



Cathy Hughes School of Communications *eblasts*

****Good news on the recent accomplishments of our CHSOC faculty, staff, students, and alumni ****

March 2023

Supreme Court – Professor **Nicole Dillard** had the opportunity to hear the oral arguments in *Biden v Nebraska* at the U.S. Supreme Court. She was accompanied by **Kayla Ruff**, an SLMC Legal Communication student, and they had the distinct pleasure of meeting Justice Ketanji Brown Jackson. The visit was at the courtesy of **Madison Curry**, Justice Jackson's chamber assistant, also an alumna of Howard University.



Emmy Win – Alumna **Maya Reese** won a Sports Emmy for Outstanding Interactive Experience - Event Coverage for her work on the Tokyo Olympics at NBC Sports. Sports coverage was always important to her, and she held many sports internships while at Howard.

BEA News – Alumnus Dr. **Bryan M. Jenkins**, postdoctoral researcher for Project REFOCUS at Howard has been named the recipient of the 2023 Kenneth Harwood Outstanding Dissertation Award. He was recognized as an Ernest E. Just and Percy L. Julian Research Fellow through Howard University's Graduate School. His dissertation research, *Doing Black Podcast Studies: Exploring the Black Oral Tradition and Critical Media Literacy in Alternative Media*, investigates Black podcasts as a critical educational tool for Black communities that continues the tradition of Black orality.

Alternative Spring Break – Advisor **Mikeisha Best** participated in Alternative Spring Break in Philadelphia with Howard students. They spent the week visiting elementary schools, middle schools, high schools, and boys and girls clubs with the initiatives of Youth Holistic Wellness and Youth Empowerment. Many of the Howard students' presentations centered around physical exercises, speeches on healthy foods, maintaining good mental health and preparedness for the future. Additionally, Howard students were tasked with giving students feedback on science projects, giving food to the community, helping students with homework and explaining college life to students.



Chamber to Harvard Law – Alumna **Kelsey Johnson** was featured by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce for her work as a NextGen alumni. In the article she highlighted how her time interning at the Chamber prepared her for her next steps leading to Harvard Law School. She also expresses what being the first person in her family to attend Harvard Law means to her. <https://www.uschamber.com/diversity/nextgen-alumni-feature-black-history-month-kelsey-johnson>

Howard Women in Bloom – Professor **Jennifer Thomas** was featured on the Nike website along with a current Howard student, and recent alumna as part of the "Howard Women In Bloom" feature for Charter Day and Women's History Month as part of the Jordan Brand. The feature profiles them, as they are wearing various Jordan Brand wear. <https://www.nike.com/jordan/purpose/charter-day-collection>

HBCU First Look – The MFA graduate program hosted two events in March. March 22, actors Peyto Alex Smith of CW's *All American: Homecoming* and Christiani Pitt of *A Bronx Tale* held a discussion on screen acting in film and television moderated by **Hans Charles**, MFA alumnus and Emmy nominated cinematographer and producer, at Howard University's WHUT-TV.

HBCU Film Festival – The MFA program in partnership with Miles Ahead Entertainment and WHUT-TV held a kickoff for the HBCU Film Festival Challenge and College Tour at Howard University on March 23. A media reception, panel discussion, and special "Talk Back" was held with Courtney Glaude, award-winning director, screenwriter, and producer. The HBCU Film Festival will come to DC in October 2023.



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*A Celebration of Black Filmmakers
rooted in the HBCU Culture*

Are you The Next...

Win a \$5000 valued prize and *Speak YOUR creative TRUTH!*
Learn, develop and be mentored by HBCU alumni leaders in film,
TV and broadcast industries.

Be featured on the big screen at the 2023 HBCU First LOOK
Festival at Howard University October 2023

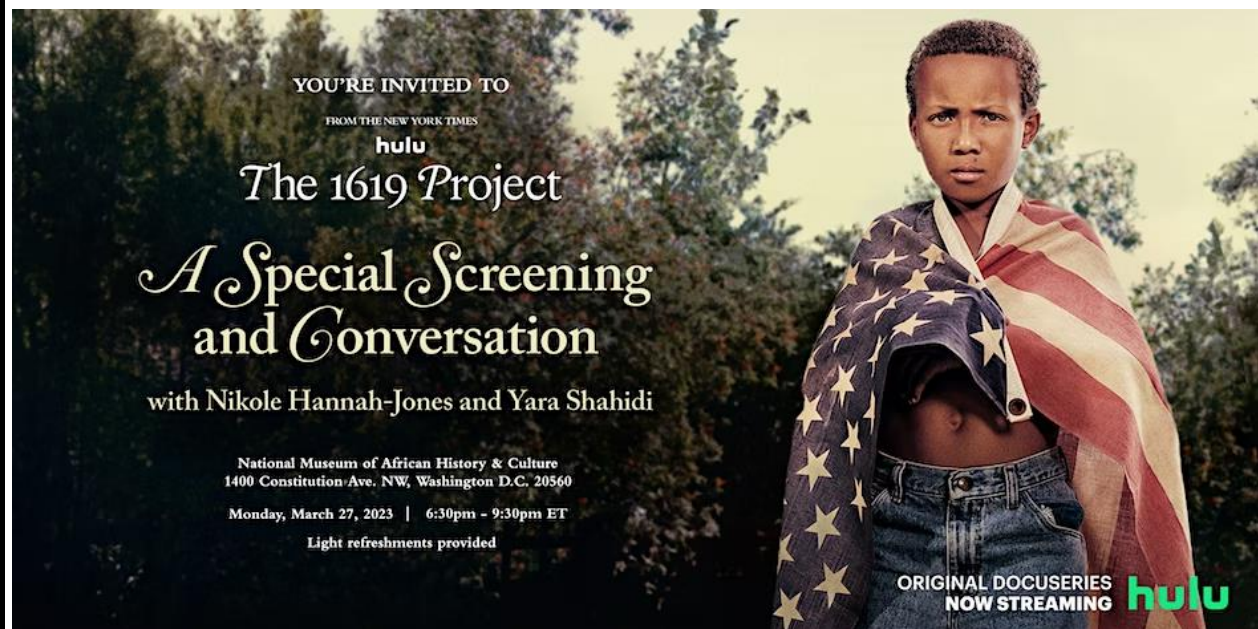
#HBCUculture

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For more details and film submissions
HBCUFirstLOOK.com

AI's Power – The MJFC Department hosted a panel discussion on AI. The panel focused on AI's power and debunking the myths and unknowns surrounding it. Panelist included: Hilke Schellmann, journalist and AI fellow at the Pulitzer Center, Dr. Dhanaraj Thakur, Director of Research Center for Democracy and Technology, and Mutale Nkonde, CEO of AI for the People. The panel was moderated by Professor **Ingrid Sturgis**.

The 1619 Project Screening – A free screening of an episode of the **1619 Project** docuseries, as well as a reception, was held at the National Museum of African American History and Culture on March 27, and included a panel discussion afterward with **Nikole Hannah-Jones** and actress Yara Shahidi.



Hawthorne Dissertation Fellowship – **Jamal Uddin** was awarded the Hawthorne Dissertation Fellowship for the year 2023-24 by the Graduate School. He is close to finishing my PhD under the supervision of Dr. **Jae Eun Chung**. His dissertation topic focuses on global health, which is "Factors Influencing the Women for Birth Decision in Bangladesh: Applying Health Belief Model and Theory of Planned Behavior." He also got a placement at Cornell University as a lecturer.

Chapman Set – **Darius Spencer**, an MJFC film-TV student, worked on set for New Horizons. He was one of only two undergraduates who crewed amongst graduate students and professionals. He was labeled as the perfect ambassador to represent Howard. Though Spencer came on the project as a G&E Swing, by the second day he found himself supporting the camera department more, as some crew members couldn't commit to the whole production period, so he filled in the gaps.

Frederick Douglass Bicentennial Scholarship – Congratulations to **Brielle Smith**, senior SLMC Strategic Communication and Annenberg Honors student, for winning \$10,000 for the Frederick Douglass Bicentennial Scholarship from UNCF. The award commemorates the 2018 bicentennial of the birth of Frederick Douglas and was established to support students attending accredited HBCUs nationwide. The award was established and funded by Tony Signore, CEO and Managing Partner of Taylor Strategy. Mr. Signore presented both Brielle and **President Wayne A.I. Frederick** a limited-edition lithograph of a Frederick Douglas painting.



OCTFME Film Maker of the Month – Alumnus **Stephen Barrett II** was recognized as the March 2023 Filmmaker of the Month by Mayor Muriel Bowser and The District of Columbia Office of Cable Television, Film, Music, and Entertainment (OCTFME). In addition to his work on student films at Howard and on DC Noir, Barrett has worked as a crew member on several local film and television productions, including work as an office production assistant (PA) on the award-winning HBO TV series "VEEP." After gaining experience on that project, Barrett rose up the production ranks and now has a plethora of credits under his belt, including: "Spider Man: Homecoming," "Wonder Woman 1984," and "The Purge" "American Crime Story: Impeachment."

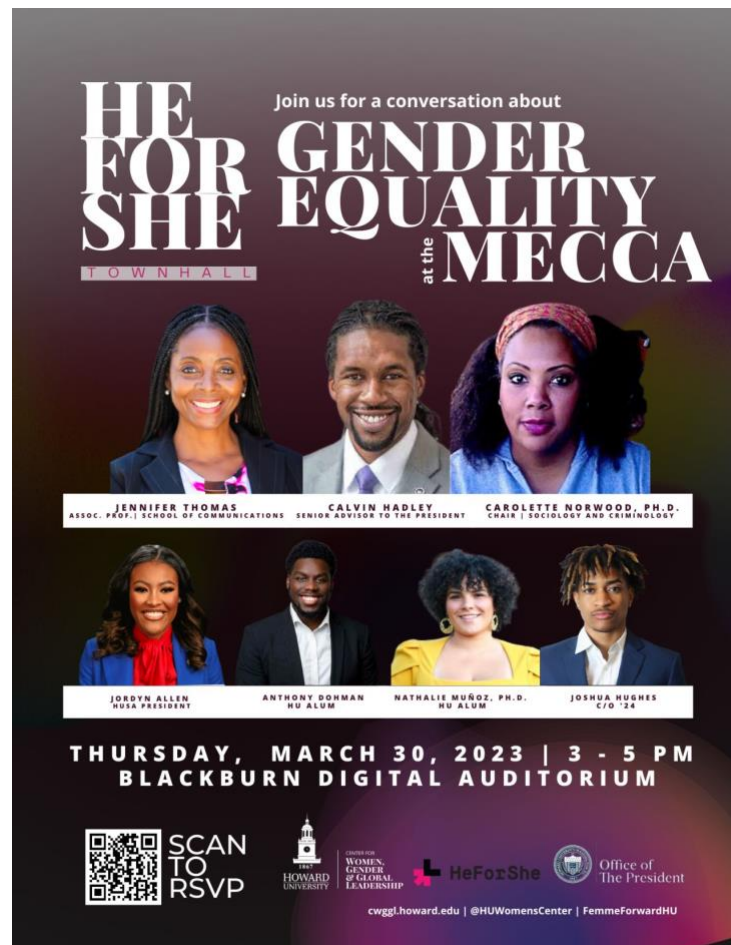
Christopher Award – Alumna **Michelle Hord**'s book, *The Other Side of Yet*, recently received a Christopher Award! In it, she shares stories of immense personal heartbreak and challenges that drove her to helping others find light in the midst of darkness. The paperback was recently released, and she was featured on Good Morning America.

Debate Wins Big – Howard Speech and Debate Team won more than 20 awards in its last competition. Most impressively, they won the Big Sweeps Team Award and was awarded \$1,000!



Journalistic Excellence – Professor **Yanick Lamb** is the recipient of the Morgan State University School of Global Journalism and Communication's 2023 Vernon Jarrett Medal for Journalistic Excellence Award. The judges praised her submission, "Unintended Consequences: The Rubber Industry's Toxic Legacy in Akron," as an exemplary piece of research about deindustrialization and its impact on a marginalized community. They saw the storytelling as compelling and comprehensive, engaging the reader all along the investigative road as Lamb discussed the continuing harm caused by the rubber tire factories by Black residents in her hometown.

Gender Equality at The Mecca – Professor **Jennifer Thomas** took part in this Women's History Month event sponsored by the **Center for Women, Gender, and Global Leadership**. It is the HEforShe Town Hall about Gender Equality at The Mecca. The town hall will be a student-centered discussion focusing on the state of gender equality at Howard University. It featured students and faculty including Calvin Hadley, senior advisor for Strategic Initiatives; Dr. Carolette Norwood, Sociology and Criminology department head; Jordyn Allen, HUSA President; Anthony Dohman, alumnus '22; Dr. Natalie Muñoz, School of Social Work alumna; and Joshua Hughes, Mathematics junior and member of the Men of the Mecca.



PLEASE NOTE: If you have news and would like to submit it to our CHSOC e-newsletter, please use the [Submission Form](#). Complete the form or send an email to socdean@howard.edu.