

Catching up with Koshland Youth Fellows

Former Youth Fellowship teacher Kathy Sloane catches up with three of the Youth Fellows. She had the opportunity to hear their reflections on the Youth Fellowship Program and where it has taken them today.



Kenan Delgado with his third grade class.



Kenan Delgado listens to a guest speaker in 1990.



Kaleas Johnson.

Kenan Delgado

One of the youngest fellows in the Koshland Youth Fellowship Program, Kenan was just out of junior high school when he entered the program in 1993. Extremely bright, talkative, and driven by raw adolescent energy, he challenged everyone's ideas and patience. Today, without losing any of his enthusiasm, he has fine-tuned that energy and become a gifted and creative third grade teacher.

After graduating from Skyline High School in Oakland, the city in which he grew up, Kenan received his Bachelor's degree from the University of California at Santa Cruz. During part of his junior and senior year in college, he spent a year studying in South Africa. While there he also worked with children and during a chance conversation with one youngster who envied Kenan's free public schooling, he came to appreciate the value of public education.

In May of 2002, Kenan received his Master's in Teaching and his teaching credential from the Center for Teaching Excellence and Social Justice at the University of San Francisco. He knew he wanted to teach in Oakland, and in preparation for understanding the large Latino population with whom he would be working, he spent six months studying Spanish while traveling in

Central and South America. He is now in his second year on staff at Think College Now, a small public school in East Oakland.

"The Youth Fellowship Program was great. You came together in this program that is set up to help you maximize your potential. It's just about you, and who you are, and what you bring to the table, and what your skills can produce with this group of people. The people in the program were the most memorable thing about it. It was definitely a highlight for me during my roller coaster adolescence."

Kaleas Johnson

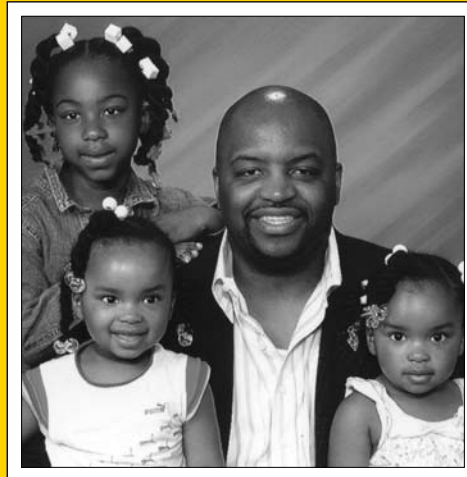
In 1993, between 10th and 11th grades at George Washington High School in San Francisco, Kaleas Johnson joined the Koshland Youth Fellowship Program. She entered wearing pumps and carrying a neat purse, already savvy about dressing for the world of work, but shy and reticent about taking any risks. She grew up in the Visitation Valley neighborhood and came recommended by Koshland Awardee John Greenberg, the athletic director at Potrero Hill Neighborhood House, who had known Kaleas and her parents all their lives.

Kaleas spent her first year of college at University of California at Santa Barbara, and then returned to the Bay Area to attend San Francisco State University. After her son Omari, now nine years old, was born, she worked full-time and continued to study at night and on weekends. With persistence, determination, and great pride, Kaleas received her Bachelor's degree in human services from Holy Names University in May 2005.

Currently, Kaleas is a work project administrator for the Ernest Gallo Research Center. Working with collaborating scientists, she oversees genetics research, administers questionnaires and interviews, and writes research protocol.



Tamekia Mosley and Kaleas Johnson check out sea shells while at the environmental education center in 1990.



Arthur Williams with his daughters.



Arthur Williams and cohort meet up with State Senator John Burton in 1990.

Arthur Williams

In September 2006, she will begin a Master's program in counseling psychology at Holy Names University.

"The Koshland program was an eye opening experience that pushed me beyond what I thought I could do. It pushed me beyond just being pretty, or carrying a purse, or doing all the 'girlie' things that I was used to doing. All the experiences combined, whether it was standing in front of people, or reading something aloud, or jumping off the side of a tree, all those different things together made me who I am today."

It was for good reason that Arthur was dubbed "da mayor" shortly after he joined the first Koshland Youth Fellowship Program in 1990. He was easy going, a natural leader, and a skilled mediator, quickly gaining the trust and respect of the entire group. Tomatra "Scottie" Scott, one of the most committed and active of the youth sponsors, was Arthur's mentor.

Arthur grew up in the Fillmore/Western Addition neighborhood, the eldest of six children. After graduating from Balboa High School, he attended University of California at Berkeley, where in 1996 he received his Bachelor's degree in interdisciplinary studies. With an interest in business and particularly financial literacy, Arthur worked at Providian Financial Services, then as a bank manager for Bank of America.

Influenced by the Koshland financial literacy curriculum and the value of giving back to communities, Arthur has begun a financial literacy campaign at a women's shelter in Los Angeles, where he is also a member of the board of directors. He spends time at his job educating bank customers about credit, saving, and home buying. In the fall he will begin a financial training program at a martial arts dojo in Antioch and hopes to be able

to offer his teaching materials to school districts within a year.

Now at age 33, Arthur has three daughters: a five-year-old, and two-and-a-half-year-old twins. He is assistant bank manager at Wells Fargo Bank in San Leandro, owns his own home in Hercules, and has paid off all his student loans.

"I liked the concept of the program as far as giving youth an opportunity to work in the public, private, and nonprofit sectors. It was very instrumental in giving you an understanding of what's out there, where your skill set is, thinking of the future. It was definitely a good foundation for me. It helped me fine-tune what I wanted to do."

"The Koshland Program was very community-oriented as far as giving back. The director, Arnold Perkins, really stressed that no matter what you do in life, however successful you are, don't forget where you came from – reach back and help. We sacrificed our Christmas morning and went to Glide Memorial and passed out food to the homeless. That was a big part of why I'm very proactive in making a difference. The only reason I stay in the retail bank side is because you can touch more people. There are a lot of people who need help in financial literacy."