Shorter College Student Spotlight

Scarbrough Making Dreams a Reality

Self-proclaimed “quiet guy” in high school, DuShun Scarbrough Jr. has proved to be anything but that throughout his career at Shorter College.

While attending Hall High School, Scarbrough mainly kept his head down and avoided trouble. He broke out of his quiet shell when he started attending Shorter College, which was introduced to him by his father. Even after just graduating high school, Scarbrough knew he wanted to do good with his life and decided Shorter College was the best fit to help him achieve that goal.

Scarbrough was also attracted to Shorter College’s reputation of invested professors. His own time at Shorter has reflected that as he recalls being inspired by various professors including Dr. Nichols, his Criminal Justice professor; Ms. Owens, his psychology professor; and Ms. Moore, his college orientation professor. “These faculty members encourage me to stay focused, and helped me improve my public speaking skills,” said Scarbrough.

He has utilized those public speaking skills as the current president of the Student Government Association (SGA), and through his involvement with the Black Male Initiative (BMI) and National Association of Black Men United (NAMBU), both of which aim to provide black men with the tools, resources and services needed to increase their college graduation rates with a goal of improving academic and economic advancements within the African-American community. Since 2008 Scarbrough has also dedicated time to volunteering at the Arkansas Martin Luther King Jr. Commission, of which is father is the Executive Director.

Scarbrough emphasized the importance of fostering positive relationships. One of the aspects that initially drew him to a historically black college was the sense of community, and by this Scarbrough has been positively impacted. “It’s important to hang around positive people who will help you with your career and goals,” Scarbrough says.

Upon graduation on May 11, 2019 (his 24th birthday), he plans to continue his education at Philander Smith College, pursuing a Bachelor’s Degree in Criminal Justice. Scarbrough has never lost sight of his desire to do good with his life, as he plans to use his degree in Criminal Justice to become a police officer.

While Scarbrough may have entered Shorter College as a quiet guy, he certainly isn’t leaving as one. Through the support of professors, faculty, and friends on campus, Scarbrough is making his dream of doing good a reality.
Shorter Welcomes Hall and Daughtery as Student Success Coaches

Shorter College is pleased to welcome Dwight Hall and Toby Daughtery to campus as Student Success Coaches.

Little Rock native Dwight Hall graduated with his Bachelor’s Degree in Urban Studies with a concentration in leadership from Arkansas Baptist College in 2010. A former “throwaway student”, who at one point had a 1.8 GPA, Hall takes pride in the hard work he put in to turn his college career around. He then attended Full Sail University and graduated in 2013 with a Masters of Arts in Journalism with a concentration in digital media. He will complete a Master’s in Business Management and Leadership from Webster University this fall.

Previously employed at the University of North Texas, Hall is excited to show Shorter College students that no one is a “throwaway student”, and to motivate them to fuel their passions and realize their dreams through education.

Toby Dewayne Daughtery is a native of North Little Rock and a first generation college student. He graduated Summa Cum Laude from Pulaski Technical College in 2009, then transferred to the University of Arkansas at Little Rock with a Breedlove Scholarship, graduating in 2012.

A motivational speaker for over ten years, his passion for reaching out to the youth is unwavering. Daughtery is looking forward to empowering individuals to reach their full potential and helping the students of Shorter College become aware of their educational options. He enjoys volunteering his spare time to help prevent others from succumbing to detrimental outcomes, and is currently also working on his first book.

Free Bus Passes to be Available for Enrolled Students

Shorter College is continuing their legacy of supporting students both on and off campus with an initiative to provide students with free bus passes throughout the school year.

Recognizing a need for reliable, affordable transportation, the college has partnered with the Rock Region METRO (formerly known as CAT) bus system to provide bus passes to any student enrolled this semester. The passes are in the form of a small sticker, which will be adhered to the student’s school-issued Shorter College Student ID card.

Students will be picked up at the Rock Region METRO bus stop at the front of campus and the buses will adhere to their normal routes, giving Shorter students free travel access to all of the city.

This system will go into effect starting this fall semester. Route information can be found on the web at rrmetro.org or via the free METROtrack mobile app, available in the Apple App Store or Google Play store.
Vine Street House Announces Expanded Services

The Vine Street House, located at 700 Vine Street and previously a health service center for Shorter College students, is in the midst of an expansion of services available to the Shorter College community.

Programs offered have been completely revamped for Fall 2018. Staying true to its roots, Health and Wellness Services will be provided to students and the community every Monday by Harding University College of Pharmacy, which will provide medical testing ranging from cholesterol checks to immunizations and will provide assistance with individuals in obtaining medical insurance coverage through referrals. These services are made possible by a grant from the Arkansas Minority Health Commission (AMHC), the goal of which is to assure that all Arkansans have equal access to quality health care, regardless of race or ethnicity, and to eliminate racial and ethnic health disparities in Arkansas. Students may begin utilizing these services August 27th.

Vine Street House is also now offering a variety of career services. Partnering with the Arkansas Department of Workforce Services has allowed the center to help job seekers and workers access employment, education, training, and support services to succeed in the labor market and to help match employers with skilled workers they need. There will also be access to Arkansas Rehabilitation Services (ARS), the mission of which is to prepare Arkansans with disabilities to work and lead productive and independent lives.

Additionally the Vine Street House will house an office for Temporary Assistance for Needing Families (TANF), which is partnering with other local agencies to provide those in the Shorter College community with information and access to social welfare programs and workforce assistance.

A clothes closet has been organized by May 2018 Shorter graduate Osibee Johnson, and is available now for the use of Shorter College students, faculty and staff. Ms. Johnson, who has experience in retail, design and marketing, volunteered her professional skills and dedicated endless hours this summer designing and implementing the much needed closet. “Already several students have taken advantage of the clothes closet and workforce services to prepare for job interviews,” reports Yolanda Washington, Shorter College Activities Coordinator. The closet contains ready-to-wear clothes, shoes and accessories in a variety of sizes for men, women and children. Donations are always welcome, and businesswear in all sizes is especially desired.

Another exiting addition to the Vine Street House is the new community garden. The City of North Little Rock supports community gardens through the Fit 2 Live Community Garden Program, which provides funds for the establishment or improvement of community gardens and urban farms, with the goal of increasing access to fresh fruits and vegetables, physical activity and neighborhood connections. The Vine Street House, as a result of the grant awarded to them by the city of North Little Rock, is seeing fantastic returns and recently harvested its first crops. The herb garden is going especially strong, and students and community members are invited to visit and pick herbs at any time.

Along with the garden, to help combat hunger in the community, a Food Pantry within the Vine Street House will expand its reach this coming year by pursuing a partnership with the Arkansas Food Bank. Donations of canned and dry goods are appreciated.

All of these services are aimed at offering support for Shorter College’s students and greater community. Many volunteer opportunities are available. Students can learn more about the Vine Street House on September 5th during a special chapel service.

E-books Now Available as a Cost-Saving Alternative

Starting Fall 2018, the college will be offering e-books to students as an alternative to more costly traditional bound textbooks.

Shorter students who opt to buy these electronic books in lieu of traditional textbooks will be provided a tablet and charged a subscription fee of $119 per semester, which allows them to access not only all of their required textbooks, but also the internet and other features. This $119 is much cheaper than the alternative of buying all traditional textbooks, which can sometimes total several hundred dollars or more per semester.

The goal of this new policy is to incorporate technology in the classroom while also easing the student’s burden, both financially and physically.
Shorter College represented at University of Memphis STEM workshop

Six Shorter College students traveled to Memphis, TN this past April 7 to attend the Undergraduate Workshop on Photocatalysis and Solar Energy at the Smith Chemistry Building, University of Memphis. The one-day workshop was designed for undergraduate STEM students to learn more about the current scientific development of Photochemistry, Solar energy, and Hydrogen Fuel Cell (Clean Energy Source) and was funded by the National Science Foundation (NSF).

During this one day workshop, students were exposed to hands-on laboratory demonstrations, related scientific applications and usage of the scientific equipment for the topics. Attending students were also informed of their undergraduate/graduate STEM program info for their future career. The students were very motivated to study the emerging STEM fields.

The attending students were Shantesa Conway, Laquinta Smith, Cekita Mason, Brian Neal, Maya Ford and Clayton Bibbs. The students, along with adjunct Professor of Chemistry Dr. Frank Hahn, attended this science workshop under the NSF’s full financial support for all of their travel-related expenses.

Yolanda Washington, a 2016 graduate of Shorter College, graduated with her Bachelor’s Degree in Business Administration with a concentration in organizational management from Philander Smith College in July 2018. Washington walked alongside 11 other Shorter College alumni who also graduated this past semester from Philander Smith College. This statistic is a testament to Shorter College’s efforts to encourage its students to continue their education after receiving their Associates Degrees.

Washington herself is evidence of those efforts. "Shorter played a big part in my life because I had been out of school for a number of years and I decided to switch professions," Washington stated. She was involved in many on campus activities, such as serving as the Student Government Association (SGA) president, and it was those activities along with the faculty and staff on campus that Washington recalls most fondly.

Her time at Shorter meant so much to her that she didn't want it to end with graduation, and Washington now serves as the Activities Coordinator for the college and Adviser to the Student Government Association. "I owe a lot to Shorter as they prepared me for the next steps in my life," Washington said.

"I encourage every student to become involved with at least one committee or student organization, as it is an excellent way for them to gain experience and increase confidence in their leadership skills and abilities."
Carolyn Robinson-Brown grew up in Fordyce, AR and graduated from Calhoun County High School in 1966. Growing up in southern Arkansas, she says that “Shorter introduced me to a whole new world.” Her education at Shorter was characterized by the liberal arts curriculum meaning she studied a variety of subjects and was exposed to many different perspectives while maintaining the school's religious emphasis.

While attending Shorter, Robinson-Brown recalls the rigid structure of the college that mandated studying, and her hard work paid off as she graduated with honors in 1968. "We weren't allowed to even leave campus without our parents’ permission," she recalls. "We didn’t run around all over the place; they taught us how to work."

Robinson-Brown married fellow Shorter College alumni Charles H. Robinson Jr. in 1969. She attended Philander Smith College, graduating again with honors with a Bachelor’s degree in Business education in 1970. She then worked briefly with the Pulaski County Special School district before transitioning to work in the federal government for the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). While at the VA, she worked as a loan assistant, accounts examiner, and later in internal revenue as director of training.

After working for the VA for a while, Robinson-Brown went back to school. She earned her Master's Degree in Business Education from the University of Central Arkansas. She then returned to the Pulaski County Special School District where she taught for a year. During this time, the use of computers grew in her field and she was on the forefront of teaching others to adapt to this new technology.

Robinson-Brown then transitioned to Jacksonville High School where she worked for 13 years. She retired in 2012 as the head of business department at the school. Unfortunately, her husband of 43 years passed away in 2012 as well. She continues to stay busy in retirement with her many commitments to various local organizations. Robinson-Brown is still involved with the Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, a national service organization that she joined in 1970, while being an active member in her church community and grandmother of twelve. She is also a newlywed again, having married George E. Brown, another Shorter College man, on Thanksgiving Day in 2017. “Both my husbands were Shorter College men,” Robinson-Brown laughed. “They have integrity!”

Robinson-Brown maintains a connection to the place it all started as she is on the Alumni Board of Shorter College, and serves as Treasurer of the Alumni Association. When asked how the college impacted her life, she responds that it truly built her character. “Shorter prepared me character wise. I had character when I went there but those people were really directing you in your life religiously.”

- Carolyn Robinson-Brown

Students and faculty will find a new addition to the campus this year. The Shorter College Alumni office was relocated to the Shorter College campus on July 1, 2018. John Brunson, President of the Shorter College Alumni Association, stated “The office was previously located within the North Little Rock Workforce Center, but the board wanted to develop a closer connection to the school and a better relationship with the student body. They felt that an office on campus would provide that opportunity.”

The new Alumni office is located within the A. W. Young library on campus. This office will host a variety of events and services, including Alumni meetings which are to be held at 10:00 AM on the 4th Saturday of each month followed by board meetings are held at 5:00 PM on the Tuesday that precedes the alumni meetings. All alumni are invited to attend meetings.

A grand opening for the new office is being planned and will be announced at a later date.
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