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HILTON

African Studies at British Universities, Which Ones?



KEITH O. HILTON

PART II

We believe that the best way to learn about a subject is to go directly to the source. Likewise, if one is interested in African studies, go to the source - Africa.

In the future, we will highlight such esteemed African universities as Ibadan (Nigeria), Zimbabwe, Nsukka (Nigeria) and Accra (Ghana). These and others are to the continent what the University of the West Indies is to the Caribbean and what Howard, Hampton, Morehouse, Florida A&M, etc. are to Africans in this country.

In Part I, however, we suggested that if one person is seriously interested in African Studies or research projects, Britain would also be one logical choice.

For example, resource centers have been set up in institutions like Cambridge, Leeds and Edinburgh to collect and re-

search information on topics which touch on Africa.

In addition, two British universities run degree courses in African Studies: the School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS) of the University of London and the University of Birmingham.

It is important to point out that Oxford and Cambridge are not the only universities in that country, just as higher education in the U.S. goes beyond Harvard, Stanford or Clark Atlanta. As a point of information, according to The Times Good Universities Guide, regardless of field of interest these are the ten top universities in England; 1). Cambridge, 2). Oxford, 3). Imperial, 4). University College London, 5). London School of Economics, 6). Edinburgh, 7). London, 8). Warwick, 9). York and 10). Bath.

For those interested in the social sciences, of which African Studies fits, the following rate highest; 1). London School of Economics, 2). Oxford, 3). Essex, 4). Birmingham, 5). Warwick, 6). Bristol, 7). Cambridge, 8). Lancaster, 9). York and 10). Edinburgh.

For the remainder of this column, we will highlight some courses offered at three universities in particular, Kent (#32), Birmingham (#16) and the

School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS) of the University of London (#5). These nine courses are just a small sampling of the curriculum.

For further information on any of these three universities, please write or call them directly. University of Kent at Canterbury CT 2 7NZ (tel. 0227 764000).

University of Birmingham, Edgbaston, Birmingham B 15 2TT (tel. 021-414 3344). SOAS, Thornhaught Street, Russell

Square, London, WC1H OXG (tel. 071-637 2388).

Kent University: African & Caribbean Studies & Classical Civilization, African & Caribbean Studies & Computing, English & American Literature & African & Caribbean Studies.

Birmingham: African Studies & Ancient History & Archaeology, African Studies & Media & Cultural Studies, History of Art & African Studies.

SOAS: An Asian or African

Language with Economics, Hausa & Law, Swahili & Social Anthropology.

These efforts in the UK are presented here so that students interested in African issues will know of as many options as possible.

HILTON HIGHER EDUCATION is designed to dialogue with college and world readers. Education is ongoing and certainly not limited to classroom study. Let's talk. (909) 899-0650.

EDUCATION

COLLEGE DOESN'T CLOSE BLACKS' PAY GAP

Education raises the income of black workers, but it still doesn't reduce the gap in pay between blacks and whites, according to a report from the Census Bureau. That earnings gap between black and white college-educated workers is as large as the gap between blacks and whites with a high school diploma. White men age 25 and older who work full-time earn 27% to 29% more than black men with similar levels of education. The gap is smaller for women but also affects high-school and college graduates equally. White women 25 and older who work full-time outearn black women by 7% to 8%.

"We've invested quite a lot of our social policy in thinking that reducing black to white education differentials would reduce income differentials, and it doesn't," says Roderick Harrison, head of the bureau's racial statistics branch. The main reason, Harrison says, is that college-educated blacks tend to go into lower-paying occupations.

"More education opens up more occupational choices. But blacks with higher educations are evidently not as able as

whites to take advantage of those choices," he says.

Other findings:
* About 12% of black women and men age 25 and older had a college degree in 1992, up from about 8% in 1980.

* In 1992, 36% of black children lived with both parents, down from 42% in 1980.

* The income gap between black and white families hasn't changed in more than a decade. The 1991 median income for black families - same as in 1979.

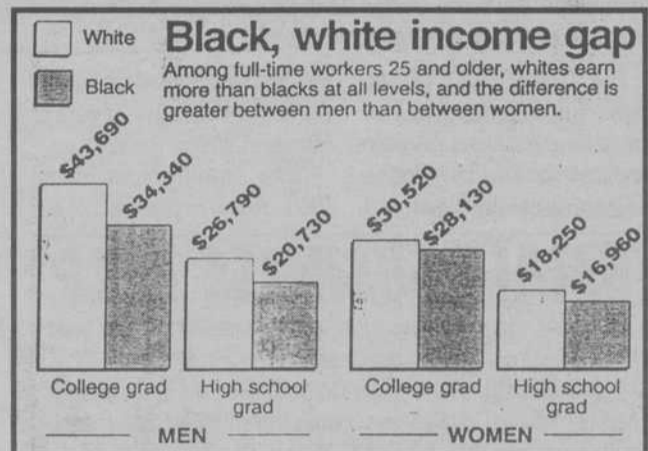
The reasons for persistent income gaps among college graduates range from the bias to different access to job networks,

ACTION TEAMS TO CONTINUE STRATEGIC PLANNING

The next step in efforts to map out the future of the Clark County School District for the next seven years took place Monday, September 20.

That's when action teams met for the first time to get the ball rolling on developing step-by-step plans to implement strategies for the district's future.

The action teams are charged with following up on strategies developed by a 43-member planning team, which met August 27 and 28 to begin the strategic planning process. Action teams are being formed to address 10 of the 12 strategies. The 11th strategy, focusing on second language programs, will continue from last year, and a team to address the 12th strategy, focusing on the learning environment, will be formed in November.



says Margaret Simms, with the Joint Center for Political Studies, a black think tank in Washington, D.C.

"It's hard to separate out what's intentional (discrimination) and what's a natural consequence of who you know."

community, and implementing programs to recognize the strengths and successes of each student each year.

Action teams will meet throughout September and October as they develop proposals toward achieving the strategies. Town hall meetings for public input are anticipated during November and December. Strategic Plan 2000 will be submitted to the Board of School Trustees on December 15.

HOMEWORK HOTLINE BEGINS 4TH YEAR

Homework Hotline kicks off its fourth year Monday, September 20, offering students after-school assistance with their studies. To get responses to perplexing homework questions, students should call the hotline at 799-5111.

The hotline will be in operation Monday's through Thurs-

day's until May 19. Homework questions will be answered from 3:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.

Television coverage of homework hotline will air from 4 p.m. to 5 p.m. Monday's through Thursday's on Prime Cable channel 31 and ITFS channel 7, a close circuit network in schools. As of Friday, October 1, the program will air on Prime Cable channel 4. The hotline originates from the studios of KLVX, Channel 10, which is operated by the Clark County School District.

Assistance is available for any subject at any grade level, although about 80 percent of calls concern math questions. Several teachers and student workers are on hand to help with their homework questions. Hotline staff have access to a variety of resource books and most district textbooks.

Homework Hotline is made possible through the School-Community Partnership Program in cooperation with Prime Cable.

WALKER AFRICAN-AMERICAN MUSEUM & RESEARCH CENTER

The Walker African-American Museum and Research Center is a non-profit organization designed to promote and preserve the contributions of African-Americans in Nevada, the United States and abroad.

Now accepting donations of any historically significant items such as: souvenir booklets, church histories, photographs, slave documents, old business licenses, newspaper articles, clothing, posters, statues, histories of organizations, family histories, etc.

For more information contact Gwen or Juanita Walker, 705 W. Van Buren, Las Vegas, NV 89106, or call (702) 647-2242, (702) 593-3305, or (702) 599-8130.



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