

#THEFORGOTTEN

Former Black Student Union at Cedar Crest College

"We Value Difference in a Diverse, Inclusive, & Equitable Learning Environment".

"We, "The Forgotten" are writing on this Cedar Crest Alum page in hopes of giving some insight and creating a new pathway to bridge the gap of knowledge for future alumni. We hope this letter encourages you to be more open in having meaningful discussions with your family and friends about current issues today that are affecting your Cedar Crest alumnae peers of color.

The Forgotten are students of color who formed bonds in order to feel safe, secure and have someone to relate to. The Forgotten has been policed way more than white peers at Cedar Crest College (most instances for laughing, another for assuming a firearm was present). Students of color have been placed in uncomfortable situations with their hair being touched, Professors have called on students of color to answer questions specifically related to race during their courses, also deterring their dreams while uplifting their white classmates to follow theirs. *There are many more stories like this from alumni of color.* During the #DecadeChallenge many of us were not highlighted for our achievements in what we have brought to Cedar Crest College but yet we are posted on walls throughout the campus to show diversity. We applaud the staff and professors who stood and still are supporting us during these times but now we need your help!

George Floyd, Sandra Bland, Trayvon Martin, Tamir Rice are some of the people of color who have lost their lives due to injustices of the system and police brutality. Recently #TheForgotten have come across some disturbing posts in relation to African Americans being killed due to police brutality across America. These posts are not random but from our very own Cedar Crest Alum and current staff. We want to have conversations that may make you feel uncomfortable but this is how we progress. We understand everyone has the right to their own opinions but as a Cedar Crest family who values being diverse some alum still have work to do and that is why we want to introduce who we are."

Shamara Rhodes '13	Former Student Government President/CCC Board Member/Religio Recipient (2013)
Momie Cisse '14	Former Student Government President/CCC Board Member/ Libertas Recipient (2014)
Jade Abston '12	Former Cedar Crest Professor : Black Student Alliance President
Antoinette Byers-Paredes '12	Former Student Government Senator and Vice President
Rakia Oto '15	Former Softball Player
Fatima Smith '15	Former Softball Player
Javara Troupe '15	Former Softball Player
Shamali Truong '14	Former Student Government Senator
Jessica Turpin '12/'16	Biology (Pre-Medicine) Concentration (2012) Masters In Public Health (2016) VP National Leadership Society & Student Success Treasurer of Honor and Judicial Board AmeriCorps Scholar

We are asking for action on Cedar Crest Campus through showing solidarity by liking/loving this social media post and once campus is reopened we encourage the staff to immediately put on the agenda to:

1. Create mandatory Freshman and incoming student [courses](#) dedicated to Racism, Diversity and LGBTQ issues.
 - a. Ensuring all staff will have participated in Diversity training, led or designed by a person of color.
 - b. Creating More events for students of color to feel welcomed at Cedar Crest College or getting input.
2. Create a [safe space](#) for students to mourn during tragic events (which includes people of color being killed due to injustices).
 - a. Empty space, TCC or chaplin
 - b. *Students should not have to go to the second floor***
3. Understand that students of color have repeatedly contacted higher staff to address race related issues and have been ignored,
 - a. What steps will be taken in place so there is no retaliation or we reach a resolution?
4. Review [Cedar Crest campus security policies](#) when it comes to contacting Cedar Crest Campus security and ensuring it is an actual emergency.
 - a. Police being called on people of color puts our lives at risks daily 2x as our white counterparts.
5. Review the [graduation](#) and retention rate of students of color compared to white students at Cedar Crest College
 - a. Finance Packages
 - b. Scholarships
 - c. Grants Vs Loans

Signed by,

Shamara Rhodes, Momie Cisee, Jade Abston, Jasmine Abston, Antoinette Byers-Paredes, Kristin Clancy, Rakia Oto, Fatima Smith, Javara Troupe, Shamali Truong, Jessica Turpin.

We have decided to have an open discussion on Google Hangout June 10, 2020 about Race, Being Black in America and What You Can do as an Ally. This is free and we encourage you to participate and ask questions in the chat box. This is not for debating but open conversation, we encourage you to do your homework in researching the data on the injustices African Americans face daily. This is just the beginning and we hope you, our sisters, and alumni are open to learning and taking a new journey.