Shorter College Student Spotlight

Shorter College is the First Step in Higher Education Journey for Student

Language has always been important to Diana Guevara. Being raised in a multilingual Spanish speaking household, the 2016 Little Rock Hall High School graduate excelled in her studies, and she was active in many Hispanic Heritage Events while participating in the English as a Second Language (ESL) program.

"I'm one of six children," Guevara said. "I was born in Puebla, Mexico. I came to the United States when I was 8 years old and have been in Little Rock ever since. I have a brother who is three years older than me, and four younger sisters still living at home with my parents, so I work hard to be an inspiration to them, and to set a good example."

Guevara's dedication to academics is evident. As a rising senior in the summer of 2015, she attended Arkansas Governor's School with an emphasis in English and Language Arts, and also served as a delegate to the American Legion Auxiliary Arkansas Girls State.

Guevara chose to attend Shorter College because of the ease of access, and the affordability. "I love it here," she said. "The campus is small, and the faculty and staff are like family. You get the one-on-one with the teachers, and it's wonderful. They have made it possible for me to further my education without it being complicated, and have been very supportive."

Guevara will graduate from Shorter with her Associates Degree in General Studies next year, and hopes to transfer to Hendrix College in Conway, Arkansas to pursue a Bachelor's Degree. "I haven't settled on a major yet, but I know my minor will be Spanish. I don't know yet what the future holds for me career-wise, but I do know that Spanish will be involved."

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- Diana Guevara
May 1 - 3
Final Examinations for Spring 2018 Midterm Module Term

May 1 - 4
Final Examinations (Spr. 18 Term)

Tuesday, May 8
Grades due in Registrar’s Office for Spring 2018 Midterm Module Term

Thursday, May 10
Baccalaureate

Friday, May 11
Shorter College Gala

Saturday, May 12
Commencement

Thursday, May 17
Registration for First and Second Summer Term Begins

Monday, May 21
First Summer Session Classes Begin

Tuesday, May 22
Late Registration/Last Day to Drop/Add/Register

Monday, May 28
Memorial Day Observed - Campus Closed

Tuesday, May 29
Census Date

SGA Mental Mondays held every Monday.
Zumba held every Monday & Thursday.

Stay Connected
Visit us on our social media sites to see the latest updates and information.

Quote of the Month

"Just don’t give up what you’re trying to do. Where there is love and inspiration, I don’t think you can go wrong.”

- Ella Fitzgerald

Congratulations
2017 - 2018 Graduates

Brianna Alexander,
Child Development
Reginald Baker,
Christian Leadership
Heather Barnett,
Basic Studies
Joseph Blackmon,
General Studies
Josline Bonds,
Basic Studies
Mary Bone,
Christian Leadership
Eugene Brannon,
Entrepreneurial Studies
Angela Burnam,
Basic Studies
Antonio Campbell,
General Studies
Kesha Cobb,
Entrepreneurial Studies
Carlotta Conway,
Entrepreneurial Studies
Ashley Courtney,
Child Development
Tiffany Crutchfield,
Basic Studies
Maya Ford,
Entrepreneurial Studies

Conrad Green,
Basic Studies
DeCarlos Harper,
Entrepreneurial Studies
Sharon Howard,
Entrepreneurial Studies
Glenda Johnson,
Basic Studies
Osibeep Johnson,
Basic Studies
Travis Johnson,
Basic Studies
Takiyah Kemp,
Basic Studies
Mecca Lee,
Entrepreneurial Studies
Bryant Lewis,
General Studies
Odessa Long,
Criminal Justice
Stephanie Lowe,
Christian Leadership
Nicole McCoy,
Basic Studies
Freda McFadden,
Basic Studies
Anthony McKinney,
Basic Studies

Dennis Mitchell,
Basic Studies
Marilyn Moore,
Basic Studies
Jermaine Powell,
Basic Studies
Previn Profit,
Basic Studies
Ashley Roy,
Criminal Justice
Chelsie Sharpe,
Basic Studies
Rodrick Shutes,
Christian Leadership
Erica Singleton,
Basic Studies
Ebony Stacker,
Basic Studies
Chakita Stovall,
Basic Studies
LaTara Sturgis,
Child Development
Jessica Thompson,
Entrepreneurial Studies
Shirley White,
Child Development
Faeheema Wright,
Basic Studies
Ketty Beats the Odds of Getting Education

Shorter College Instructor Billson Kettey has known the value of education ever since he was a very young boy growing up in Ghana, West Africa. Kettey’s father was a cattle rancher so he herded cattle on the ranch from the time he was 7 until 12 when he asked to go to school. His father told him, "next year." But his father's answer remained the same for several consecutive years.

“So I rebelled when I was 15," Kettey said. "I left to go to school in a village where I had a relative living. It was quite an ordeal because I had to start in the first grade since I had not had any schooling. Of course, I was twice the age and size of all the other kids.”

Ketty said that it normally takes 15 years for a person in Ghana to complete (what Americans would call) elementary, middle and high school. He did it in 10 years.

“I was able to skip several grades, but when I got to high school, I had a problem with mathematics. Before then, I was doing very well. But math was my Achilles’ heel. I could not pass it, which meant I could not proceed to a university," he said.

He taught Social Studies and English in Liberia at a high school for seven years, and then worked as a research assistant at the University of Ghana. But he still wanted a college degree.

He thought if he could get to America perhaps he could attend college. So he left Ghana for the United States in 1983. He enrolled in Borough of Manhattan Community College in New York where he studied liberal arts for two years. Then he spent two more years at City College of New York studying literature.

"After four years in New York City, I was exhausted," Kettey said. "I was going to school full time and working full time as a doorman at a 17-story apartment building on Lexington Avenue. I wanted to finish my bachelor's degree, but New York was a big place. So I moved to Pennsylvania where my nephew lived and enrolled at Penn State."

After two years, Kettey earned his bachelor's degree in education with an emphasis on teaching and curriculum. His first job after graduating was teaching English in Saudi Arabia.

However, Kettey said after two years racism raised its ugly head so he left to take a job with the Jeddah Chamber of Commerce Training Program. He moved back to the United States and worked for a security company in Atlanta. But he wanted to return to the college classroom, so he moved back across the ocean to Saudi Arabia to teach at Taif University. During his eight years there, he taught English in various ways – English for computers, English as a second language, English for business and grammar courses.

Kettey decided he wanted to return to the U.S., but living in New York was too expensive. So he moved to Little Rock in 2014 and was hired by Shorter College. He teaches literature, humanities and English Composition II. He plans to pursue a doctorate degree at the University of Arkansas-Little Rock.

"I like Arkansas. In New York, it’s go, go, go! But it’s laid back here," he said. "At first I thought it was too quiet, but I'm used to it now. It is really interesting."

Kettey and his wife, Ellen, have four children who all live in Ghana. He has written an inspirational book entitled "Never Ever Too Late for Education: Quite a Journey," which is about a boy who is determined to alter his bleak circumstances, no matter what the cost. Sounds familiar?

Did You Know?

Gwen Love, the Business Office Manager, speaks fluent Spanish.

Be on the look out for more fun facts about the Shorter College leadership team!
Ella Moody says Shorter College was an important stepping stone in her educational journey. Born in Clarksdale, Miss., her family moved to Parkin, Ark., when she was very young and she graduated from Central High School. Soon thereafter she came to North Little Rock to attend Shorter College.

“I picked Shorter College because of my socio-economic status. My parents were farmers, and I was the fourth of 11 children. I needed financial assistance, and Shorter offered me a good opportunity to further my education,” Moody said.

“I really enjoyed my time there. It had such a family-like atmosphere. The instructors showed great interest in all students. They stayed on us in a loving way because they wanted us to succeed.”

Moody started at Shorter College in 1968. After one year, she sat out a year, but returned the next year and graduated with her associate’s degree. She then took some courses at the University of Arkansas at Beebe.

During that time Moody met her future husband, J.B., in Little Rock. He was stationed at the Little Rock Air Force Base. Shortly after they married, J.B. was transferred to Guam where Moody studied finance and accounting at the University of Guam and graduated with her bachelor’s degree.

After three years the couple moved back to Little Rock.

Moody was hired by the Department of Defense and worked for 29 years in the Defense Logistics Agency. She retired in January of 2010.

Moody served on the Shorter College Alumni Board of Directors from 2013 until 2017, when she resigned to care for her ailing husband J.B. passed away last month.

The Moodys had six children – three girls and three boys. She said she encouraged all of them, plus her grandchildren, to get an education.

“I’m an advocate of education,” she said. “I told them they could find a job after graduating from high school, but if they got a college degree, they would make three times as much money. I worked so they could go to college and stay on campus.”

On Saturday, April 7, 2018, Shorter College students Shantesa Conway, Laquinta Smith, Cekita Mason, Brian Neal, Maya Ford and Clayton Bibbs, along with Dr. Frank Hahn, traveled to the University of Memphis Department of Chemistry/Biochemistry to attend the invited NSF-sponsored Undergraduate Workshop on Photocatalysis and Solar Energy Conversion.

Students were exposed to current science knowledge as well as given access to state-of-the-art laboratories and equipment. The University of Memphis invites Shorter College students who are interested in STEM programs to transfer after graduation to earn Bachelor and Doctoral degrees.
C.J. Duvall, Jr. and Karen Duvall of Little Rock recently announced an endowment of $125,000 to establish the Clarence J. Duvall, Jr. Religious Life Scholarship through the Duvall HBCU Education Endowment, a component fund of Arkansas Community Foundation.

The Duvall family has previously supported organizations in central Arkansas such as Big Brothers Big Sisters of Central Arkansas, Arkansas Black Hall of Fame, and Arkansas Baptist College.

These grants will continue the work of Historically Black College & Universities (HBCUs) and will be made through endowments managed by Arkansas Community Foundation.

The Duvall HBCU Educational Endowment will award an annual $2500 scholarship to a student attending Shorter College pursuing studies in Religious Life.

“Our gift is just a portion of the funding needed to support HBCUs and the work they do to provide diverse educational opportunities in Arkansas,” said C.J. Duvall. “Our hope is to bring awareness to others in our community about giving back. We’re grateful for the Arkansas Community Foundation’s commitment to supporting the local community and their smart financial stewardship of our funds.”

Grants were also allocated to Philander Smith College, the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff, and the Omegas of Greater Little Rock.

For more about the Duvall family’s philosophy on giving, visit www.arcf.org/duvall.
SHORTER COLLEGE
COMMENCEMENT
SATURDAY
Honoring Our Students

MAY 12
@11AM
2018

LOCATION
604 N LOCUST STREET
NORTH LITTLE ROCK, AR 72114
Thank You

S H O R T E R    C O L L E G E

Baccalaureate Service
CLASS OF 2017-2018

MAY 10TH | 6:00PM
LOCATION: BETHEL AME CHURCH
815 W 16TH ST, LITTLE ROCK

S H O R T E R    C O L L E G E

Thank You

for joining us for the 2018 Community Luncheon. Thanks to your support, great things have happened and are continuing to happen at Shorter College.

SHORTER COLLEGE
SUMMER SESSION I & II

REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN!

Summer Session I - May 21 - June 20
Summer Session II - June 28 - August 1

For more information call or visit the campus today to register!
604 Locust Street, North Little Rock AR 72114
501.374.6305
www.shortercollege.edu

Shorter College is accredited by the Transnational Association of Christian Colleges and Schools (TRACS) and a participant of the Arkansas Course Transfer System (ACTS), which guarantees the transfer of applicable credits and equitable treatment in the application of credits for admissions and degree requirements within the state of Arkansas, for all public institutions and participating private institutions.