prestigious conference. The overall vision of the Black Caucus is to cultivate and encourage African American leadership on community college campuses statewide.

Foothill College has hosted the Black Caucus conference in the past and has had direct involvement and development of Black Caucus mission and vision since its inception in 1998. We have been utilizing the tools of the Black Caucus to cultivate and encourage Black leadership on our own campus. This year Foothill leaders again put out the call for Black student leaders to organize a delegation to represent Foothill at the Caucus.

This was a chance for Foothill student leaders to step up and take charge. Our group was rallied by Myisha Spears. When the question of funding Foothill's delegation arose, Myisha Spears ensured that the Black student voice was heard. After a week of lobbying and deliberation, the Associated Students of Foothill College voted to send the largest delegation of African American students in the college's history to the statewide conference. Foothill's delegation included Myra Aguilera, Donte Almond, Michael Almond, Lamont Dilwood, Constance Dukunde, Benny Evien, Matt Fultcher, Dolores Garcia, Myisha Sears, Cara Parker, Dominique Hunt, Eugene Harrell, Nyiesha Hewitt, Andre Jimenez, Danique Jones, Lawrence Moore, Shareice Owens, Anthony Royall, Eric Spencer, Jason Simon, Joseph Townsend, and staff advisors Maisha Haywood-Smith and Steve Mitchell.

Hundreds of community college student leaders of African descent from across the state attended the leadership conference and were treated to inspirational and provocative keynote and seminar speakers. Keynote speakers for the conference were Rev. Dr. J. Alfred Smith, California Community Colleges board member and senior pastor of Allen Temple Baptist Church, Oakland; California State Assemblyman Mervyn Dymally, Ph.D.; and Congresswoman Maxine Waters. Bryan K. Smith's seminar on the contrasting cultures of hip-hop and higher education was enlightening as it touched on topics on AIDS, safe sex, drugs, politics and trends of hip-hop. Manu Ampim's seminar on ancient African civilizations brought to life the world of our ancestors in a contemporary way. The last two seminars that especially resonated with the Foothill delegation included Lasana Hotep's "Are You a "Hot Ghetto Mess" or a Visionary Leader?" and Alonzo Jones "Individual vs. Collective" touched on the subjects of the African American identity and the role of the student. Delegates found that these topics related to their own experiences on college campuses. The unity that was built and acknowledged through each of these seminars resulted in student-led discussion groups that were both insightful and engaging. Lasana Hotep's examination of multi-media and its historical reference brought to light many of the negative stereotypes of African American individuals, or in his words "Hot Ghetto Mess". He emphasized in his influential seminar the importance of us taking the latter role of a visionary global leader without disrespecting marginalized portions of our own communities.

I found the Black Caucus to be a transcendental experience. I saw the rise of many student leaders, and the powers of our collective efforts accomplish an understanding of our culture that we didn't have before. The Foothill students should have the pride and appreciation for the amount of faculty and staff support that is readily available. I am excited to see what effect this memorable experience had on the students who participated, and what they will do with the information insight and wisdom at the Black Caucus.

The Black Caucus is an annual event. Only committed student leaders are selected to attend. Do you have what it takes to lead others, inspire many and do the hard work that is before us? Find out!! Attend a meeting of Shades of Africa, The Black Student Union or Brother 2 Brother. Typically they meet weekly, call 650.949.7060 for meeting days, times and room.

# *Foothill Graduates* **WHERE ARE THEY NOW?**



## ***Andrew Houston, Foothill Class of 2001***

Raised in San Mateo and a graduate of Hillsdale High School in 1998, Andrew Houston currently works for Legal Services of Northern California (LSNC) in Sacramento where he is a graduate legal assistant. At LSNC, he provides clients with free legal services that empower the poor to identify and defeat the causes and effects of poverty.

Andrew graduated from Foothill College in 2001 with an associates degree in individual studies. At Foothill, he was a team member and leader in the Pass the Torch Program and credits the late and great Foothill Counselor Jean Thomas for all of his academic accomplishments. In 2003, he earned a bachelor's degree in sociology with honors from U.C. Berkeley. He then earned his Juris doctorate degree from U.C. Hastings College of the Law in 2007 and completed the California Bar Exam in July.

While in law school, he had the opportunity to extern for the Honorable Claudia Wilkin in the U.S. District Court, Northern District of California; intern at the East Bay Community Law Center in the Decriminalization of Poverty Practice, and perform clinical work in Hastings Civil Justice Clinic. Andrew was the 2005-2006 president of Hastings Black Law Students Association. Together with other student leaders and community-based organizations, he regularly met to exchange information, develop strategies, and implement short and long-term projects, including organizing and participating in outreach activities, such as the Students of Color Outreach Day for prospective law students, A Day at Law School for kids ages 5-17, and tabling at Law School Admission Council forums and campus visits. At Hastings, Andrew was also senior managing editor of Hastings Race and Poverty Law Journal and taught street law to a class of seniors at Oakland Technical High School. He taught his students substantive information about law, democracy and human rights through strategies that promoted problem solving, critical thinking, cooperative learning, improved communication and conflict resolution skills. Andrew's advice to current Foothill College students: "Set the bar high. I would visit my counselor, Jean Thomas, on a daily basis and one day she asked me whether I wanted to transfer to Berkeley or Stanford. It never crossed my mind to even apply to schools of this caliber until she believed in me. The day I got into Berkeley, Jean hugged me and started to cry. It was not until I got to Berkeley and saw how few students of color were on campus, absorbed so much privileged knowledge, and recognized how many doors a college degree opened that I realized why Jean cried."



## ***LaQuisha Beckum, Foothill Class of 2000***

Beckum, Foothill alumna, class of 2000, transferred to San Jose State University (SJSU) in Fall 2000. After five years at Foothill, five major changes, and earning the Foothill associate degree in Speech Communication, she decided on psychology. LaQuisha majored in psychology and minored in sociology. She had been working with the YMCA of the Mid-Peninsula for five years and believed this would give her more understanding of some of the issues the kids she was working were dealing with in the areas of development and community. At SJSU, LaQuisha worked as a teaching assistant and short-term research assistant. During her last year as an undergraduate, she decided to get back to working within the sciences. Speaking to the project director of the psychology department's NASA program, she began conducting research

in the area of flight safety and aviation during her first semester in graduate school at SJSU in 2002.

LaQuisha's research focused on prospective memory (every day memory) and how the social contexts and importance of information could help commercial pilots remember to follow through with all of their checks before flight. LaQuisha received a master's degree in experimental psychology in 2004 and was accepted into the social psychology program at Howard University. Due to unfortunate events, she turned down the opportunity to enter the program. LaQuisha is currently working as faculty in the psychology department at De Anza College where she not only teaches, but has created a tutorial program for the Division of Social Science & Humanities, and has successfully implemented an early alert retention program. She is a BSU advisor, president of the African Ancestry Association, mother of three, wife and attending college to earn a doctorate in education.



## ***Qa'id Tauheed Aqeel (formerly known as Andre Duke), Foothill Class of 1991***

Qa'id came to Foothill in the fall of 1991 and transferred to California State University, Hayward, (CSUH) in 1994. During his time at Foothill Qa'id was an active student leader and member of the Black Student Union. He was instrumental in the development of the early Make a Joyful Noise concert series by using his influence to successfully bring the world-renown Clara Ward Singers as featured artists for the second annual Make a Joyful Noise concert.

He graduated from CSUH in 1996 with a bachelor of Arts Degree in Sociology with an emphasis in social services and a minor in ethnic studies. He is pursuing a career in social services. In 2001, he returned to CSUH and completed a Master's degree in public administration with a concentration in public management. He is currently working with youth and families for Oakland Unified School District as program coordinator.

He has also worked on various political campaigns, including Oakland Mayor Ronald V. Dellums' campaign as the co-chair of Youth for Dellums. He was appointed by Mayor Dellums as a commissioner for the Citizens Police Review Board. He is currently working on presidential hopeful Barack Obama's campaign.

Qa'id has always been committed to serving people. One of his goals is to run for Oakland's City Council in four years.



## ***Antoinette Mayfield, Foothill Class of 2004***

Upon leaving Foothill College, I continued a great journey that I thought was leading me toward a successful career in nursing. In actuality, it lead me to Christ, and now my faith-and hard work-is guiding me to achieve a Biblical degree at a radical school for Christ called the School of Urban Missions (SUM) in Oakland, Ca. I started at SUM last August and continue working on my bachelor's degree.

I finished my Foothill studies in exactly two years, and my last quarter, I completed 23.5 units with a GPA of 3.4. From that quarter forward, my purpose in school and life was to do the best I could at all times. I transferred to San Jose State University, and was completing my prerequisites for the nursing program when I lost focus. Although I was earning great grades, it was by the provision of God.

I became focused again after giving birth to my precious son, who turns age 3 this summer. Because I wanted him to have the best opportunities in life, I returned to De Anza in 2005 and averaged a 3.34 GPA during the two years I attended. I was then eligible to apply for the nursing program at both De Anza and San Jose State. I became interested in God's people with my growing faith and spiritual development. My current vision and goal is to open up a ministry-based girl center for runaway teens and single mothers and provide simple, but important services for these women, including showers, mailing services and clothing.





## Shades of Africa

By Confiance Dukunde, President, Shades of Africa

When African students arrive in the US, they have to learn completely new set of rules that govern life in the west. They adjust to it and try to absorb as much as they can to make themselves a tiny place in the so called, “Extravagant Bay Area.” Shades of Africa members figured out that it’s not only about being in the US to get the experience and education but also to share cultures. With so many stereotypes towards Africa in general and Africans specifically, it was probably about time that someone starts doing something about it. Shades of Africa is taking the lead to start the “Movement of change”–cross cultural enlightenment !

Although most members are originally from Africa, there are also non African students who have joined. Members of Shades Of Africa (SOA), come from various countries such as Rwanda, Kenya, Ghana, Sierra Leone, Mali, Liberia, Gabon, Ivory Coast, Nigeria, Uganda, Sudan, Ethiopia, Eritrea, Sweden, France and United States. As you can see, most of these countries are from Africa, the Continent not the Country as some people believe.

Sometimes I walk around campus and students ask me “Are you from Africa?” I say yes. Next, they ask “How is it there?” when I say it’s good I occasionally get questionable looks. SOA realized that one of many ways to teach the culture is by showing apparels worn and music played and danced in different areas, regions or countries of Africa. We organized a successful Fashion Show that took place on May 15, 2008 in the Dining Room of the Campus Center. It included, of course, clothing demonstration and different dance forms.

Besides the Fashion Show, the club is ideating some other projects that would embrace the different cultures together to make the diversified communities on campus feel like home. There are some discussions going on about a “Car Wash Fundraising” that would provide funds to be donated to Non-profit organizations that support Africa. Also, there is another project in process about providing education to those kids back in Africa that never got the opportunity to pursue their education due to financial reasons.

Shades Of Africa, through its members, is here to give its share to educate communities and raise the awareness since without it no one would know. So, if you would like to be part of the “Movement to the change,” the club meets every Fridays at 3:30 PM in the Student Council Chambers. So, come join us and let’s make this happen.

## Brother 2 Brother on the Move

By Tai Myers, President, Brother 2 Brother

This year has been a good one for Brother 2 Brother (B2B) as well as for me. I got the chance to meet other African American and Latino men who I probably wouldn’t have encountered if I hadn’t joined B2B. Through the quarters, B2B has introduced me to successful, intelligent men who look like me and share my academic and career goals?

The purpose of Brother 2 Brother is to bring African American and Latino College-age men into the group and support them as they work to met the demands of their academic commitments. The organization wants to make sure that these men make it through college with all the classes needed to graduate and/or transfer to a university. B2B also aims to have brothers who have successfully completed college return and lend a hand to the younger brothers who are college bound and currently attending college. Brother 2 Brother is about creating a sense of community and friendship between brothers. It is a place for the brothers to be honest with each other as well as develop the knowledge of running a vibrant, effective organization.



Brother 2 Brother has allowed me to develop as a leader during the three quarters I’ve been at Foothill. When I first started here at Foothill, I was afraid of leadership roles. I was scared that I would fail if a big task were given to me. As time passed and I became more comfortable with the campus and my own abilities, I started to let go of that fear. I started out as treasurer for Brother 2 Brother. Next, I went a step further volunteered to serve as interim president, which is my current position. Being a part of the officer positions in B2B gave me the confidence to go one more step: I decided to join the Associated Student of Foothill College and serve as a senator. I’m confident that my participation in B2B, and the support and encouragement of my B2B family have been critical factors in my decision to pursue more leadership roles. I don’t think that I would have made that decision without the encouragement from B2B.

How will B2B shape your confidence? Hone your skills? Bust you out of your routine comfort zone and inspire you to do new challenging and remarkable things? You’ll never know until you give B2B a try. Learn more about this program or schedule a consultation call B2B Mentor Steve Mitchell @ (650) 949.7813 or (650) 949.7635. B2B meet Friday mornings at 10:00 a.m. in Room 2018, Campus Center. There is no membership fee. A membership application is required.

*“If you have a purpose in which you can believe, there’s no end to the amount of things you can accomplish.”*

*Marian Anderson, American opera singer*



## AAN Year in Review

by Donald Dorsey

The African American Network (AAN) offered a variety of programs and services in support of student success this academic year. The AAN hosted two very successful welcome back barbecues at the beginning of the year. The Student BBQ/Orientation was held at the District Office BBQ Pit. The Staff/Alumni BBQ was held at the Los Altos home of Harry and Sondra Saterfield. The student orientation BBQ included more than 75 students and staff, while the off-campus staff BBQ provided the opportunity more than 30 network members and supporters to reconnect as we began the school year.

A fall edition of "The Griot" was published through efforts and focused work of the AAN Executive Board over the summer. It was mailed to every student of African descent prior to the beginning of the Fall Quarter. We made progress on our faculty/staff recruitment initiative, which began during the spring when we initiated and collaborated in staffing the Foothill College table at National Conference on Race & Ethnicity in San Francisco. During the fall, Rose Myers, Donald Dorsey, Shawn Townes, Matais Pouncil and Warren Hurd represented the college at 4 major HBCU recruitment job fairs involving students and alumni from the following schools: North Carolina A & T University; Prairie View A & M University; North Carolina Central University; Elizabeth City State University; Florida A&M University; Tennessee State University; Grambling University and Southern University.

Our fall general membership meeting featured a conversation with Foothill College president, Judy Miner Ed.D., on her vision for Foothill. During the fall, we also initiated conversations with the other campus ethnic networks (OLA and APAN) and developed strategies focused on ways that we can be supportive of efforts to improve curricular options in the ethnic studies area.

The winter quarter focus was the successful Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Luncheon and support of our student-lead Black History Month celebration.

Our spring membership meeting featured a discussion lead by Mari Huerta and representatives from OLA and APAN of the ethnic studies works she has undertaken.

The executive board has met at least once monthly, and is in the process of developing standardized planning guides for the traditional programs and services we offer, so as to encourage participation and leadership by all, both as members on standing committees and/or as leaders of those committees.

Building Community—Supporting Student Success  
*AAN Fall Orientation Student BBQ*



8

## Foothill College Gospel Choir:

*An Experience Not to be Missed*

The Foothill College Gospel Choir (FCGC) is a community chorus that focuses on the study, rehearsal and performance of music drawn from African-American music of the church. FCGC members span all faiths, races and age groups, and all share a love for gospel music and commitment to vocal performance. FCGC meets in Los Altos, and vocalists come from all regions of the greater Bay Area to participate in this talented ensemble.

While most of the members are enrolled in Foothill College's MUSP 24:Gospel Chorus course, new members are always welcome to join at any time.

Be a part of this exceptional choir, Foothill's Fall Quarter begins Sept. 24, 2008.

We look forward to seeing you and welcoming you to the Foothill College Gospel Choir. For more information, call Dee Vance Lee: (650) 949-7257.

---

---

## Foothill College African American Network

### *Purpose*

The purpose of this organization shall be to function in an advocacy and support role for Foothill-De Anza Community College District employees of African descent as well as Foothill College students of African descent.

---

---

## Foothill College African American Network Annual Programs:

Welcome New & Returning Student Orientation (*Fall*)

Annual African American Network Welcome Back BBQ (*Fall*)

African American Network General Membership Meeting (*Fall*)

Annual Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Luncheon (*Winter*)

Black History Month Celebrations

African American Network General Membership Meeting (*Winter*)

African American Network General Membership Meeting (*Spring*)

Harambee  
Afrocentric Rites of Passage Ceremony for Graduates, University Transfers & Certificate Awards (*Spring*)



RECRUITING THE NEXT GENERATION  
*AAN participates at HBCU Job Fairs*

## The African American Network



### Executive Board 2007-2008

*From left to right in the photo:  
Melanie Hale, Ach'-sah Harris, Steve Mitchell, Donald Dorsey,  
MariaElena Apodaca, Joyce Henderson McLeod*

#### President

Donald Dorsey, Dean  
Student Affairs & Activities

#### Vice President

Melanie Hale, Director  
Psychological Services & Personal Counseling

#### Secretary

Ach'-sah Harris  
FF&E Coordinator  
Administrative Services

#### Treasurer

MariaElena Apodaca  
Outreach Specialist  
Student Success Office

#### Community Liaison

Joyce Henderson McLeod  
Testing Proctor  
Adaptive Learning & Disabled Services

#### Afrocentric Clubs Liaison

Steve Mitchell, Coordinator  
Intramural/Volunteer Center  
Student Activities

---

---

## The Griot Editors

Donald Dorsey  
Melanie Hale

### Contributors

MariaElena Apodaca  
Qa'id Tauheed Aqeel  
Laquisha Beckum  
Nancy Cole  
Lamont Dilwood  
Confiance Dukunde  
Herlisa Hamp  
April Henderson  
Andrew Houston  
Joyce Henderson McLeod  
Antoinette Mayfield  
Steve Mitchell  
Tai Myers  
Rose Myers  
Jason Simon  
Dee Vance-Lee  
Gloria Walton

## Acknowledgments

Our African Ancestors  
Lori Thomas  
Foothill African American Network  
Newspaper Design by ASFC Design Center  
Photographs by Bill Frankeberger

*If you have news or letters to the editor,  
please contact Melanie Hale  
at (650) 949-7668 or e-mail halemelanie@fbda.edu  
All letters must be accompanied by a valid mailing address, telephone  
number and requires full names.*

Griot online: [www.foothill.edu/aanetwork](http://www.foothill.edu/aanetwork)