Shorter College Student Spotlight

Smith Discovers Affinity for Student Government

Student Government Association (SGA) Vice President Latreece Smith was just looking to broaden her horizons when she chose to attend Shorter College. “I lived in Texas all my life, and attending college out of state was a good way to get a change. I just wanted to go somewhere new and focus on my studies”. A graduate of Lockhart High School, near Austin, Smith felt that a small HBCU like Shorter was the way to go.

“The best thing about Shorter College is the environment,” says Smith. “The college is small enough that you know everyone, and all the instructors look out for the students. There’s a family feel to the campus.”

A quiet person by nature, Smith has surprised herself by discovering an affinity for student government. “This is not something I would ordinarily do,” exclaimed Smith. “I am the quiet person sitting in the back of the room, but I wanted to push myself and get out there and do something for the school, and I have found I really enjoy being involved.”

Smith aspires to continue her involvement with student government. “I would like to continue with SGA and perhaps run for President next year. The SGA is the voice of the students. If anyone has a problem, we help to bring it to attention, and help get it resolved,” Smith said. In addition to student-faculty relations, the SGA holds fundraisers and events to raise awareness of Shorter College and its role in the community. “We like for people to know we’re here,” she added.

Smith plans to graduate in 2019 with an Entrepreneurial Studies degree. Her career goal is to work in the medical coding field.
Sports Heat Up Fall Semester

Shorter College’s Intramural Sports Program has proven to be a success, according to Yolanda Washington, Director of Student Activities. The Intramural tournaments this year included 3-on-3 basketball, an 8-ball pool tournament, and the annual Students versus Faculty/Staff basketball game.

Basketball is new to student activities this fall. Four teams played in the 3-on-3 basketball tournament, with the ultimate prize going to Laquint Smith, Ketrick Wilson and Clayton Bibbs.

The 8-ball pool tournament involved 16 players and lasted for one week, with Jonathan Nathan emerging as the winner and second-place winner was William Boyd. Nasser Sadouly, Shorter College library technician, was instrumental in the success of the pool tournament. He organized a chart with which to keep score, contacted the players, and refereed the tournament, among other tasks.

“The pool tournament was really exciting to watch; the guys really got into the competition,” said Washington. “A couple of female students also played and brought their top game. My hats off to them.”

The final event was the annual Students versus Faculty/Staff basketball game, with the Faculty/Staff team coming out on top. “Every time we have played this game, the staff has won, so I was kind of rooting for the underdog,” said Washington. “There’s a lot of talent on the student team, but the faculty kept their cool. This was a lot of fun for everyone involved, and we look forward to next time.”

Call for Volunteers

Students, faculty, staff and friends of Shorter College are encouraged to volunteer at The Watershed Family Resource Center to assist in serving food to the community on Thanksgiving Day. For over 40 years, The Watershed has provided food to thousands of people every holiday season, therefore hundreds of volunteers are needed to assist in the work of serving, cleaning, and packaging meals on Thanksgiving Day. The Watershed, founded by Rev. Hezekiah Stewart in 1976, serves all races, creeds and colors providing basic needs for countless Arkansas families, and is located at 3701 Springer Boulevard in Little Rock. For more information, contact Yolanda Washington at (501) 374-6305, extension 147.

Shorter College Holiday Food Drive

Donations are requested for the holiday food drive, currently ongoing. Food will be collected to feed 30 families in the Sherman Park neighborhood; 10 boxes will go to families of Seventh Street Elementary School students, and 20 will go to families within the Shorter College community. Donations of nonperishable food items for Thanksgiving delivery may be dropped off at the S. S. Morris Student Center. The Holiday Food Drive will continue through Friday, December 1. For more information, contact Aquandra Moore, SGA President, at Moore7222@students.shortercollege.edu.

Stay Connected

Visit us on our social media sites to see the latest updates and information about what’s going on at Shorter!
Brother’s Path Brings Future Teacher to Shorter College

Hamburg, Arkansas native Tommie Walker was following in his brother’s footsteps when he made the decision to study for his Associate’s degree at Shorter College. The 1969 graduate of Hamburg High School in Ashley County wasted no time at all in moving to North Little Rock for his education. “It was like a family tradition,” Walker remembers.

“My older brother had gone to Shorter, so I decided to attend as well.” Walker graduated from Shorter in 1971 with an Elementary Education emphasis, then went on to attend Paul Quinn College, the oldest historically black college in Texas, which was at that time located in Waco and which has since relocated its campus to Dallas. After two more years of study he received his Bachelor’s Degree in Education in 1973. “I went back home to Hamburg and taught there for 10 years in my hometown, then in 1983 I moved to Little Rock and continued my teaching career.”

Walker also gained a lifelong nickname during his time on campus. “I lost my identity at Shorter!” Walker laughs. “For two years on that campus, I was no longer known as ‘Tommie’, I was known as ‘Hamburg’! My old school friends know me to this day as ‘Hamburg’! They probably don’t even remember that my government name is Tommie.”

Walker looks back fondly at his time in North Little Rock. “Of all the schools I have attended, Shorter was the best fit for me at the time. Everyone was so nurturing and caring. They really worked to bring us up. My favorite teacher, Mrs. Gladys Young, said that we should always dress for success, because you never know if your next employer is coming around the corner. This is good advice which still holds true today.”

He concluded, “Even if you come from a town as small as Hamburg, Arkansas, you can attend college and work hard, and the sky is the limit.”

12th Episcopal District AME Church Construction Showing Steady Progress

Construction of the Headquarters for the 12th Episcopal District of the African Methodist Episcopal Church and Jackson Theological Seminary Building is progressing apace. The two-story building, adjacent to the Shorter College Campus, is fully framed out with roofing to begin soon.

“Everything is going quite well,” said the Chief Financial Officer and Director of Physical Plant at Shorter College. “The holidays will slow us down some,” he said, “but the building is expected to be in the dry within the next few weeks.”

The groundbreaking was held in June 2016, and full completion of the project is expected in early 2018. A grand opening ceremony to be announced later.

When complete, the building will house the administrative offices of the 12th Episcopal District AME Church as well as classrooms for Shorter College Religious Studies students.

Completion of the Headquarters building will coincide with improvements to Bishop Lindsey Avenue by the City of North Little Rock, part of a $500,000.00 project funded with a grant provided by the Arkansas Department of Transportation.

The 12th Episcopal District of the African Methodist Episcopal Church serves Arkansas and Oklahoma.
Thank You to Our November Chapel Speakers

Willie C. Davis
Willie C. Davis is a lifelong resident of Little Rock, Arkansas. He is a product of the Little Rock School District and a 1983 graduate of Hall High School.

He has a Bachelor of Science in Education (BSE) Degree from the University of Central Arkansas and a Master’s Degree in Criminal Justice (MA) from the University of Arkansas at Little Rock. He is a twenty-five year veteran Law Enforcement Officer with the City of Little Rock Police Department, where he is a Sergeant.

Today he is a well sought-after speaker and encourager. He has received numerous awards for which he does not take credit for. He totally believes that all recognition belongs to God who supplies the energy and strength for him to do his work.

He is also known throughout the community and State for his work with the National Mentoring Model for African-American Men and Boys called; the OK Program. He is the Coordinator for the OK Program of Little Rock. He believes that the highest calling for any man is to “positively impact the life of a child”.

He has two adult daughters and one son who attends Little Rock Central High School.

Harvell Howard
Harvell Howard is a 1999 graduate of Conway High School. He also attended Hendrix College, graduating with a degree in Economics and Business and holds a Master of Public Service degree from the University Of Arkansas Clinton School Of Public Service.

He has had several job experiences in which he has lived and worked in New York, Arizona, Africa, and now Arkansas. He is pursuing a PhD. in leadership studies at the University of Central Arkansas and is currently working as a consultant for Essential Solutions, Inc., a consulting firm that assists organizations and individuals with building the necessary capacity to reach their goals, ultimately achieving success.

One such project is Shorter College’s Black Male Initiative (BMI) in which he assists the Shorter College staff with program development and sustainability. Harvell confessed Christ into his life at the age of 12 and believes that helping people is the key to success and self-fulfillment. He and his wife, Dr. Rosa Howard, have two sons, Harvell II (2) and Harrison (9 months). They reside in Maumelle.

Harrison Johnson
Harrison Johnson is a native from Pine Bluff, AR and current resident of North Little Rock, AR.

He is a proud alumnus of Alabama A&M University, Southern Arkansas University, and is currently a graduate student at Jackson State University. He is the Registrar/ Director of Admissions at Shorter College. In this capacity, he has assured processes of accuracy of all documentation and academic records for the College.

He is the creator of an online blog entitled Man of Desirability. This is a fashion and lifestyle blog that is tailored to the up-building of the ordinary man in an effort to make him extraordinary. All in all, he strives to be an impressionable man, and ensure equity for all mankind.

Quote of the Month

“It is not our differences that divide us. It is our inability to recognize, accept, and celebrate those differences.”  – Audre Lorde