

BLACK INNOVATORS 2020

Highlighting students excelling in their creative endeavors. Connect with these innovators who are entrepreneurs, artists, engineers, advocates, and more!

BY: KIANJAI HUGGAN



STEPHEN SAM - MICHAEL REID JR - COREY MOORE

Graduate students Stephen, Mike, and Corey are three young brothers who started the podcast After Dinner Conversations to engage in discussion about the upcoming challenges as they approach the dawn of a new decade. Touching upon life, relationships, music, school, family, and more. Records every Friday and drops every Sunday. The podcast can be found on Apple Podcast, Spotify, Google, Radio Public, Anker, Overcast, Breaker, & Pocketcasts.

NATHAN SMITH GENERAL STUDIES

Nathan is the CEO of a game changing digital marketing design and branding agency. Connect with him through Instagram: @natecountach & @cultivationllc !



MARLENE KABEYA

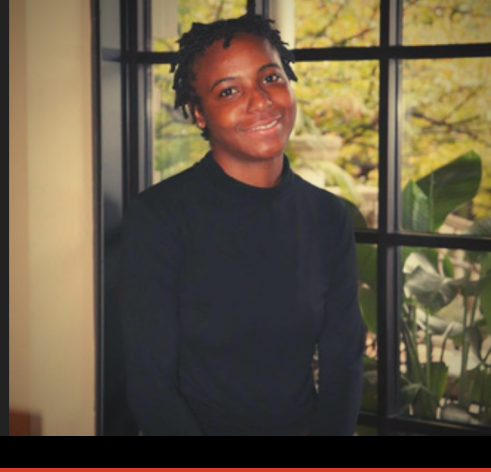
WOMEN'S GENDER & SEXUALITY STUDIES MAJOR ON A PRE-PA TRACK

Marlene is the founder and President of UCurls which is a service based natural hair organization! She is also an up and coming singer and songwriter, going by the stage name, HVN. She opened up for rap artist Lil Baby at the 2019 Spring concert and performed at the BSA Gala. You can find her on Soundcloud and connect with her on Instagram @marlennne !

PARIS PRUITT

MASTERS IN EDUCATIONAL PSYCHOLOGY: COUNSELOR EDUCATION, COUNSELING PSYCHOLOGY

Paris is a best-selling author and poet. Her book "Unshackled" is a collection of poems. The book captures the harsh reality of being a Black Lesbian Woman in the inner city. "Unshackled" allows readers to dive into the real-life trials and tribulations of repressing pain over many years. It explores the journey through the phases of woman hood in the most organic form while depicting an internal struggle to establish identity. Connect with Paris on Instagram at @Paris_Pruitt !



PRINCESSE HARMON

PHYSIOLOGY AND NEUROBIOLOGY (PREMED)

Princesse is a Youtube creator. She creates beauty, fashion, and lifestyle videos. She thinks the best part of being a creator is seeing her influence on other people. Subscribe to her on Youtube at Princesse Harmon & on Instagram @princesseharmony !

JEAN-MARCUS SAMEDI CONTENT AND MEDIA DEVELOPMENT

Jean-Marcus helps start ups develop their branding and social media presence. He runs a clothing brand called Marcovellie Originals, and a production company called Twenty-Seven. Connect with him on Instagram at @marcovellie or email him at ceo.no27co@gmail.com !



KATHARINE MORRIS

COGNITIVE SCIENCE AND ANTHROPOLOGY MAJOR WITH A DUAL DEGREE IN PUBLIC POLICY

Kat founded UConn Collaborative Organizing (UCCO), to increase activism on campus that prioritizes intersectionality to promote solidarity. She advocates as a NAACP member, educates as a Pack Leader for Protect Our Pack Bystander Intervention Program, is a BOLD Scholar researching Cross Cultural Engagement and Intersectional Activism Among UConn Affiliates. She believes anyone can make a difference if they believe they have the power to! Connect with her on Instagram @morhkat !

PATRICK PAUL CHEMICAL ENGINEERING

Patrick is a digital artist. He uses everyday objects to create an alternate perspective and use visual metaphors to make a statement. He captures the world from his perspective. Connect with him on Instagram at @patrickpaul !



JOLENE ADDI PSYCHOLOGICAL SCIENCES

Jolene started dancing African dance her freshman year of college. She choreographs dances and hosted her first dance class with the WIMSE Learning Community! She expresses her passion for natural hair as the Vice President of Ucurls. Jolene makes her own hair products and is always learning about hair care. Connect with her on Instagram at @jolene_addi !

JAMIN WARE

EXERCISE SCIENCE

Jamin is a strength and conditioning coach that has interned with multiple gym franchises. He has worked with a variety of different ages and body types to get people to achieve and not give up on their fitness goals. Connect with Jamin on Instagram: @jaminbraxter !



MILLENNIA POLANCO

BIOMEDICAL ENGINEERING

Milly is a creative who expresses her passion through photography and clothing design. She does clothing customization on campus. Connect with her on Instagram at @millyahliya !

KATRELL CLAY MATERIAL SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING

Katrell is a music producer who is the President of Husky Beats. He is also the Treasurer of Phi Beta Sigma, and has earned his associates degree in Software Engineering. Connect with him on Instagram at @katrellclay & @letoutthepressure (producer page) !



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AUTHOR'S NOTE

I wanted to create a space to highlight Black Innovators to acknowledge some of the incredible work happening here at UConn. These students are self-starters excelling in a variety of disciplines. Throughout history and currently, Black creators have been overlooked and unrecognized. I encourage you to connect with these innovators and take initiative to recognize the greatness we are surrounded by!

ABOUT KIANJAI HUGGAN:

Kia is a Computer Science and Engineering major who is passionate about diversifying STEM fields. She is a founder of the Sisters in STEM Conference, SPARK Program, STEM Hallows, BOSS LADI class, and Women in Making Conference. She celebrates "Maker Culture" in her position as a Maker Specialist at the Learning Community Innovation Zone. Her outreach continues in her role as President of Engineering Ambassadors. Her goal is to continue creating inclusive spaces where self-expression can thrive. Connect with Kia at kianjai.huggan@uconn.edu or on Instagram @kianjai !

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