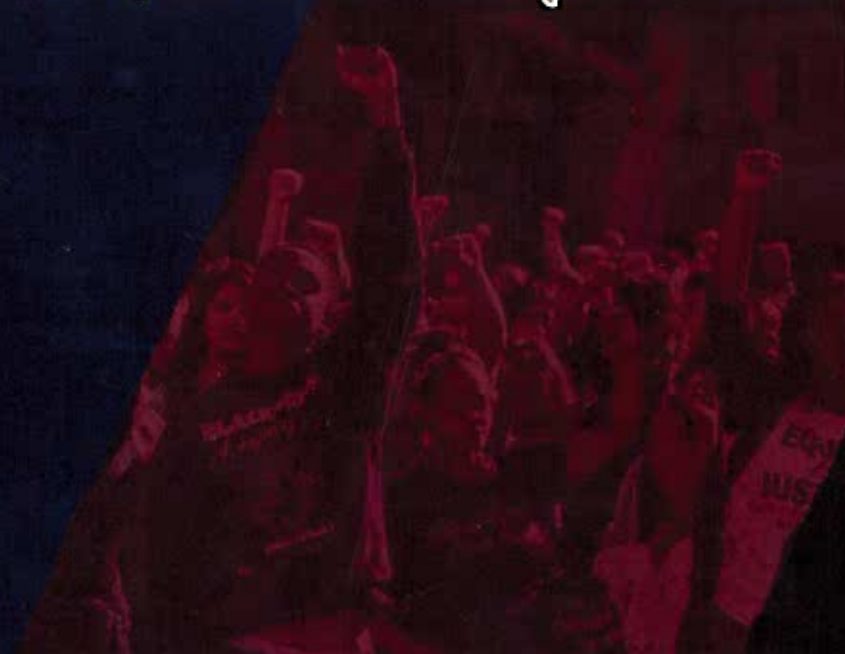


AFRIKAN STUDENT UNION AT UCLA

37th Annual
All Afrikan Peoples'
Graduation Celebration



BLACK EXCELLENCE:
LIBERATING OUR MINDS,
RECLAIMING OUR VOICES,
AND MOVING TOWARD
A BETTER TOMORROW

Order of Ceremony

Processional

Afrikan Libation

Black National Anthem

Message from Afrikan Grad Chair
Destiny MClennan

Message from ASU Chair
Janay Williams

Student Speaker
② **Travis Dumas II**

Spoken word
Semaj Earl

Student speaker
② **Devin Murphy**

Performer
Kendrick And Sophina Dejesus

Student speaker
② **Christian Green**

Performer
Nigerian Student Association

Keynote Speaker
② **Christine Simmons**

Presentation of Graduate Students

Presentation of Undergraduate Students

Graduate Recessional

Black National Anthem

Lift Every Voice and Sing

Lyrics:

**Lift ev'ry voice and sing,
'Til earth and heaven ring,
Ring with the harmonies of Liberty;
Let our rejoicing rise
High as the list'ning skies,
Let it resound loud as the rolling sea.
Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has taught us,
Sing a song full of the hope that the present has brought us;
Facing the rising sun of our new day begun,
Let us march on 'til victory is won.
Stony the road we trod,
Bitter the chastening rod,
Felt in the days when hope unborn had died;
Yet with a steady beat,
Have not our weary feet
Come to the place for which our fathers sighed?
We have come over a way that with tears has been watered,
We have come, treading our path through the blood of the slaughtered,
Out from the gloomy past,
'Til now we stand at last
Where the white gleam of our bright star is cast.
God of our weary years,
God of our silent tears,
Thou who has brought us thus far on the way;
Thou who has by Thy might
Led us into the light,
Keep us forever in the path, we pray.
Lest our feet stray from the places, our God, where we met Thee,
Lest, our hearts drunk with the wine of the world, we forget Thee;
Shadowed beneath Thy hand,
May we forever stand,
True to our God,
True to our native land.**

Letter From the Chair



Good evening, Welcome to the Afrikan Student Union's 37th Annual "All Afrikan People's Graduation Celebration." My name is Destiny McLennan and I had the honor of serving as the Chair of this ceremony before you today. I want to thank all of you for celebrating this huge achievement with our graduates and filling this space with such positive energy. Many of our graduates are moving on to a variety of graduate programs, full time jobs, non-profits, and taking time to travel the world.

The theme of our graduation is Black Excellence: Liberating Our Minds, Reclaiming Our Voices, and Moving Toward a Better Tomorrow. With a society that tries to belittle our experiences, it is important that we continue to recognize our own excellence. As anti-blackness is spread through the media, we must use our voices to uplift and love one another. Upon leaving this ceremony, you should feel proud of all that you have accomplished in life, as well as a sense of urgency to actively pursue your goals and continue to be excellent.

I would like to thank my amazing committee, student organization advisor, UBAA, and faculty for helping this ceremony take place. Enjoy the ceremony and continue to spread positivity and excellence beyond this event. Thank you all!

**In love and solidarity,
Destiny McLennan
2016 Afrikan Graduation Chair**

Keynote Address



Christine Simmons

Christine Simmons is president & chief operations officer of the Los Angeles Sparks. As one of the founding WNBA teams, this iconic franchise has two league titles as well as the most playoff appearances (15) in the WNBA's 19-year history.

As President & COO, Christine leads all aspects of the team's business operations including ticket and sponsorship sales and service, marketing, game operations, communications, community relations and finance. Named to her current role following the 2014 season, she oversaw the Sparks day-to-day operations during its first season under the ownership group led by Earvin "Magic" Johnson and Mark R. Walter while also serving as an Executive Vice President with Magic Johnson Enterprises.

With over a decade of leadership experience in creating strategic alliances, leading business development and driving corporate initiatives, Christine has helped shape the business models for many Fortune 500 corporations and multi-million dollar companies.

A proud UCLA graduate, she serves as President-Elect of the Board of the UCLA Alumni Association and in 2012 was named Alumna of the Year by the UCLA Black Alumni Association. She is an active member of the Los Angeles community, serving on the Board of Directors for the Jenesse Center, the LA Sports Council, the Positive Coaching Alliance and on the NBA's Global Inclusion Council. Her dedication and passion for giving back has earned her a number of honors including her most recent honor: Los Angeles African American Women's Public Policy Institute's 2015 Women in Action honoree

Student Speakers

Travis Dumas II



Travis grew up in Watts California most of life where, despite being surrounded by different challenges, He always firmly believed that everyone is great and capable of greatness. The compilation of his own hard work as well privilege and opportunity afforded him admission to UCLA in the Fall of 2012 where he began his journey of higher education. Over the course of his four years at UCLA he worked diligently to transform himself into a resource for other students and his home community. In doing so he found himself in various peer mentor and counseling positions, even assuming the role of co-chair of the Afrikan Men's Collective. His goal of progressing the academic accessibility and health of students of color later became the ongoing theme of my undergraduate research, conducted under the mentorship of the renowned Dr. Tyrone Howard. His advisement will continue to guide Travis when return to UCLA in the Fall in pursuit of my PhD in Urban Edu.

Christian Green

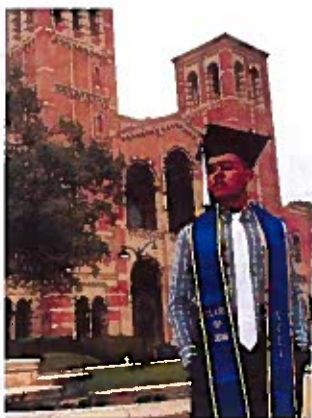
Christian Green was born into a family full of dysfunction and adversities but that did not stop him from being successful and pursuing his goals. He dropped out of college in 2004, however this spring he will be receiving his Bachelors of Arts in Sociology and African American Studies from UCLA. He has plans to attend UCLA Graduate School of African American Studies Fall of 2016. He is currently an active Youth and Young Adult Pastor of Living Faith Cathedral where he mentors 30-40 youth and young adults of the Antelope Valley. His passion is to see Black lives empowered daily through implementing educational practices, providing access to resources and encouraging the practice of faith



Devin Tre' Murphy

Devin T. Murphy is graduating with a degree in African-American Studies major with a minor in Public Affairs. He is the former Undergraduate Student Body President. Since being at UCLA, he has also been involved in the UCLA Rally Committee, Bruin Democrats, Black Pre-Law Association, served as a Campus Tour Guide, and interned for the Vice Chancellor of Student Affairs. Devin is a strategic visionary with a tunnel vision for progressive social change. He has a strong pass for fighting mass incarceration, advancing voting rights, dismantling the school-to-prison pipeline and developing U.S.-Cuba relations. He recently founded his own digital marketing start-up, DTM Strategies, that specializes in social media marketing and advertising. In his free time, he enjoys hot yoga, swimming, and spends his time

serving as a board member for the Black Youth Leadership Project, Inc., a civic educational organization developing the next generation of young Black leaders. He is a recipient of the 2016 Chancellor Service Award.



Graduate Degrees

Symone Monique Berry *Masters of Social Welfare*

Domanique Coronado *Masters of Social Welfare*

Bex Durant *Masters of Social Welfare*

Funmilola Fagbamila *Masters of African American Studies*

**"The complexity of humanness is an uncomfortable grey
that the colonial mind will reject every time.
I'm invested in our complexity & our joy"**

Briana McKoy *Masters in Cinema and Media Studies*

**"I will remain confident in this,
I will see the goodness of the Lord! Though the vision tarry,
wait on it. It will surely come to pass."**

Antwann Michael Simpkins *Masters of African American Studies*

Undergraduate Degrees

Dephanie Adeyemi *Sociology*

**"Every weakness you have, is an opportunity for
God to show His strength in your life."**

Sonachi Millicent Agina *Psychology*

**"The biggest adventure you can take
is to live the life of your dreams." —Oprah Winfrey**

Christina Gabrielle Anderson *African American Studies*

Chigolum Anene *Sociology*

**"I just want to thank my family, friends & God on this journey
through UCLA. I'm forever grateful for the love & support.
This one is for you Dad. Continue to rest in perfect peace"**

Kimberly Anyadike *Physiological Science*

Priscilla N Anyankor *Psychology*

Stephen Timothy Uche Azubuikwe II *Pre Med Psychobiology*

**Ayman Bahta *Anthropology*
"Mamba out"**

**Dashawn Barnes *Theatre*
Feel the fear, and do it anyway.**

**Jaime Crystal Beavers *Sociology*
"You can't spell scholar without chola."**

Alex Blake

**Naomi Bogale *Sociology*
"Thank you to the family that raised me, the community that shaped me, and the God that saved me. We made it!"**

Stefania Borda *Political Science and Global Studies*

**Jewel Amanda Bourne *English and Gender Studies*
To whom do I owe the woman I have become? Those who taught me, I have a voice and those who taught me how to use it for good.**

Anson M. Bowens *Philosophy*

Sabrina A. Boyce *Anthropology*

**Antonio Brodie *Sociology*
PROVERBS 16:9**

Michael Sydell Brooks *African American Studies*

**Dominique Alexis-Nechele Brown *Sociology*
"RESOLUTE."**

Maya Danielle Brown *Sociology*

Yvonne Shakira Burse *Dance*

"Be Faithful In Small Things Because It Is In Them That Your Strength Lies" - Mother Teresa

Bria Nicole Chappell *Political Science & African American Studies*

"Always stay gracious, best revenge is your paper." -Beyoncé

Teira Nicole Church *Ethnomusicology*

Alicia Crawford

Ryan Anthony Davis *Sociology*

"Thank you to all my family and friends for their tremendous support and helping me reach this milestone in my life GGTM"

Rakeidra Davis-Hudson *Gender Studies & African American Studies*

"From Watts to Westwood and beyond! Thank You God for providing me with vision, strength, and fortitude to blaze trails for me and my family!"

Sophina DeJesus *Sociology*

**If you are Brave enough to say Goodbye
life will reward you with a new Hello**

**Jackson DeLoach *Film and Television Production,
Concentration in Narrative Directing***

Preston Jernard Dillingham *Sociology*

Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding in all your ways submit to him & he will make your paths straight

Kia Drayton *History & African-American Studies*

Travis Dumas *Political Science*

Define your own standards of success and never settle for anything less.

Semaj Earl *English*

"Thank you for sacrificing everything to help make my dreams come true. We did it!"

Wonder Edem *Anthropology*

"May there be Heaven on Earth..."

Starquet K Edwards *Anthropology*

And so it was, that she, having waited long & endured patiently realized & obtained what God had promised! Hebrews 6:15

Precious Elam *Sociology*

Anthony Elder *African American Studies, Film Minor*

Adonis Aristotle Ellis *African American Studies*

Francesca Essilfie *Human Biology*

"It isn't until you come to a spiritual understanding of who you are - not necessarily a religious feeling, but deep down, the spirit within - that you can begin to take control."

Jennille Diane Fleming *Sociology*

Nia Flowers *African-American Studies*

#WeMadeIt

Patrick E. Fontenette *Film Production*

Interpretive Digital Media Concentration

I would like to thank God, my guardian family, my biological family, God and close friends for being by my side through my academic journey.

Lenique Dejanne Frazier *African American Studies*

Don't be afraid to fail! Failure sharpens you, it challenges you, it makes you stronger; and when you run away out of fear, you also run away from the opportunity to be your best possible self!

Rodrick Delbert Fox *Political Science*

G'bari Denzel Gilliam *Dance*

"We may come into this world alone, but we need each other to make it through."

Merhawi Ghebrecristos *Linguistics and Psychology*

"I want to thank God and my family for the support and push that got me to this moment. This is only the beginning..."

Mariah Gladden *Sociology*

Christian Green *Sociology*

"Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it - Phil 1:6 "

Lamar Greenwood *Sociology*

**We are the ones we've been waiting for.
We are the change that we seek. -President Barack H. Obama**

Dana Grisby

Azeb Guesh *Environmental Science*

Thank you God, Mama, Daddy, & Thomas for being so loving & supportive. Your strength & resilience continues to inspire me. This is for you!

Amanda Gunn *Anthropology*

Tori Harris *Philosophy*

**Time flies. Just nine years ago I went on my first field trip to UCLA.
To think that I would be graduating so soon. Unbelievable.
I'm so proud of me.**

Keytiana Hempstead *Political Science and African American Studies*

"My undergraduate career would have never been made possible without the support of my family. It's not just me graduating; it's all of us."

Jammin Henderson

Saida Aria Herring *Psychology*

**UCLA has been a fun, trying, and great learning experience.
I want to thank my family who has been there for me
from start to finish!**

Soleil Mia Herring *Psychology*

Thank you to my family for all their support! #bestfamilyEVAH

Brittney Shanice Hinton *Gender Studies and Sociology*

Briana Hodge *Anthropology*

Ronald Holden *Asian American Studies*

Michael Holmes Jr. *Philosophy*

Azure Hurd *Sociology*

Alexia Johnson *Sociology*.

**"You are on the eve of a complete victory.
You can't go wrong. The world is behind you." -Josephine Baker**

Shannon Martine Johnson *Sociology*

**It's never too late to be whoever you want. Live a life you're proud
of if you find you're not, I hope you find the courage to start again.**

Amara Kabwasa-Green

World Arts and Cultures & African American Studies

Angela Denise Kennedy *African American Studies and History*

Ashley Knights

Ke'Ayra Lawrence *Psychobiology*

**"UCLA has taught me the true meaning of perseverance. Honestly,
without God, my family, and my friends I wouldn't have made it."**

Ashley Lipkins-Scott *African American Studies*

"You may fall but fall still fighting"

Joshua Deon Lockhart *African American Studies*

Aubrey Love *Sociology*

**There comes a point in everyone's life when the road is rocky.
It's about how you repave it and push through.
Big thanks to my family!**

Brooklyn Chelsea Mayes *Psychobiology*

**1st Greatest Moment: Day I was accepted, you read it 1st and
cried. Now the 2nd Greatest is Here.
Thank you Rebecca, I you Mom & Aaron**

Uzoma Mbelu *Cultural Anthropology and Political Science*

Destiny McLennan *English*

**"What a blessing to stand on the planet as a woman,
a creative and divine instrument of the infinite intelligence of
life. Not only are we divine, we are phenomenal."**

Stephanie Moise *American Literature and Culture*

**"The good you do today may be forgotten tomorrow.
Do good anyway." -Mother Teresa**

Matthew Moore *English*

Elika Morris *Philosophy*

**"Think like a queen. A queen is not afraid to fail. Failure is
another stepping stone to greatness." -Oprah Winfrey.**

Ajia Janae Murphy *Psychobiology*

Devin Tré Murphy *Political Science/African-American Studies*

Jamaal Muwwakkil *Applied Linguistics*

Tichina Newton *Political Science and Gender Studies*

Josephine Nwokedi *Psychobiology*

Zhane' Ochoa *Sociology*
"The [Woman] in the Arena"

Priscillia Omon *Ethnomusicology Jazz Vocal*
Performance Emphasis

Maya Omuziligbo *Psychology*

Tomiye Jenna Oshita *Political Science*

Olivia Page *Biochemistry*

"You have to fight through some bad days to earn the best days of your life." Thank you to everyone who has supported me on this amazing journey!

Christian Penn *Sociology*

Callan Juliana Porter-Romero *Ecology, Behavior and Evolution* "I am not what happened to me; I am what I choose to become." - Carl Jung

laura rocha *Anthropology*

Joshua Rosenberg

Angelique Roy *Gender Studies*

Arnisha D. Royston *American Literature and Culture*

"UCLA was a process, that taught me so much about loving and believing unconditionally in myself. I'm so grateful for this journey".

Jaquesha Scott *Anthropology*

Dreams are limitless just like determination.

**Giving up on either isn't an option. Hope and strive for the best.
Dreams come true every day.**

Asani Shakur *Afrikan-American Studies*
The world is your university. Never allow school to
impede your education.

Isabel Shawel *Psychology & Global Health*
Thanking Jesus for His grace, and family and friends for supporting
me with their love.
For when I am weak, then I am strong. 2 Cor. 12:10

Alannah Smith *International Developmental Studies*
Thank you to my family for all that you have done.
All my success would mean nothing without you.

**Geoffrey Danell Stanton *Molecular, Cell, Developmental
Biology*** Set your mind on a definite goal and
observe how quickly the world stands aside to let you pass.

Misha Stevenson *Anthropology*

Eden Teferi *Political Science*

Nicole Turkson *Physiological Science*
Psalms 121:1-2 I lift up my eyes to the mountains—where
does my help come from? My help comes from the Lord,
the Maker of heaven and earth.

Nasia Turner *English*
"My mission in life is not merely to survive, but to thrive; and to
do so with some passion, some compassion,
some humor, and some style" - Maya Angelou

Tyler M. Vernon *Biology*
Most fear stems from sin; to limit one's sins one must assuredly
limit one's fear, thereby bringing more peace to one's spirit.
-Marvin Gaye

Tichina Ward-Pratt *African American Studies*

Kenneth Walker III *African American Studies*
“Everybody that said I wasn’t nothing...my whole goal is to just make them ashamed that they wrore me off like that. - Tupac”

Amanda Washington *History*

Lacy Malik Westbrook *History*

“A people without the knowledge of their past history, orgin and culture is like a tree without roots”- Marcus Garvey

Khyber White *Geography*

Jai Williams *Dance*

Janay Marie Williams *Ecology Evolutionary Biology*
“Our desire to be free has got to manifest itself in everything we are and do” - Assata Shakur

Patrick Kendal Wiltz Jr
Political Science, Concentration International Relations

Hanan Worku *Psychobiology*

Amir Hasan Zimmerman *World Arts & Cultures*

Thanks

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Carrisa Requejo

Tanesha Walker

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Afrikan Grad Committee Member

Christine Simmions

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