



Cathy Hughes School of Communications *eblasts*

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

January 2024

Fullbright-Hays Fellowship – Annenberg Honors student **Chase X. Drewery** travelled to South Africa to study Zulu language and culture. Chase said, "Total immersion in the local communities, interacting with the Zulu host families and volunteering among the Zulu native people and students afforded me a greater appreciation and understanding of my roots and ancestors. Grasping my roots and embracing myself into this culture and studying at the South African universities fueled me with the power to plant seeds for my future growth." While in South Africa, Chase met U.S. Ambassador to the Republic of South Africa Reuben E. Brigety II, attended a movie premiere, and walked the streets of the historic Soweto, which was once the home of Nelson Madela. Chase characterizes his experience as "life changing."



Schwarzman Scholars – Alumnus **Evan Quaintance** was chosen from a pool of more than 4,000 applicants to participate in the fellowship, becoming just the third Howard University Schwarzman Scholar in our school's history. Evan will join 150 other candidates selected from 43 countries and 114 universities around the world for the fully funded, one-year master's degree program in global affairs. He will be in residence at Schwarzman College on the campus of Tsinghua University in Beijing, China. In May 2023, Evan graduated magna cum laude with a Bachelor of Arts in political science and double minor in philosophy and legal communications. At Howard, Evan served in the 62nd Howard University Student Association administration and was a program chair of the Men of George Washington Carver, an organization dedicated to public service and promoting male brotherhood.

MLK Day With Ava DuVernay – Howard had the privilege of welcoming the phenomenal Ava DuVernay to WHUT-TV studios. Ava engaged in an enlightening conversation with Dr. **Montre Missouri** and with students from our undergraduate MJFC program and MFA graduate program. Ava spoke about her independent film "Origin," offering an exclusive glimpse into the inspirations and journey behind the project. The film is based on a book by **Isabel Wilkerson**, "Caste: The Origins of Our Discontents." A CHSOC alumna, Wilkerson is an author and Pulitzer Prize winning journalist.



Fulbright Specialist Award – The U.S. Department of State and the Fulbright Foreign Scholarship Board are announced that Dr. **Kehbuma Langmia** has received a Fulbright Specialist Program award. Professor Langmia, chair of the COMM department, will complete a project at the Department of Education in Kosovo that aims to exchange knowledge and establish partnerships benefiting participants, institutions, and communities both in the U.S. and overseas through a variety of educational and training activities within Communication and Journalism. Professor Langmia is one of over 400 U.S. citizens who share expertise with host institutions abroad through the Fulbright Specialist Program each year. Recipients of Fulbright Specialist awards are selected on the basis of academic and professional achievement, demonstrated leadership in their field, and their potential to foster long-term cooperation between institutions in the U.S. and abroad.

Dr. King's Charge for Mayors – Alumnus **Virgil Parker** worked with the Aspen Institute to publish a co-authored op-ed about how Dr. King's legacy leaves a guideline for Mayors and local leaders to protect human rights and dignity around the world. Parker was happy to write this piece with Mayor Sheng Thao of Oakland, CA; Mayor Shawyn Patterson-Howard of Mt. Vernon, NY; and Bunmi Akinnusotu of the Aspen Institute. Link: "**Remember Dignity: Dr. King's Charge for Mayors and Local Leaders.**" <https://www.aspeninstitute.org/blog-posts/remember-dignity-dr-kings-charge-for-mayors-and-local-leaders/>

LEADERSHIP
Remember Dignity: Dr. King's Charge for Mayors and Local Leaders
 JANUARY 17, 2024 • MAYOR SHAWYN PATTERSON-HOWARD, MAYOR SHENG THAO, BUNMI AKINNUSOTU & VIRGIL PARKER

Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., one of the most endeared leaders in our nation's history, was a fighter for economic equality and civil and human rights. To Dr. King, human dignity, particularly among the poor, was essential to ending poverty. In 1967, he said, "The dignity of the individual

Mayor Shawyn Patterson-Howard is the 28th Mayor of the city of Mount Vernon, New York and President of the African American Mayor's Association (AAMA).

Mayor Sheng Thao is the 51st Mayor of the city of Oakland, California and is the first Hmong American mayor of a major city in the United States.

Bunmi Akinnusotu is a 2019 Truman National Security Fellow and director of city innovation at the Aspen Institute.

Virgil Parker is a 2020 Aspen Institute William Randolph Hearst Fellow and US Fulbright Alum.

Library of Congress Showcase – It was a night to shine Jan. 31st for the students in the first cohort of the Disney Storytellers Fund at the Library of Congress. Students presented their creative works before Disney representatives, Library of Congress staff, family, friends, faculty advisors and Deans **Gracie Lawson-Borders** and **Phyllica Rashad** of the Cathy Hughes School of Communications (CHSOC) and Chadwick Boseman College of Fine Arts (COFA). The group

projects ranged from short films to episodic pieces from series, poetry, spoken word presentations and more. The presented titles include: *The Box We Don't Open*, *Haunted*, *Withered Project*, *Home is a Four Letter Word*, *The Sellout*, *Who's Next*, *Tales From the Hill*, *Where's Everybody At*, *Hello My Name Is*, and *The Bass Line*. Congratulations to all the student creatives and we look forward to the final products. The Disney Storytellers Funds is a five-year partnership with CHSOC and COFA for students to develop creative and innovative work with stipends as much as \$25,000 to bring their creative ideas to life. The second cohort was selected in fall 2023.



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.