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Talented Tenth: An Analysis of the 2011 Root Magazine's 100 Most Influential Young Black Americans

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Abstract

This study presents an in-depth social science examination of the 2011 Root Magazine's rankings of the 100 most influential young Black Americans aged 25 to 45. Among the variables examined in this study are: place of birth, average age, gender/sex, skin tone, institutions where college or university degrees were earned, states and countries where those colleges or universities are located, and professions/job types.

Introduction

Each year or decade in the twenty-first century continues to bring numerous examples of Black or African Americans making consistent overall progress, although there continues to be many examples of serious challenges. One interesting observation pertaining to the gradual progress of Black Americans is that younger generations—those in their forties and younger, appear to have a lot more opportunities than their older counterparts (Kaba, 2012, 2011ab, 2010ab, 2008a; Mazrui, 2009; Wilson, 2011). According to Wilson (2011), "...despite the prevalence of various forms of racial oppression, the change from a preindustrial to an industrial system of production enabled African Americans to increase their economic and political resources" (p.56). In 2010, Black people in the United States spent \$957.3 billion and that figure is projected to increase to \$1.2 trillion by 2015 (Kaba, 2011b, p.100).

In the first week of October 2011, The *Root* Magazine, an African American publication owned by the *Washington Post*, published a list of 100 young African Americans aged 25 to 45, that it said are the most influential young Black American leaders in 2011. These young Black Americans that the magazine called The *Root* 100, are professionals from all walks of life, serving as stand-ins for millions of successful other young Blacks in the United States. This is part of the wish of the late W.E.B. DuBois. Kaba (2007a) points out that: "...today it is evident that not only is Dr. DuBois' dream realized, but one can argue that the talented tenth of Black Americans has multiplied and will continue to multiply in the decades and centuries to come" (p.22). In an October 4, 2011 article by the *Root* Magazine's Managing Editor Joel Dreyfuss, which introduced the awardees, entitled: "The *Root* 100 2011: Influencers and Iconoclasts", he writes: "Welcome to the fascinating world of The *Root* 100, where the unusual juxtapositions are not accidental. They reflect the richness and variety of leadership in the African-American community, a breadth and range of talent that we worked hard to capture in the 2011 edition of our list" (Dreyfuss, 2011, October 4).

These young prominent Blacks in the United States, like a very high number of their cohorts are among very important tax payers and investors in the country. The 2011 *Root* 100 awardees are among those paying tens of thousands of dollars, hundreds of thousands of dollars or millions of dollars in taxes each year. According to the United States Census Bureau, the per capita tax in the United States in 2005 was \$2,199.11 ("States Ranked by Total State Taxes and Per Capita Amount: 2005," 2009). Kaba's (2011c) study of the 2005-2006 U.S. National Basketball Association (NBA) season reveals that 423 total players earned \$1.65 billion in salaries. The 322 Black players earned \$1.3 billion. According to the Internal Revenue Service (IRS), in 2006 the federal tax rate was 35 percent. This means that the 322 Black players would pay \$455 million in federal taxes on that \$1.3 billion (p.13). Contributing to the legacy of the late Jamaican-born Black American scholar, Joel Augustus Rogers (1880-1966), who travelled all over the world between the early 1900s to the 1960s and reported on the important contributions to the world by people of Black African descent, this author, who has produced numerous scholarly publications on the progress of people of Black African descent, decided to present an in-depth analysis of these young prominent African Americans (Asulkile, 2006; Rogers, 1944, 1952; Simba, 2006).

The reasons for doing this study are many. First, it is to allow older Black Americans, for example, those aged 55 and over, including those who put their lives on the line agitating on behalf of the Black race during the Civil Right era to examine this data. It is important for these group of older Black Americans to read this study and see the positive fruits of their sacrifices that their descendants are now inheriting (Kaba, 2010ab). Lyne (2000) writes of, "... [National Association for the Advancement of Colored People] NAACP-led civil rights movement that tries to integrate more African Americans into schools, corporations, and elected office..." (p.40; also see Coates, 2009; Cose, 2011; Marsh et al., 2007; Reed, 1997; Touré, 2011). In 2010, 7.26 million Blacks or African Americans alone were 55 years old and over; 3.42 million were 65 years old and over; 1.442 million were 75 years old and over; and 397,000 were 85 years old and over. The median age of Black Americans in 2010 was 31.7 years ("Table 12. Resident Population Projections by Race Hispanic Origin Status, and Age: 2010 and 2015," 2012). Another reason for producing this study is to introduce and share the progress of the 2011 *Root* 100 awardees to the Black World, especially the hundreds of millions of its young members.

By sharing the achievements of these awardees to these hundreds of millions of young Blacks across the world, it would inspire them and make them believe that they too can achieve their dreams if they discipline themselves, stay out of trouble and do well in school. According to Kaba (2010a), there are an estimated 1.2 billion people of Black African descent in the world (p.42). Due to Black Africans in Africa, the median age of the estimated 1billion (998 million) people in Africa was 19.8 years in 2009, and the median age in the world in 2007 was 27.4 years for males and 28.7 years for females. In 2006, of the 752.8 million people in sub-Saharan Africa, 406.8 million (54%) were 0-19 years old. The median age of sub-Saharan Africans in 2006 was 18.2 years (Kaba, 2011b, p.96). In July 2007, there were an estimated 39 million people in the Caribbean and at least 65% of them are of sub-Saharan Black African descent (Kaba, 2009, p.155). According to research by Kaba (2004), of the 490 million people in Latin America in 2001(from Mexico to Argentina, excluding the Caribbean), at least 90 million (18.5%) were people of Black African descent (p.27; also see Gates Jr., 2011). There are also millions of people of Black African descent in the Middle East, especially in Semitic nations such as Saudi Arabia, Yemen, Palestine, Kuwait, Iraq, and Israel (Kaba, 2004, p.27).

Another reason for producing this study is that the United States is a very large country (9,826,675 sq km) and very diverse racially, ethnically and culturally. For example, according to the U.S. Census Bureau, as of January 10, 2012, there were 312.83 million people residing in the United States (The Black American population in 2010 was 40 million). In addition, because of the centuries-long exclusion of Black Americans from mainstream America, in many of the important or influential publications highlighting the successes of young Americans or Americans in general and people across the world, Blacks are almost either underrepresented or not represented altogether. For example, in 2011, *Fortune* Magazine/CNN Money presented their annual list of 40 young successful people in the United States under the age of 40. The 2011 list of this publication has only one Black person (Bonin Bough, Senior Global Director of Digital and Social Media, PepsiCo) ("40 Under 40," 2011). Also in 2011, *Foreign Policy*, an influential American magazine published its annual rankings of the 100 most influential thinkers in the world. The list actually has 131 individuals because a number of individuals were tied for certain positions. Of the 131 individuals on the list, Black people accounted for only 7 (5.3%, including only 2 African Americans, President Barack Obama and former U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice) ("The FP Top Global Thinkers," 2011), even though, the 1.2 billion people of Black African descent in the world account for 17.2% of the 6.987 billion people in the world as of 2011. As a result, it is important for African American media entities such as the *Root* Magazine, the *Grio* and *Ebony* Magazine to produce these types of publications focusing on the successes of Black Americans.

It is very useful to point out that, while this study only focuses on presenting a scholarly analysis of the individuals listed on the 2011 *Root* 100, there have been years of debate as to whether some individuals deserve to be on such ranking lists, or why other prominent Blacks were absent from such lists. For example, critics have always wondered why prominent or influential Black scholars or professors have always been underrepresented on these ranking publications. In the fall semester of 2009, of 1,439,144 faculty (instruction/research/public service) in the United States, 95,095 (6.6%) were Black ("Employees in degree-granting institutions, by race/ethnicity and primary occupation: Fall 2009," 2011).

In a Wednesday, October 5, 2011 article by the *Root* Magazine staff introducing pictures of each awardee, entitled: "Meet The Root 100 Honorees for 2011", there was this exchange in the Comments Section of the article between a commenter and Managing Editor, Joel Dreyfuss:

“eroc3927

Any scientist, Bio engineers, mathematicians, chemist, physicians, surgeons on the list? No. This is whats wrong with Black America. The list contains a bunch of celebrities and politicians. Hey Root, get to the Root of the problem. There is no great intellect or Creators here. The Root might as well ... brand itself into a Celebrity gossip website like Mediatakeout.com etc. Everywhere u go these days, its just a bunch of pop culture ... Nobody is focusing on the real.”

joel.dreyfuss

Actually, there are number of sci/tech people on the list: Tristan Walker heads biz-dev at Foursquare, a hot Internet startup; Angela Benton has been running a boot camp for entrepreneurs in addition to running BlackWeb 2.0; Paul Judge is chief research scientist at Barracuda Networks; and Dr. Kevin Fenton is head of the CDC's AIDS/HIV effort. No doubt too few African Americans are in the sciences, but remember that because of our age limit of 45, we can;t feature many black scientists and academics who made their mark much later (“Meet The Root 100 Honorees for 2011,” 2011).

Wasow (2011, October 3), one of the contributors to the *Root* Magazine, who produced the metrics used for inclusion or exclusion on the list, wrote this article entitled: “Measuring Clout Among African Americans: New metrics helped The Root identify 100 blacks with the most influence” to explain their decision:

“For 2011 *The Root* set out to identify the most influential African Americans between 25 and 45 years of age. We defined influence broadly to include anyone who is shaping our daily conversations with work that matters.... Broadly, we defined reach as how many people this person touches through his or her work. For substance, the editorial team scored each person based on how much he or she enriched our lives and made the world a more interesting, fun, beautiful or just place.

To calculate the substance score, our editorial team reviewed what each person had accomplished in the last year. Was he or she leading transformative change, championing big ideas, creating breakthrough art, advancing civic engagement or innovating in business and beyond? If yes, then on a 0-10 scale, that person would get a bigger number.

We checked news, blogs, critical reviews, awards and our own sharp editorial instincts to nail down the substance score. Folks who were big time in early 2010 but didn't knock us out with great work into 2011 got low scores. If Obama were 45, he'd nail a 10 substance score....

To calculate a score for reach, we first looked up the number of mentions in traditional media in the last year, using the LexisNexis news database. We also looked up the number of search results in Google in the last year and the total number of Twitter followers. To combine those three numbers into a single reach score, we then took the logarithm of each number and added them together (taking the logarithm compresses really big numbers so that celebs don't have too much of an advantage over the less than famous)” (Wasow, 2011).

In a 2003 article criticizing *Ebony* Magazine for excluding prominent Black scholars and professors in its annual rankings of the 100 Most Influential Black Americans, the *Journal of Blacks in Higher Education* writes:

“Despite the presence of relatively obscure political figures, entertainers, and athletes on the annual *Ebony* list of the “100 Most Influential African Americans,” black scholars, educators, and intellectuals are routinely missing. As far back as we can recall, *Ebony* has been much more interested in honoring African-American beauty queens, black Shriners, and politicians with little real power than the people charged with educating our youth. Clearly academic scholarship and intellectual achievement rank very low on *Ebony*'s scale of influence and importance” (“News and Views; *Ebony*'s List of the Most Influential Black Americans,” 2003, p.31; also see Chase and Machida, 2011; Chung, 2007, p.33; “*Ebony* Magazine Continues to Ignore the Influence of Black Scholars,” 1999; “News and Views: Demeaning Stereotypes; *Ebony*'s List of the Most Influential Black Americans,” 1997; Richardson and Scott, 2002).

This article begins by presenting an explanation of the methodology of the study. Next the article presents the general statistical findings and analysis of the data. Finally, the article presents a Summary and Conclusions section.

Methodology, Data Reliability and Limitations of this Study

The process of compiling the raw data for this study began on October 4, 2011. On its website, the *Root Magazine* presents the photos and pertinent data including name, rank on the list, a brief description, job type, job sector, age, geographic location, and twitter account, of all 100 awardees ("2011 The Root 100 List:" 2011). Some awardees share certain ranked positions.

I then created an excel spread sheet and entered the following variables of the awardees: name, rank, gender/sex, profession, job type, state or country of birth, U.S. region of birth, skin tone, institution and state or country and U.S./world region where bachelor's, master's, juris doctorate, and doctorate degrees are earned.

Age data were not provided for 5 awardees, and for 1 male awardee the *Root Magazine* gave his age as "Late 30s", which was not included in the study. So age data are not available for 6 awardees (5 males and 1 female). Also, although the *Root Magazine* limited the age to 25 to 45 years, there are 2 females whose ages are listed as 46. I compiled and computed the average age of all 94 awardees, and also for each gender/sex.

The *Root Magazine* did not provide place of birth data of its awardees. I conducted an extensive web search for the place of birth data, including the awardees' websites, Wikipedia, newspaper/magazine articles, book chapters, etc. I found place of birth data for 97 (97%) awardees. I did not find place of birth data for 3 (3%) awardees (2 males and 1 female). The place of birth data focuses only on the U.S. state, region where the state is located (utilizing the U.S. Census classification of the four geographic regions of the United States. See appendix), country and world region of birth.

For the earned bachelor's, master's, juris doctorate, and doctorate degrees from higher education institutions, I also conducted an extensive web search including the awardees' websites, Wikipedia, newspaper/magazine articles, book chapters, etc. I identified 70 (70%) awardees with 72 earned bachelor's degrees; 31 (31%) awardees with 35 earned master's degrees; 13 awardees with earned juris doctorate degrees; and 9 (9%) awardees with 10 earned doctorates, including 1 awardee with a Ph.D. and an MD. The state and region in the United States and country and world region of the higher education institution are also compiled and computed.

I compiled and computed the 8 job sectors presented by the *Root Magazine*. I also compiled and computed job types of all of the awardees and divided them into 14 categories. The skin tone data are divided into 3 categories: Brown Skinned, Dark Skinned, and Light Skinned. For all of the variables, I compiled and computed the data for all available awardees as a whole and specifically for females and males.

It is useful to point out that I did not contact any of the awardees to request any data from them. This means that the data such as U.S. state and country where an awardee was born or college degree data could not be accurate or results in a limitation of the study. However, hundreds of hours were spent by this author to carefully verify these data. Table 1 below presents the name, rank order, profession and job types of all awardees as presented by the *Root Magazine*. The names of the awardees are then removed and the rest of the data in this study do not provide the names of the awardees. The primary goal here is an attempt to just present some generalizations about the characteristics of these prominent young Black Americans for the general public to have an understanding as to the factors that contributed to them being on the 2011 *Root 100* list

Table 1.: Name, Age, Rank Order, Profession and Job Categories of the 2011 Root Magazine 100 Influential Young African Americans (N=100)

Name	Rank	Age	Profession	Job Type
Cory Booker	1	42	Government/Politics	Mayor, Newark, NJ
Tyler Perry	2	42	Entertainment/Media	Director, Actor, Producer and Screenwriter
John Legend	3	32	Entertainment/Media	Singer
Jay-Z	4	41	Entertainment/Media	Businessman, Rapper, Producer
Soledad O'Brien	5	45	Entertainment/Media	News Anchor and Special Correspondent, CNN
Don Lemon	6	45	Entertainment/Media	News Anchor, CNN
Will.i.am	7	36	Entertainment/Media	Rapper, Songwriter, Producer
Shonda Rhimes	8	41	Entertainment/Media	TV Producer
Kevin Johnson	9	45	Government/Politics	Mayor, Sacramento, CA
Kasim Reed	10	42	Government/Politics	Mayor, Atlanta
Charles M. Blow	11	41	Entertainment/Media	Columnist, NY Times
Kanye West	12	34	Entertainment/Media	Rapper and Record Producer
Beyoncé Knowles	13	30	Entertainment/Media	Singer and Actress
Tamron Hall	14	41	Entertainment/Media	News Anchor, MSNBC
Melissa Harris-Perry	15	37	Entertainment/Media	Professor, Tulane Uni. and Media Commentator
Marcus Samuelson	16	40	Business	Chef and Entrepreneur
Van Jones	17	42	Government/Politics	Green Activist and Policy Adviser
Suzanne Malveaux	18	44	Entertainment/Media	News Anchor, CNN
Kerry Washington	19	34	Entertainment/Media	Actress
Steve Perry	20	41	Community	Educator and Author
Dambisa Moyo	21	42	Business	Economist
Tyra Banks	22	37	Business	Entrepreneur
Kevin Fenton	23	44	Health Care	Director, Natl. Center for HIV/AIDS, Viral Hepatitis, STD and TB Prevention
Esperanza Spalding	24	26	Entertainment/Media	Singer and Bassist
Benjamin T. Jealous	25	38	Government/Politics	President and CEO, NAACP
Majora Carter	26	44	Business	President, The Majora Carter Group
Roland Martin	27	42	Government/Politics	Journalist
Wyclef Jean	28	38	Entertainment/Media	Humanitarian, Musician and Educator
Kendrick Meek	29	45	Government/Politics	Former Congressman
Baratunde Thurston	30	41	Entertainment/Media	Comedian and Author
Drake	31	24	Entertainment/Media	Rapper, Singer and Songwriter
Jason Moran	32	36	Entertainment/Media	Musician and Composer
Kevin Liles	33	43	Business	Entrepreneur, Consultant and Philanthropist
Colson Whitehead	34	42	Entertainment/Media	Author
Kirk Franklin	35	41	Entertainment/Media	Gospel Musician, Singer and Choir Director
LeBron James	36	26	Sports	Basketball Player
Ta-Nehisi Coates	37	36	Entertainment/Media	Senior Editor, The Atlantic Magazine
Alicia Keys	38	30	Entertainment/Media	Singer
Tristan Walker	39	39	Business	Director of Business Development, Foursquare
Mara Brock Akil	40	41	Entertainment/Media	Writer and Producer, the Game
Serena Williams	41	30	Sports	Tennis Player
T.J. Holmes	42	34	Entertainment/Media	News Anchor, CNN
Christopher 'Ludacris' Bridges	43	34	Entertainment/Media	Rapper and Entrepreneur
David Adjaye	44	45	Arts	Architect
Anthony Mackie	45	32	Entertainment/Media	Actor
Steve Benjamin	46	41	Government/Politics	Mayor, Columbia, South Carolina
Janelle Monae	47	26	Entertainment/Media	Recording Artist and Performer
Adam Serwer	48	29	Entertainment/Media	Reporter, Mother Jones Magazine
Steve Stoute	49	40	Business	CEO, Translation
Melody Hobson	50	42	Business	Investment Manager
Trey Songz	51	26	Entertainment/Media	Singer

Harold Ford, Jr.	52	41	Business	Executive Vice Chairman, Bank of America
Hill Harper	53	45	Entertainment/Media	Actor, Activist and Author
Phaedra Ellis-Lamkin	54	35	Business	CEO, Green for All
John Hope Bryant	55	45	Business	CEO, Operation HOPE
Michelle Alexander	56	44	Community	Professor, Moritz College of Law and Author
Touré	57	41	Entertainment/Media	Cultural Critic and Author
Troy Carter	58	30s	Entertainment/Media	Chairman and CEO, Coalition Media Group
Anthony McGill	59	36	Entertainment/Media	Clarinetist, Metropolitan Opera Orchestra
Jamil Smith	60	36	Entertainment/Media	Producer, 'The Rachel Maddow Show'
Hydeia Broadbent	61	27	Health Care	AIDS Activist, "Knowing Your HIV/AIDS Status" Initiative
James Rucker	62	42	Government/Politics	Chairman of the Board, ColorOfChange
Viola Davis	63	46	Entertainment/Media	Actress
Rashad Robinson	64	32	Entertainment/Media	Executive Director, ColorOfChange
Elie Mystal	65	33	Law	Editor, Above the Law
Jamal Simmons	66	40	Government/Politics	Principal, Raben Group Consulting Firm
Robin Givhan	67	..	Entertainment/Media	Fashion Critic, Newsweek Daily Beast
Ava DuVernay	68	39	Entertainment/Media	Film Director and Producer
Steven Horsford	69	38	Government/Politics	Nevada State Senator
Ralph Gilles	70	41	Business	President and CEO, Chrysler's Brand and Motorsport
Marc Lamont Hill	71	32	Entertainment/Media	Professor, TV Host
Beverly Bond	72	45	Entertainment/Media	DJ and Television Producer
Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie	73	34	Arts	Author
Angela Benton	74	30	Business	CEO, Cued Labs INC.
Audie Cornish	75	31	Entertainment/Media	TV Host, 'Weekend Edition Sunday'
DeVon Franklin	76	33	Entertainment/Media	Vice President of Columbia Pictures and Pastor
Andre Carson	77	41	Government/Politics	Congressman
Roland Fryer, Jr.	78	34	Government/Politics	Professor, Harvard University
Joshua DuBois	79	28	Community	Director, Office of Faith-based and Neighborhood Partnership
Jesse J. Holland	80	40	Entertainment/Media	Reporter, Associated Press
Helene Cooper	81	45	Government/Politics	White House Correspondent, the New York Times
Erica Williams	82	28	Community	Senior Adviser and Director, Millennial Strategies
Denmark West	83	..	Business	President, BET Digital Media
Eddie S. Glaude	84	43	Community	Professor, Princeton University
Wyatt Cenac	86	35	Entertainment/Media	Correspondent and Writer, 'The Daily Show'
Paul Q. Judge	87	34	Business	Chief Research Officer and Vice President, Barracuda Networks
Robert Battle	87	38	Arts	Artist Director, Alvin Ailey
Edwidge Danticat	88	42	Arts	Author
Thelma Golden	89	46	Arts	Executive Director and Chief Curator, Studio Museum in Harlem
Raphael G. Warnock	90	41	Community	Senior Pastor, Ebenezer Church
Will Smith	91	43	Entertainment/Media	Actor, Producer and Rapper
Derek Douglas	92	..	Government/Politics	Urban Affairs Special Assistant, White House
James H. Shelton III	93	..	Government/Politics	Assistant Deputy Secretary, U.S. Department of Education
Ayanna Pressley	94	37	Entertainment/Media	Boston City Councilor at Large
Angela Rye	95	35	Government/Politics	Executive Director, Congressional Black Caucus
Melanie N. Roussell	96	35	Government/Politics	Press Secretary, Democratic National Committee
Cornell Belcher	97	41	Government/Politics	Democratic Strategist and Pollster, Obama re-election team
Maya Rupert	98	30	Government/Politics	Federal Policy Director, National Center for Lesbian Rights
Michael Strautmanis	99	..	Government/Politics	Deputy Assistant, White House
Dean Garfield	100	42	Business	CEO, and President, Information Technology Industry Council

Source: Compiled and computed by author from "2011 The *Root* 100 List," 2011, October 4. The *Root* Magazine. Retrieved on October 4, 2011 from: <http://www.theroot.com/root-100/2011/list>.

General Statistical Findings and Analysis

Gender and Average Age

Regardless of race, the various ranking publications of individuals in the United States and the world tend to have more males than females. For example, as Caprino (2011) points out, the 2011 *Fortune* Magazine/CNN Money's "40 Under 40" publication of successful 40 young Americans under the age 40 has only six women. The December 2011/January 2012 issue of *Ebony* Magazine presents its 2011 "Power 100"—a list of prominent or influential Black Americans from all walks of life. The list also included influential websites (the owners of websites are counted as males or females, and those websites without any person or persons identified as owners are counted as websites). A careful research by this author shows that, there were 65 males, including President Barack Obama; 38 females, including First Lady Michelle Obama; and 3 websites (Brooks et al., 2011/2012, pp.102-113). Kaba (2005a) compiled data from four *Ebony* Magazine rankings of various kinds of Black American leaders, including Black college presidents; "100+ Most Influential Black Americans"; "Most Influential Organization Leaders"; and "30 Leaders of the Future" (all in 2001). Black males were the majority in all of those rankings (p.38). Also, of the 131 individuals on *Foreign Policy*'s list, only 34 (26%) are women ("The FP Top Global Thinkers," 2011). According to research by Black and Rothman (1998), among 242 African American leaders in their study, 87 (36%) were women (p.113). Sanchez-Hucles (1997) points out that: "Despite the fact that African American women have faced a legacy of discrimination, harassment, and low pay for more than a century in their long work history in the United States, a myth has developed that they enjoy an "advantaged" or "bonus" status in the work force by virtue of the interaction of their gender and race" (p.566).

The 2011 *Root* 100 rankings follow this trend. According to Table 2 below, of the 100 awardees, 66 (66%) are males and 34 (34%) are females. This is part of a larger trend in society, whereby despite the extraordinary progress that Black American women (and women in general) have made, they are still underrepresented in many important sectors of society (Cocchiara and Bell, 2006; Combs, 2003; Crossfield, 2011; Dates, 2005; Gould, 2002; Harris-Perry, 2011; Henry and Glenn, 2009; Jackson-Leslie, 1995; Kaba, 2011ad; Moore and Web, 1998; Sanchez-Hucles, 1997; Zweigenhaft and Domhoff, 1998).

Although Black American females are older on average than Black American males, for this study, Black females are younger on average. In 2008, the average life expectancy of Black American females was 77.4 years and 70.9 years for Black males ("Table 104. Expectations of Life at Birth, 1970 to 2008, and Projections, 2010 to 2020," 2012). Of the 313,286 Blacks aged 85 years and over in 2000, men accounted for 84,780 (27.1%) and women accounted for 228,509 (72.9%) (Kaba, 2008b, p.323).

The age category utilized by the *Root* Magazine is from age 25 to 45. Age data were not included for six awardees (5 males and 1 female). Of the remaining 94 awardees for whom age data are available, their average age was 37.8 years: 38.26 years for males and 36.94 years for females (Table 2).

Table 2: Gender/Sex and Average Age Breakdowns of the 2011 Root 100

N=100	Gender/Sex	%
Male	34	34
Female	66	66
Total/Average	100	100
n=94	Average Age	#
Male	38.26	61
Female	36.94	33
Both Sexes Average	37.8	

Source: Compiled and computed by author from "2011 The *Root* 100 List," 2011, October 4. The *Root* Magazine. Retrieved on October 4, 2011 from: <http://www.theroot.com/root-100/2011/list>.

Profession and Job Type

African Americans, especially those with college or university degrees have made visible progress, gaining employment in many important professional fields. This is especially the case with those in the 2011 *Root* 100 age cohort. Today, one can find African Americans in top political office, including the Presidency of the United States; U.S. Congress; Governor's Office, Mayor's Office; in business; in the technology industry; military or law enforcement; in media and entertainment; as executives in the non-profit world; National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA); in K-12 and higher education; professional sports; in medicine or healthcare; in the religious sector; and many more other important professions (Abdul-Jabbar, et al., 2012; Allen et al., 2000; "American Science Leaders:" 1999; Barber, 2006; Brooks et al., 2011/1012; Chase and Machida; Dates, 2005; Dreyfuss, 2011, November 11; "Employees in degree-granting institutions, by race/ethnicity and primary occupation: Fall 2009," 2011; Fitts, 2008; Henry and Glenn, 2009; Johnson, 1997; Kaba, 2012, 2011c, 2010ab, 2009; Kaba and Ward, 2009; Lyne, 2000; Moore and Webb, 1998; Smith, 1995).

In fall 2009, there were 2,782,149 professional staff in degree granting U.S. institutions. Of that total, Blacks accounted for 207,335 (7.45%) ("Employees in degree-granting institutions, by race/ethnicity and primary occupation: Fall 2009," 2011). There were 2.29 million employed Blacks with at least a bachelor's degree in the United States in 2000 (Kaba, 2007a, p.19).

However, by the twenty-first century, while a significant percentage of African Americans are in managerial and professional specialty, the highest job category in the nation, a substantial proportion of Black men in particular are also in the lowest job category, such as laborers. While a higher percentage of Black women are in managerial and professional specialty jobs, their male counterparts continue to earn higher incomes. In 2010, of the 139.1 million employed civilians aged 16 and over in the United States, 10.8% were Black; and of the 51.743 million in "Management, Professional, and Related Occupation", 8.4% were Black ("Table 616. Employed Civilians by Occupation, Sex, Race, and Hispanic Origin: 2010," 2012). According to Kaba (2005a), in March 2000, 1.249 million (17.7%) Black males aged 16 and over in the civilian labor force were in the managerial and professional specialty, and 2.062 million (25.2%) of Black females. There were 2.013 million Black males (28.5%) and 740,000 (9%) Black females who were operators, fabricators, and laborers (pp.39-40). Cocchiara and Bell (2006) point out that: "More than 30 per cent of black women and 21 per cent of men, respectively, work in management and professional positions" (p.277).

According to Kaba and Ward (2009), in 2001, of the 9,101 Black Elected Officials in the United States, 5,881 (64.6%) were men and 3,220 (35.4%) were women (p.47). According to Kaba (2011e), "...in 2006, out of 94,029,000 White alone males, 6,018,000 (6.4%) earned \$100, 000 or more; 299,000 (2.35%) out of 12,716,000 Black alone males; 2,606,000 (2.7%) out of 97,550,000 White alone females; and 213,000 (1.4%) out of 15,413, 000 Black alone females" (p.127). Let us now examine the breakdown of the professions and job types of the 2011 *Root* 100 awardees.

Professions

The *Root* Magazine placed each of the 100 awardees in one of eight professional job categories: Entertainment/Media, Government/Politics, Business, Community, Arts, Healthcare, Sports, and Law. Table 3 represents all 100 awardees in the categories they are placed in, including by gender. Of the 100 awardees, 47% are in Entertainment/Media; 21% are in Government/Politics; 16% in Business; 6% in Community; 5% in arts; 2% each in Healthcare and Sports; and 1% in Law.

For males, 30% (but 45.4% of all 66 males) of all 100 awardees are in Entertainment/Media, 17% (25.8% of males) in Government/Politics, 10% (but 15% of males) in Business, 4% (but 6.1% of males) in Community, 2% (but 3% of males) in Arts, and 1% (1.5% of males) each in Healthcare, Sports and Law. For females, 17% (but 50% of all 34 females) of all 100 awardees are in Entertainment/Media, 6% (but 17.6% of females) are in Business, 4% (but 11.8% of females) are in Government/Politics, 3% (but 8.8% of females) are in the Arts, 2% (but 5.9% of females) are in Community, and 1% each (but 2.9% of females) are in Healthcare and Sports (Table 3).

Table 3: Breakdown of Professions of the 2011 Root 100

(N=100)		% within	% of		% within	% of		
Profession	Male	Gender	Total	Female	Gender	Total	Total	% of Total
Entertainment/Media	30	45.4	30	17	50	17	47	47
Government/Politics	17	25.8	17	4	11.8	4	21	21
Business	10	15	15	6	17.6	6	16	16
Community	4	6.1	4	2	5.9	2	6	6
Arts	2	3	2	3	8.8	3	5	5
Healthcare	1	1.5	1	1	2.9	1	2	2
Sports	1	1.5	1	1	2.9	1	2	2
Law	1	1.5	1	0	0	0	1	1
Total/Average	66	99.8	71	34	99.9	34	100	100

Source: Compiled and computed by author from “2011 The Root 100 List,” 2011, October 4. The Root Magazine. Retrieved on October 4, 2011 from: <http://www.theroot.com/root-100/2011/list>.

Job Types

The *Root* Magazine also placed each of the 100 awardees in particular job types and awardees can be in one or more job types (see Table 1). I decided to organize them into 14 categories: Entrepreneur; Journalist; Non-Governmental Organization; Actor/Actress/TV and Film or Movie Producer/Screen Writer; Singer/Musician; Government Employee; Professor/Educator; Author; Rapper; Mayor; Member of Legislature/Council (City, State or Federal); Athlete; Comedian; and Pastor. According to Table 4, of the 100 awardees, 18% are in the category of Entrepreneur; 15% are Journalists; 13% in Non-Governmental Organizations; 11% in the category of Actor/Actress/TV and Film or Movie Producer/Screen Writer; 10% in the category of Singer/Musician; 6% each in the category of Government Employee and Professor/Educator; 5% in the category of Rapper; 4% each in the following categories: Author, Mayor and Member of Legislature/Council (City, State or Federal); 2% as Athletes; and 1% each as Comedian and Pastor.

For males, 15% (but 22.7% of all 66 males) of all 100 awardees are in the category of Entrepreneur; 9% (but 13.6% of males) are in the category of Journalist; 6% each (but 9.1% of males) in Non-Governmental Organization and Singer/Musician; 5% each (but 7.6% of males) in the category of Actor/Actress/TV and Film or Movie Producer/Screen Writer, and Government Employee, and Rapper; 4% each (but 6.1% of males) in the categories of Professor/Educator and Mayor; 3% (but 4.5% of males) in the category of Member of Legislature/Council (City, State or Federal); and 1% each (but 1.5% of males) in the category of Author, Athlete; Comedian, and Pastor.

For females, 7% (but 20.6% of all 34 females) of all 100 awardees are in the category of Non-Governmental Organization; 6% each (but 17.6% of females) are in the category of Journalist (see Johnson 1997), and Actor/Actress/TV and Film or Movie Producer/Screen Writer; 4% (but 11.8% of females) are in the category of Singer/Musician; 3% each (but 8.8% of females) in the categories of Entrepreneur and Author; 2% (but 5.9% of females) in the category of Professor/Educator; and 1% each (but 2.9% of females) in the categories of Government Employee, Member of Legislature/Council (City, State or Federal), and Athlete (Table 4).

Table 4: Breakdown of Job Type of the 2011 Root 100

(N=100)		% within	% of		% within	% of		
Job Type	Male	Gender	Total	Female	Gender	Total	Total	% of Total
Entrepreneur	15	22.7	15	3	8.8	3	18	18
Journalist	9	13.6	9	6	17.6	6	15	15
Actor/Actress/TV and Film or Movie Producer Screen Writer	5	7.6	5	6	17.6	6	11	11
Non-Governmental Organization	6	9.1	6	7	20.6	7	13	13
Singer/Musician	6	9.1	6	4	11.8	4	10	10
Government Employee	5	7.6	5	1	2.9	1	6	6
Professor/Educator	4	6.1	4	2	5.9	2	6	6
Author	1	1.5	1	3	8.8	3	4	4
Rapper	5	7.6	5	0	0	0	5	5
Mayor	4	6.1	4	0	0	0	4	4
Member of Legislature (City, State or Federal)	3	4.5	3	1	2.9	1	4	4
Athletes	1	1.5	1	1	2.9	1	2	2
Comedian	1	1.5	1	0	0	0	1	1
Pastor	1	1.5	1	0	0	0	1	1
Total	66	100	66	34	99.8	34	100	100

Source: Compiled and computed by author from “2011 The Root 100 List,” 2011, October 4. The Root Magazine. Retrieved on October 4, 2011 from: <http://www.theroot.com/root-100/2011/list>.

Place of Birth (U.S. State/Region and Country) of 2011 Root 100

The place of birth data of the 2011 *Root* 100 awardees show a contrast with the historical settlement patterns of African Americans, with the overwhelming majority of them residing in the southern United States. However, by the early years of the 1900s, massive numbers of Black Americans began moving to other regions of the country. While the total population of African Americans had reached 39.7 million by July 1, 2005, the proportion of Blacks still residing in the South by January 28, 2004 had dropped to 55 percent (Kaba, 2007b, p.21).

According to Wilson (2011), “The proliferation of jobs created by industrial expansion helped generate and sustain the continuous mass migration of Blacks from the rural South to urban centers” (p.56). Prince (2006) points out that: “... African American professionals first emerged, as a solid grouping, during the turn of the twentieth century as a result of black migrants settling in urban centers across the United States. New York, Philadelphia, Washington D.C., Atlanta, Cleveland, and so many other cities were the places where African American professionals began serving the needs of the segregated, urban populations as physicians, business persons, teachers, journalists, and other occupations” (p.68). Mathieu (2009) points out that:

“Between 1910 and 1940, the United States witnessed the largest and most dramatic mass movement of African descended people, as nearly two million African Americans abandoned hope for a better life in the south and headed for points north, west, and overseas. ... Black migrants overwhelmingly headed to cities where an insatiable demand for labor in sectors like coal, steel, meatpacking, railroading, and war industries paid handsomely compared to sharecropping. These black migrants often sojourned in smaller southern cities before moving onto other ones north and west of the Mason-Dixon line, a pattern frequently seen with other migrant groups also charting a course across the United States at this time.... within a decade, the black populations in Chicago, Toledo, and Detroit ballooned by 148 percent, 200 percent, and 611 percent respectively. Of course, African Americans headed west as well, with the Pacific coast's black population increasing nearly sixfold from 1930 to 1950” (pp20-21; also see Rutkoff and Scott, 2010; Wilkerson, 2011).

It is useful to point out that just as the majority of African Americans reside in the Southern United States, so also the majority of African Americans were brought from Western Africa (Two of the awardees in this study were born in West Africa). For example, out of 15.68 million Africans transported during the four types of slave trades of Black Africans between 1400 and 1900, the Trans-Atlantic comprised 10,308,213 (65.75%); Trans-Saharan comprised 3,124,435 (19.93%);

Red Sea comprised 1,305,404 (8.33%); and Indian Ocean comprised 939,504 (5.99%) (Kaba, 2011b, p.94). Within Western Africa, of the 6,634,714 Africans transported in all four slave trades between 1400 and 1900, 5,221,415 (78.7%) were through the Trans-Atlantic; zero (0%) through the Indian Ocean; 1,334,187 (20.1%) through the Trans-Saharan; and 79,116 (1.2%) through the Red Sea (Kaba, 2011b, p.95; also see Gates Jr. and Higginbotham, 2004). In an article entitled “The Two West Africas: the Two Historical Phases of the West African Brain Drain”, Kaba (2007c) points out that: “...among the most influential individuals in the world such as scientists of all kinds, professional entertainers, athletes, politicians, businessmen and women, etc. are people of West African descent who are not in West Africa” (p.77). According to the U.S. Census Bureau, as of 2009, there were 1.493 million African immigrants in the U.S. and 3.466 million immigrants from the Caribbean (“Table 42. Foreign-Born Population by Citizenship Status and Place of Birth: 2007,” 2012). With this background in mind let us now turn to the breakdown of the place of birth of these prominent young descendants of Black Americans who lived on this soil hundreds of years ago.

U.S./World Regions

An extensive research by this author identified the place of birth of 97 (97%) of the 100 awardees. Place of birth data were not found for 2 males and 1 female awardees. The data for place of birth of the 97 awardees focus on the state and region within the United States and the country for those born outside of the United States.

According to Table 5, of the 97 awardees for whom place of birth data are available, 87 (89.7%) were born in the United States. Of the 87 awardees born in the United States, 32 (36.8%, but 33% of 97 total) were born in the Southern United States; 22 (25.3%, but 22.7% of 97 total) were born in the Northeast; 19 (21.8%, but 19.6% of 97) were born in the Midwest; and 14 (16.1%, but 14.4% of 97) were born in the West. Of the 10 (10.3% of 97) awardees born outside of the United States, 5 (50%, but 5.1% of 97) were born in Africa; 3 (30%, but 3.1% of 97) were born in the Caribbean; and 1 each (10%, but 1% of 97) was born in Europe and Northern America (Table 5).

For males, of the 87 total born in the United States, 27 (31%, 42.2% of all 64 males with place of birth data, but 27.8% of all 97 total) were born in the South; 15 (17.2%, but 23.4% of males, and 15.5% of 97 total) were born in the Northeast; 11 (12.6%, but 17.2% of males, and 11.3% of 97 total) were born in the Midwest; and 6 (6.9%, but 9.4% of males, and 6.2% of 97 total) were born in the West. Of the 5 male awardees born outside of the United States, 2 (40%, but 3.1% of males, and 2.1% of 97) were born in Africa; and 1 each (20%, but 1.6% of males, and 1% of 97 total) was born in the Caribbean, Europe and Northern America (Table 5).

For females, of the 87 total born in the United States, 8 each (9.2%, but 24.2% of 33 females with place of birth data, and 8.2% of 97 total) were born in the Midwest and West; 7 (8%, but 21.2% of females, and 7.2% of 97 total) were born in the Northeast; 5 (5.7%, but 15.1% of females, and 5.1% of 97 total) were born in the South. Of the 5 female awardees born outside of the United States, 3 (60%, but 9.1% of 33 females, and 3.1% of 97 total) were born in Africa; and 2 (40%, but 6.1% of females, and 2.1% of 97 total) were born in the Caribbean (Table 5).

Table 5: Breakdown of Place of Birth of 2011 Root 100 by Geographic Regions

(n=97)		% within	% of		% within	% of		% of
Region	Male	Gender	Total	Female	Gender	Total	Total	Total
Midwest	11	17.2	11.3	8	24.2	8.2	19	19.6
Northeast	15	23.4	15.5	7	21.2	7.2	22	22.7
South	27	42.2	27.8	5	15.1	5.1	32	33
Africa	2	3.1	2.1	3	9.1	3.1	5	5.1
West	6	9.4	6.2	8	24.2	8.2	14	14.4
Caribbean	1	1.6	1	2	6.1	2.1	3	3.1
Europe	1	1.6	1	0	0	0	1	1
Northern America	1	1.6	1	0	0	0	1	1
Total	64	100	65.9	33	99.9	33.9	97	99.9

Source: Compiled and computed by author from “2011 The *Root* 100 List,” 2011, October 4. The *Root* Magazine. Retrieved on October 4, 2011 from: <http://www.theroot.com/root-100/2011/list>.

U.S. States/Countries

Of the 97 awardees with available place of birth data, 87 (89.7%) were born in 27 states (with Washington, D.C. as a state equivalent) and 10 (10.3%) were born in 9 countries outside of the United States. Of the 87 awardees born in the United States, 14 (16.1%, but 14.4% of 97 total) were born in the State of New York; 10 (11.5%, but 10.3% of 97 total) were born in California; 8 (9.2%, but 8.2% of 97 total) were born in Illinois; 6 (6.9%, but 6.2% of 97 total) were born in Louisiana; 5 each (5.7%, but 5.1% of 97 total) were born in Texas and Washington, D.C.; 4 each (4.6%, 4.1% of 97 total) were born in Michigan and Pennsylvania; 3 each (3.4%, but 3.1% of 97 total) were born in Florida and Ohio; 2 each (2.3%, but 2.1% of 97 total) were born in Georgia, Maryland, Mississippi, Nevada, New Jersey, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia, and Washington State; and 1 each (1.1%, but 1% of 97 total) was born in Arkansas, Connecticut, Iowa, Indiana, Maine, Massachusetts, and Oregon. Of the 10 awardees born outside of the United States, 2 (20%, but 2.1% of 97 total) were born in Haiti; and 1 each (10%, but 1% of 97 total) was born in Canada, Ethiopia, Jamaica, Liberia, Nigeria, Scotland (United Kingdom), Tanzania, and Zambia (Table 6).

Table 6: Breakdown of Place of Birth of 2011 Root 100 by State/Country

(n=97)		% within	% of		% within	% of		
State/Country	Male	Gender	Total	Female	Gender	Total	Total	% of Total
New York	8	12.5	8.2	6	18.2	6.2	14	14.4
California	6	9.4	6.2	4	12.1	4.1	10	10.3
Illinois	3	4.7	3.1	5	15.1	5.1	8	8.2
Louisiana	5	7.8	5.1	1	3	3.1	6	6.2
Texas	3	4.7	3.1	2	6.1	2.1	5	5.1
Washington, D.C.	4	6.2	4.1	1	3	1.6	5	5.1
Michigan	2	3.1	2.1	2	6.1	2.1	4	4.1
Pennsylvania	3	4.7	3.1	1	3	1.6	4	4.1
Florida	3	4.7	3.1	0	0	0	3	3.1
Ohio	3	4.7	3.1	0	0	0	3	3.1
Georgia	2	3.1	2.1	0	0	0	2	2.1
Haiti	1	1.6	1	1	3	1.6	2	2.1
Maryland	2	3.1	2.1	0	0	0	2	2.1
Mississippi	2	3.1	2.1	0	0	0	2	2.1
Nevada	1	1.6	1	1	3	1.6	2	2.1
New Jersey	1	1.6	1	1	3	1.6	2	2.1
South Carolina	1	1.6	1	1	3	1.6	2	2.1
Tennessee	2	3.1	2.1	0	0	0	2	2.1
Virginia	2	3.1	2.1	0	0	0	2	2.1
Washington	0	0	0	2	6.1	2.1	2	2.1
Arkansas	1	1.6	1	0	0	0	1	1
Canada	1	1.6	1	0	0	0	1	1
Connecticut	1	1.6	1	0	0	0	1	1
Ethiopia	1	1.6	1	0	0	0	1	1
Iowa	1	1.6	1	0	0	0	1	1
Indiana	1	1.6	1	0	0	0	1	1
Jamaica	0	0	0	1	3	1.6	1	1
Liberia	0	0	0	1	3	1.6	1	1
Maine	1	1.6	1	0	0	0	1	1
Massachusetts	1	1.6	1	0	0	0	1	1
Nigeria	0	0	0	1	3	1.6	1	1
Oregon	0	0	0	1	3	1.6	1	1
Scotland, UK	1	1.6	1	0	0	0	1	1
Tanzania	1	1.6	1	0	0	0	1	1
Zambia	0	0	0	1	3	1.6	1	1
Total	64	100.4	65.7	33	99.7	42.4	97	99.7

Source: Compiled and computed by author from "2011 The Root 100 List," 2011, October 4. The Root Magazine. Retrieved on October 4, 2011 from: <http://www.theroot.com/root-100/2011/list>.

Skin Tone of the 2011 Root 100

The fact that the year 2019 will mark 400 consecutive years that Blacks and Europeans have been living together in what is today the United States has resulted in a substantial amount of race mixing to the point that, writing about African Americans, Sowell (1978) points out that "... 22 percent of whom are of unmixed African ancestry" (p.13). Rogers (1944) also presents this quote: "There is sufficient reason to believe that the Negro and Caucasian races in the United States will ultimately amalgamate. This is going on to-day, has, in fact, gone so far that pure-blooded Negroes are in the minority, while a very high percentage of our Negro population is predominantly white" (pp. 28-29). It has been noted that the Black population in the United States is 17% to 20% White (Kaba, 2006, p.108). According to a study of the genome of Black Americans, Jin et al. (2011) point out that: "The locus-specific European ancestry proportion across the genome of AfA [African Americans] was estimated to be 21.68%..." (p.2; also see Morning, 2000, 2005; Phillips et al., 2007).

According to Sowell (1978), there were 488,000 free persons of color in 1860 and that "37 percent of the free were mulattoes, compared to only 8 percent of the slaves (pp.10-13). According to Rogers (1952), an estimated 5 million to 8 million Blacks passed to live as Whites and from 1890 to 1910, the Black population in the United States lost approximately 600,000 of its members who crossed the racial line to live their lives as White people (pp.200-203). Staples (2001) also points to a 1958 study that showed that in each year in the 1940s "...15,000 blacks slipped across the line to live and sometimes marry as white..." (p.A-20). As of 2007, of the 464,000 Black/White marriages in the United States, 338,000 (72.8%) had a Black husband and a White wife and 126,000 (27.2%) had a White husband and a Black wife. In addition, there were 129,000 marriages between Black Americans and members of other racial groups, including Asians (Kaba, 2011e, p.122).

In the 2000 U.S. Census, 6,826,228 (2.4%) respondents claim more than one race; 784,764 (11.5%) respondents of that total said they were Black or African American and White. Also, 112,207 (1.6%) respondents claimed to be White, Black, and American Indian or Alaskan Native (Kaba, 2006, p.107). In the 2010 U.S. Census, there were 3,091,424 (1% of total population, but 7.4% of Blacks alone and in combination with another race) people who said they were Black and mixed with another race (Humes et al., 2011, p.7). In March 2000, there were 204,000 children born to Black/White married couple families in the United States (Kaba, 2006, p.107; Kaba, 2011f, pp.168-169). Sowell (1978) points to two important factors contributing to why light skinned or mixed race African Americans have been and continue to be highly represented among Black elites or leaders in United States history:

"Among the American Negro population in the pre-Civil War period, the free differed from the slave not only in fertility rate and in racial mixture... but also in their geographic distribution. Slaves were always concentrated in the South, and with the spread of emancipation in the northern states after the American revolution, all slaves were in the southern and border states.... The slave population was overwhelmingly rural, while among the "free persons of color" a much higher percentage (but still not quite a majority) were urbanized--- indeed, more urbanized than the white population.... One consequence of this was that families descended from the "free persons of color" were urbanized generations before families descended from other Negroes...The Negroes involved in the Founding of the NAACP were descendants of the 'free persons of color'....There have been some efforts to represent the continuing prominence of free Negroes and their descendants among the black population as a predominance of mulattoes, as such.... The predominance of mulattoes, loosely defined, among Negro leaders parallels their predominance, similarly defined, in the general American Negro population. More strictly defined, mulattoes have still been overrepresented to some extent among the Negro middle Class, as they were among the "free persons of color," ..." (pp.10-13)

According to Coates (2009), "[Benjamin] Jealous's candidacy [to head the NAACP] was met with skepticism on everything from his experience to his skin tone [mixed race]."

According to Brown (2009), "Colorism ... is the American system that privileges the lighter-skinned over the darker-skinned members within a community of color (p.122; also see Burton et al., 2010; Kerr 2005). Hochschild and Weaver (2007) point out that:"Dark-skinned blacks in the United States have lower socioeconomic status, more punitive relationships with the criminal justice system, diminished prestige, and less likelihood of holding elective office compared with their lighter counterparts. This phenomenon of "colorism" both occurs within the African American community and is expressed by outsiders, and most blacks are aware of it" (p.643).

According to Breland (1998), Blacks “with lighter skin have greater education, occupational prestige, personal income, and family income than their darker skinned peers . . .” (p.301). Keith and Herring (1991) note in their study that: “. . . very light respondents are substantially more likely to be employed as professional and technical workers than are those with darker complexions. In contrast, those with very dark complexions are more likely than all others to be laborers” (p.768).

According to Hochschild and Weaver (2007): “In September 2005, CNN news anchor Wolf Blitzer remarked that the most devastated victims of Hurricane Katrina “are so poor and they are so black... He presumably was referring to the fact that most displaced people were African American residents of New Orleans. But behind his comment was a physical fact about the people appearing on television sets across the country; those left behind were the darkest as well as the poorest of their race” (p.644). It has also been pointed out that the proportion of all Blacks in the United States with dark skin who were convicted of murdering a White person and were sentenced to death was 54%, but 24% for Blacks with light skin (Kaba, 2007b, p.16).

According to Table 7, of the 100 awardees, 47% are Light Skinned, 34% Dark Skinned, and 19% Brown Skinned. Of the 66 males, 29 (44%, but 29% of 100 total) are Light Skinned; 25 (37.9%, but 25% of 100 total) are Dark skinned; and 12 (18.2%, but 12% of 100 total) are Brown Skinned. Of the 34 females, 18 (53%, but 18% of 100 total) are Light Skinned; 9 (26.5%, but 9% of 100 total) are Dark Skinned; and 7 (20.6%, but 7% of 100 total) are Brown Skinned (Table 7).

According to Brown (2009), “... Several studies have concluded that skin tone, in most instances, is a more salient factor for women than for men.... women with lighter skin tone tend to receive more privilege in the form of socioeconomic gains than dark-skinned women with similar social characteristics” (pp.122-123; also see Bettez, 2010). Both Rogers (1952) and Staples (2001) note that most of the Blacks who crossed to live as Whites were males. According to Rogers (1952), one important proof of the number of Black males who crossed the line to live as Whites was that “... very fair Negro women are much more in evidence than very fair Negro males” (p.200).

Table 7: Breakdown of Skin Tone of the 2011 Root 100

(N=100)		% within	% of		% within	% of		
Category	Male	Gender	Total	Female	Gender	Total	Total	% of Total
Light Skin	29	44	29	18	53	18	47	47
Dark Skin	25	37.9	25	9	26.5	9	34	34
Brown Skin	12	18.2	12	7	20.6	7	19	19
Total	66	100.1	100	34	100.1	34	100	100

Source: Compiled and computed by author from “2011 The *Root* 100 List,” 2011, October 4. The *Root* Magazine. Retrieved on October 4, 2011 from: <http://www.theroot.com/root-100/2011/list>.

Educational Attainment (Bachelor’s, Master’s, Juris Doctorate, and Doctorate)

From enrolling in schools starting in the 1800s (Bertaux and Washington, 2005), Black Americans have made substantial progress in both college or university enrollments and actual degree attainment, especially in the past several decades. To save money, many also start college by attending two year or community colleges (“Against All Odds,” 2011). African Americans, especially Black females have such high regard for college or university education that they would spend their own scarce resources and go deep into debt to pay for their college education. For example, in 2009, there were 49,562 individuals who earned doctorates from U.S. colleges and universities. Of that total, 2,699 (5.45%) were Black or African American. Of the 2,699 Blacks who earned doctorates in 2009, 447 (16.6%) were non-U.S. citizens. Of the 2,221 Black citizens who earned doctorates, 40% used their own resources; 26.1% of the 24,053 White citizens; 25% of the 651 U.S. citizens who are two or more races (“Table 66. Statistical profile of doctorate recipients, by race/ethnicity and citizenship: 2009,” 2011). The average cumulative debt (undergraduate and graduate) of those who earned doctorates in 2009 was \$41,018 for Blacks; \$27,854 for those who are two or more races; and \$22,518 for Whites. In addition, 27.1% of the Black graduates had debt of \$70,001 or more; 10.5% of Whites; and 14.9% of those who are two or more races (“Table 36. Education related Debt of doctorate recipients, by sex, citizenship, and race/ethnicity: 2009,” 2011). It is also common to see older Black Americans who were once denied the right to formal education as young people, now enrolling to earn their bachelor’s degrees or more. For example, in October 2010, of the 58.1 million non-Hispanic Whites aged 55 and over, 259,000 (0.4%) were enrolled in college (undergraduate or graduate).

For 6,915,000 Blacks alone aged 55 and over, 59,000 (0.9%) were enrolled in college ("Table 1. Enrollment Status of the Population 3 Years Old and Over, by Sex, Age, Race," 2012). The median years when doctorates were earned in 2009 for all graduates was 32.2 years; 36.5 years for Blacks; 32.2 years for Whites; and 32 years for those who are two or more races ("Table 66. Statistical profile of doctorate recipients, by race/ethnicity and citizenship: 2009," 2011). Today, college degrees are required for almost all professional jobs in the United States. According to Wilson (2011), "Access to higher paying jobs is increasingly based on educational criteria... trained and educated African Americans have experienced increased job opportunities in the corporate and government sectors as a result of the expansion of white-collar positions and the pressures of state affirmative action programs" (p.57). The more academic credentials one has, the better her or his chances of earning higher incomes. For example, by 2002: "Over an adult's working life, high school graduates can expect, on average, to earn \$1.2 million; those with a bachelor's degree, \$2.1 million; and people with a master's degree, \$2.5 million... People with doctoral (\$3.4 million) and professional degrees (\$4.4 million)..." (Kaba, 2005b, p.14). In the 108th U.S. Congress, of the 535 members, 496 (92.7%) had at least a bachelor's degree; 142 (26.5%) had a master's degree; 235 (44%) had Law degrees; 18 (3.4%) had doctorates; and 15 (2.8%) had medical doctorates (Kaba and Ward, 2009, p.47).

College Enrollment Rates

According to the United States Census Bureau, in October 2010, there were 292,233,000 people in the United States aged 3 and over. Of that total, 20,275,000 (6.9%) were enrolled in college (undergraduate or graduate); 9,007,000 (6.3%) out of 142,999,000 for males and 11,268,000 (7.6%) out of 149,234,000 for females. For Blacks mixed with another race, it was 1,241,000 (6.9%) out of 18,012,000 for males; 2,009,000 (9.6%) out of 20,939,000 for females; and 3,250,000 (8.3%) out of 38,951,000 for both sexes. For Blacks alone as a single race, it was 1,058,000 (6.3%) out of 16,759,000 for males; 1,831,000 (9.4%) out of 19,548,000 for females; and 2,889,000 (8%) out of 36,303,000 for both sexes. For non-Hispanic Whites, it was 5,673,000 (6.1%) out of 93,085,000 for males; 6,940,000 (7.1%) out of 97,268,000 for females; and 12,613,000 (6.6%) out of 190,353,000 for both sexes. For Asians alone as a single race, it was 647,000 (9.8%) out of 6,587,000 for males; 676,000 (9.5%) out of 7,097,000 for females; and 1,322,000 (9.7%) out of 13,685,000 for both sexes. For Asians mixed with another race, it was 740,000 (10.2%) out of 7,278,000 for males; 727,000 (9.4%) out of 7,732,000 for females; and 1,467,000 (9.8%) out of 15,010,000 for both sexes. For Hispanics of any race, it was 1,302,000 (5.5%) out of 23,864,000 for males; 1,576,000 (7%) out of 22,538,000 for females; and 2,879,000 (6.2%) out of 46,402,000 for both sexes ("School Enrollment in the United States: 2010," 2012).

Degree Attainment Rates

The Black population in the United States has made substantial progress in college or university degree attainment. In 2009, for example, there were 3.238 million Black Americans (or in combination with another race) with a bachelor's degree; 1.246 million with a master's degree; 171,000 with a professional degree; and 133,000 with a doctorate degree (Kaba, 2011d, p.138). Examining degree attainment rates by gender, in 2008, 1,874,000 African American females and 1,341,000 African American males (for a total of 3,215,000) had a bachelor's degree; 669,000 African American females and 409,000 African American males (for a total of 1,078,000) had a master's degree; 62,000 African American females and 88,000 African American males (for a total of 150,000) had a professional degree; and 65,000 African American females and 71,000 African American males (for a total of 136,000) had a doctorate (Kaba, 2010c, p.108).

As already noted, younger Black Americans are making extraordinary achievements in earning higher levels of academic degrees. For example, in 2009, there were 3,012,000 (14.2% of 21.3 million total in the United States) Black alone and in combination with another race aged 25-29, with females accounting for 1,592,000 (52.9%, but 7.5% of all 21.3 million) and males accounting for 1,420,000 (47.1%, but 6.7% of all 21.3 million total). In 2009, there were 17,000 (14.5% of 117,000 total in the United States) Blacks alone or in combination with another race aged 25-29 with earned doctorates, with Black females accounting for 13,000 (76.5%, but 11.1% of all 117,000 total), and males accounting for 4,000 (23.5%, but 3.4% of all 117,000 total). The 17,000 Blacks alone or in combination with another race with doctorates in 2009 is 0.56% of the 3,012,000 million aged 25-29. The 13,000 Black females alone or in combination with another race with doctorates in 2009 is 0.82% of the 1,592,000 Black females in that age cohort, and the 4,000 Black males alone in that age cohort with doctorates is 0.28% of Black males aged 25-29 ("Census Bureau Reports Nearly 6 in 10 Advanced Degree Holders," 2011). Finally, in 2008, there were 14,000 individuals in the United States aged 18-24 with earned doctorates.

In 2008, there were 4,112,000 Blacks alone aged 18-24, with males accounting for 1,973,000 (48%) and females accounting for 2,138,000 (52%). Of the 4,000 doctorates (28.6% of the 14,000 doctorates) earned by Blacks alone in 2008, Black females accounted for all of them (Kaba, 2011a, p.120). Let us now examine the college degree attainment rates of the 2011 *Root* 100.

Earned Bachelor's Degrees, by U.S./World Regions of the 2011 *Root* 100

A total of 70 (70% of 100 total) awardees are identified to have earned at least a bachelor's degree (72 bachelor's degrees total). Of the 70 awardees with bachelor's degrees, 67 (95.7%) earned them in the United States and 3 (4.3%) earned them outside of the United States. Of the 67 awardees who earned bachelor's degrees in the United States, 30 (44.8%, but 42.9% of 70 total) were earned in the Northeast; 25 (37.3%, but 35.7% of 70 total) in the South; 8 (11.9%, but 11.4% of 70 total) in the West; and 4 (6%, but 5.7% of 70 total) in the Midwest. Of the 3 awardees who earned bachelor's degrees outside of the United States, 2 (66.7%, but 2.9% of 70 total) were in Europe and 1 (33.3%, but 1.4% of 70 total) in the Caribbean (Table 8).

There are 45 males (64.3% of 70 total) who earned bachelor's degrees, with 42 of them doing so in the United States. Of these 42 males who earned bachelor's degrees in the United States, 18 (42.8%, but 40% of 45 males, and 25.7% of 70 total) did so in the Northeast; 17 (40.5%, but 37.8% of 45 males, and 24.3% of 70 total) did so in the South; 4 (9.5%, but 8.9% of 45 males, and 5.7% of 70 total) did so in the West; and 3 (7.1%, but 6.7% of 45 males, and 4.3% of 70 total) did so in the Midwest. Of the 3 awardees who earned Bachelor's degrees outside of the United States, 2 (66.7%, but 4.4% of 45 males, and 2.9% of 70 total) did so in Europe; and 1 (33.3%, but 2.2% of males, and 1.4% of 70 total) did so in the Caribbean (Table 8). There are 25 (35.6% of 70 total) females who earned 25 bachelor's degrees, and all 25 (100%) of them did so in the United States. Of these 25 females who earned bachelor's degrees in the United States, 12 (48%, but 17.1% of 70 total) did so in the Northeast; 8 (32% of 25 females, but 11.4% of 70 total) did so in the South; 4 (16%, but 5.7% of 70 total) did so in the West; and 1 (4% of 25 females, but 1.4% of 70 total) did so in the Midwest (Table 8).

Table 8

Breakdown of Earned Bachelor's Degrees of the 2011 *Root* 100 by Region n=70 Individuals with 72 Bachelor's Degrees

Region	Male	% within Gender	% of Total	Female	% within Gender	% of Total	Total	% of Total
Northeast	18	40	25.7	12	48	17.1	30	42.9
South	17	37.8	24.3	8	32	11.4	25	35.7
West	4	8.9	5.7	4	16	5.7	8	11.4
Midwest	3	6.7	4.3	1	4	1.4	4	5.7
Europe	2	4.4	2.9	0	0	0	2	2.9
Caribbean	1	2.2	1.4	0	0	0	1	1.4
Total	45	100	64.3	25	100	35.6	70	100

Source: Compiled and computed by author from "2011 The *Root* 100 List," 2011, October 4. The *Root* Magazine. Retrieved on October 4, 2011 from: <http://www.theroot.com/root-100/2011/list>.

Note: The data in the explanation section above of the bachelor's degrees earned in the United States and countries outside of the United States are not included in the table.

Earned Bachelor's Degrees, by U.S. States/Countries

The 70 *Root* 100 awardees earned 69 (95.8%) of the 72 bachelor's degrees at institutions in 25 U.S. States (with Washington, D.C. as a State equivalent) and 3 degrees (4.2%) earned in two countries outside the United States. Of the 69 bachelor's degrees earned in the United States by the awardees, 9 (13%, but 12.5% of 72 total) were earned in the State of Massachusetts; 8 (11.6%, but 11.1% of 72 total) in the State of New York; 7 (10.1%, but 9.7% of 72 total) in California; 6 (8.7%, but 8.3% of 72 total) in Georgia; 5 (7.2%, but 6.9% of 72 total) in Pennsylvania; 3 each (4.3%, but 4.2% of 72 total) in North Carolina, Rhode Island and Washington, D.C.; 2 each (2.9%, but 2.8% of 72 total) in Connecticut, Florida, Illinois, Michigan, New Jersey, Texas, Tennessee, and Virginia; and 1 each (1.4%, and 1.5% of 72 total) in Arkansas, Louisiana, Maryland, Mississippi, New Hampshire, South Carolina, Vermont, Washington State, and Wisconsin. Of the 3 bachelor's degrees earned outside of the United States, 2 (66.7%, but 2.8% of 72 total) were in the United Kingdom; and 1 (33.3%, but 1.4% of 72 total) in Jamaica (Table 9).

For males, of the 69 bachelor's degrees earned in the United States, 44 (63.8%) were from institutions in the United States. Of the 44 bachelor's degrees earned by males in the United States, 7 (15.9%, but 14.9% of 47 total male degrees, and 9.7% of 72 total) were earned in the State of New York; 5 each (11.4%, but 10.6% of 47 total male degrees, and 6.9% of 72 total) in Massachusetts and Georgia; 4 each (9.1%, but 8.5% of 47 total male degrees, and 5.5% of 72 total) in California and Pennsylvania; 2 each (4.5%, but 4.3% of 47 total male degrees, and 2.8% of 72 total) in Rhode Island, Michigan, Texas, and Virginia; and 1 each (2.3%, but 2.1% of 47 total male degrees, and 1.4% of 72 total) in North Carolina, Washington, D.C., Florida, Illinois, Tennessee, Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, South Carolina and Wisconsin. The 47 total bachelor's degrees earned by males is 65.3% of the 72 total. Of the 3 bachelor's degrees earned by males outside of the United States, 2 degrees (66.7%, but 4.3% of 47 total male degrees, and 2.8% of 72 total) were earned in the United Kingdom; and 1 (33.3%, but 2.1% of 47 total male degrees, and 1.4% of 72 total) earned in Jamaica (Table 9).

For females, all 25 (34.9% of 72 total) degrees were earned by each of them in the United States (36.2% of the 69 degrees earned in the United States); 4 (16% of 25 total female degrees, but 5.8% of 69 degrees, and 5.5% of 72 total) in Massachusetts; 3 (12%, but 4.3% of 69 degrees, and 4.2% of 72 total) in California; 2 each (8%, but 2.9% of 69 degrees, and 2.8% of 72 total) in North Carolina, Washington, D.C., Connecticut, and New Jersey; and 1 each (4%, but 1.5%, and 1.4% of 72 total) in New York, Georgia, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Florida, Illinois, Tennessee, Maryland, New Hampshire, and Washington State (Table 9).

Table 9

Breakdown of Earned Bachelor's Degrees of 2011 Root 100 by State/Country
n=70 Individuals with 72 Bachelor's Degrees

State/Country	Male	% within Gender	% of Total	Female	% within Gender	% of Total	Total	% of Total
Massachusetts	5	10.6	6.9	4	16	5.5	9	12.5
New York	7	14.9	9.7	1	4	1.4	8	11.1
California	4	8.5	5.5	3	12	4.2	7	9.7
Georgia	5	10.6	6.9	1	4	1.4	6	8.3
Pennsylvania	4	8.5	5.5	1	4	1.4	5	6.9
North Carolina	1	2.1	1.4	2	8	2.8	3	4.2
Rhode Island	2	4.3	2.8	1	4	1.4	3	4.2
Washington, D.C.	1	2.1	1.4	2	8	2.8	3	4.2
Connecticut	0	0	0	2	8	2.8	2	2.8
Florida	1	2.1	1.4	1	4	1.4	2	2.8
Illinois	1	2.1	1.4	1	4	1.4	2	2.8
Michigan	2	4.3	2.8	0	0	0	2	2.8
New Jersey	0	0	0	2	8	2.8	2	2.8
Texas	2	4.3	2.8	0	0	0	2	2.8
Tennessee	1	2.1	1.4	1	4	1.4	2	2.8
United Kingdom	2	4.3	2.8	0	0	0	2	2.8
Virginia	2	4.3	2.8	0	0	0	2	2.8
Arkansas	1	2.1	1.4	0	0	0	1	1.4
Jamaica	1	2.1	1.4	0	0	0	1	1.4
Louisiana	1	2.1	1.4	0	0	0	1	1.4
Maryland	0	0	0	1	4	1.4	1	1.4
Mississippi	1	2.1	1.4	0	0	0	1	1.4
New Hampshire	0	0	0	1	4	1.4	1	1.4
South Carolina	1	2.1	1.4	0	0	0	1	1.4
Vermont	1	2.1	1.4	0	0	0	1	1.4
Washington	0	0	0	1	4	1.4	1	1.4
Wisconsin	1	2.1	1.4	0	0	0	1	1.4
Total	47	99.8	65.3	25	100	34.9	72	100

Source: Compiled and computed by author from "2011 The Root 100 List," 2011, October 4. The Root Magazine. Retrieved on October 4, 2011 from: <http://www.theroot.com/root-100/2011/list>.

Note: The data in the explanation section above of the bachelor's degrees earned in the United States and countries outside of the United States are not included in the table.

Earned Bachelor's Degrees, by Institution (College/University)

There were 55 total colleges and universities that conferred 72 bachelor's degrees to the *Root 100* awardees, with 52 (94.5%) of them located in the United States and 3 (5.4%) located outside of the United States. Of the 72 bachelor's degrees earned, 6 (8.3%) were conferred by Harvard University; 5 (6.9%) were conferred by Morehouse College; 3 (4.2%) were conferred by the University of Pennsylvania; 2 each (2.8%) were conferred by Columbia University, Princeton University, Florida A & M University, Julliard, Stanford University, and Temple University; and 1 each (1.4%) were conferred by American Intercontinental University, American University, Brooklyn College, Brown University, Boston University, California State University, Northridge, College of Creative Studies, Concordia University, Dartmouth College, Eastern Connecticut State University, George Washington University, Grambling University, Manhattan School of Music, Marymount University, Middlebury College, North Carolina School of Arts, Northwestern University, Rhode Island College, Smith College, Stony Brook University, Texas A & M University, University of Arkansas, University of California, Berkeley, University of California, Los Angeles, University of California, Santa Barbara, University of Illinois, University of Maryland, College Park, University of Massachusetts, Amherst, University of Michigan, University of Mississippi, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, University of Rhode Island, University of Southern California, University of South Carolina, University of Tennessee, Martin, University of Texas Arlington, University of Washington, Vanderbilt University, Vassar College, Wake Forest University, and Wesleyan University. The 3 institutions that conferred bachelor's degrees to 3 *Root 100* awardees (all males) outside of the United States are: London South Bank University, Oxford University and the University of the West Indies (Table 10).

For males, of the 44 awardees who earned bachelor's degrees in the United States, 5 (11.4%, but 10.6% of 47 males, and 6.9% of 72 total) were from Morehouse College; 4 (9.1%, but 8.5% of 47 males, and 5.5% of 72 total) from Harvard University; 3 (6.8%, but 6.4% of 47 males, and 4.2% of 72 total) from the University of Pennsylvania; 2 each (4.5%, but 4.3% of 47 males, and 2.8% of 72 total) from Julliard and Stanford University; and 1 each (2.3%, but 2.13% of 47 males, and 1.4% of 72 total) from Columbia University, Florida A & M University, Temple University, Brooklyn College, Brown University, Boston University, College of Creative Studies, Concordia University, Grambling University, Howard University, James Madison University, Manhattan School of Music, Marymount University, Middlebury College, North Carolina School of Arts, Stony Brook University, Texas A & M University, University of Arkansas, University of California, Berkeley, University of Illinois, University of Michigan, University of Mississippi, University of Rhode Island, University of Southern California, University of South Carolina, University of Tennessee, Martin, University of Texas, Arlington, and Vassar College (Table 10).

For females, of the 25 with earned bachelor's degrees (all in the United States), 2 each (8%, but 2.8% of 72 total) were from Harvard University and Princeton University; and 1 each (4%, but 1.4% of 72 total) from Columbia University, Florida A & M University, Temple University; American Intercontinental University, American University, California State University, Northridge, Dartmouth College, Eastern Connecticut State University, George Washington University, Northwestern University, Rhode Island College, Smith College, University of California, Los Angeles, University of California, Santa Barbara, University of Maryland, College Park, University of Massachusetts, Amherst, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, University of Washington, Vanderbilt University, Wake Forest University, and Wesleyan University (Table 10).

Table 10: Breakdown of Earned Bachelor's Degrees of 2011 Root 100 by Institution

	Degrees	% within	% of	Degrees	% within	% of		
Institution	Male	Total	Total	Female	Gender	Total	Total	% of Total
Harvard University	4	8.5	5.5	2	8	2.8	6	8.3
Morehouse College	5	10.6	6.9	0	0	0	5	6.9
University of Pennsylvania	3	6.4	4.2	0	0	0	3	4.2
Columbia University	1	2.13	1.4	1	4	1.4	2	2.8
Princeton University	0	0	0	2	8	2.8	2	2.8
Florida A & M University	1	2.13	1.4	1	4	1.4	2	2.8
Julliard	2	4.3	2.8	0	0	0	2	2.8
Stanford University	2	4.3	2.8	0	0	0	2	2.8

Temple University	1	2.13	1.4	1	4	1.4	2	2.8
American Intercontinental University	0	0	0	1	4	1.4	1	1.4
American University	0	0	0	1	4	1.4	1	1.4
Brooklyn College	1	2.13	1.4	0	0	0	1	1.4
Brown University	1	2.13	1.4	0	0	0	1	1.4
Boston University	1	2.13	1.4	0	0	0	1	1.4
California State University, Northridge	0	0	0	1	4	1.4	1	1.4
College of Creative Studies	1	2.13	1.4	0	0	0	1	1.4
Concordia University	1	2.13	1.4	0	0	0	1	1.4
Dartmouth College	0	0	0	1	4	1.4	1	1.4
Eastern Connecticut State University	0	0	0	1	4	1.4	1	1.4
George Washington University	0	0	0	1	4	1.4	1	1.4
Grambling University	1	2.13	1.4	0	0	0	1	1.4
Howard University	1	2.13	1.4	0	0	0	1	1.4
James Madison University	1	2.13	1.4	0	0	0	1	1.4
London South Bank	1	2.13	1.4	0	0	0	1	1.4
Manhattan School of Music	1	2.13	1.4	0	0	0	1	1.4
Marymount University	1	2.13	1.4	0	0	0	1	1.4
Middlebury College	1	2.13	1.4	0	0	0	1	1.4
North Carolina School of Arts	1	2.13	1.4	0	0	0	1	1.4
Northwestern University	0	0	0	1	4	1.4	1	1.4
Oxford University	1	2.13	1.4	0	0	0	1	1.4
Rhode Island College	0	0	0	1	4	1.4	1	1.4
Smith College	0	0	0	1	4	1.4	1	1.4
Stony Brook University	1	2.13	1.4	0	0	0	1	1.4
Texas A & M University	1	2.13	1.4	0	0	0	1	1.4
University of Arkansas	1	2.13	1.4	0	0	0	1	1.4
University of California, Berkeley	1	2.13	1.4	0	0	0	1	1.4
University of California, Los Angeles	0	0	0	1	4	1.4	1	1.4
University of California, Santa Barbara	0	0	0	1	4	1.4	1	1.4
University of Illinois	1	2.13	1.4	0	0	0	1	1.4
University of Maryland, College Park	0	0	0	1	4	1.4	1	1.4
University of Massachusetts, Amherst	0	0	0	1	4	1.4	1	1.4
University of Michigan	1	2.13	1.4	0	0	0	1	1.4
University of Mississippi	1	2.13	1.4	0	0	0	1	1.4
University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill	0	0	0	1	4	1.4	1	1.4
University of Rhode Island	1	2.13	1.4	0	0	0	1	1.4
University of Southern California	1	2.13	1.4	0	0	0	1	1.4
University of South Carolina	1	2.13	1.4	0	0	0	1	1.4
University of Tennessee, Martin	1	2.13	1.4	0	0	0	1	1.4
University of Texas, Arlington	1	2.13	1.4	0	0	0	1	1.4
University of Washington	0	0	0	1	4	1.4	1	1.4
University of the West Indies	1	2.13	1.4	0	0	0	1	1.4
Vanderbilt University	0	0	0	1	4	1.4	1	1.4
Vassar College	1	2.13	1.4	0	0	0	1	1.4
Wake Forest University	0	0	0	1	4	1.4	1	1.4
Wesleyan University	0	0	0	1	4	1.4	1	1.4
Total	47	100.13	65.6	25	100	35	72	100.6

Source: Compiled and computed by author from “2011 The *Root* 100 List,” 2011, October 4. The *Root* Magazine. Retrieved on October 4, 2011 from: <http://www.theroot.com/root-100/2011/list>.

Note: The data in the explanation section above of the bachelor's degrees earned in the United States and countries outside of the United States are not included in the table.

Earned Master's Degrees, by U.S./World Regions

This study identified 31 *Root 100* awardees with 35 master's degrees. Of the 35 master's degrees earned by these 31 awardees, 32 (91.4%) were in the United States. Of those 32 masters degrees, 18 (56.2%, but 51.4% of 35 total) were conferred by institutions in the Northeast; 7 (21.9%, but 20% of 35 total) in the South; 4 (12.5%, but 11.4% of 35) in the West; and 3 (9.4%, but 8.6%) in the Midwest. The remaining 3 master's degrees were conferred to 3 males by institutions in Europe. For males, of the 23 (65.7% of 35 total) master's degrees earned, 20 (87%) were in the United States. Of these 20 degrees, 13 (65%, but 56.5% of 23 total males, and 37.1% of 35 total); were in the Northeast; 3 (15%, but 13% of 23 males, and 8.6% of 35 total) were in the West; and 2 each (10%, but 8.7% of 23 males, and 5.7% of 35 total) were in the South and the Midwest. For females, of the 12 (34.3% of 35 total) master's degrees earned, all in the United States, 5 each (41.7%, but 14.3% of 35 total) were in the Northeast and South; and 1 each (8.3%, but 2.9% of 35 total) were in the Midwest and West (Table 11).

**Table 11 Breakdown of Earned Master's Degrees of the 2011 Root 100 by Region
n=31 Individuals with 35 Masters Degrees**

	Male	% within	% of	Female	% within	% of		
Region	Degrees	Gender	Total	Degrees	Gender	Total	Total	% of Total
Northeast	13	5.6	37.1	5	41.7	14.3	18	51.4
South	2	8.7	5.7	5	41.7	14.3	7	20
West	3	13	8.6	1	8.3	2.9	4	11.4
Midwest	2	8.7	5.7	1	8.3	2.9	3	8.6
Europe	3	13	8.6	0	0	0	3	8.6
Total	23	49	65.7	12	100	34.4	35	100

Source: Compiled and computed by author from "2011 The Root 100 List," 2011, October 4. The Root Magazine. Retrieved on October 4, 2011 from: <http://www.theroot.com/root-100/2011/list>.

Note: The data in the explanation section above of the masters degrees earned in the United States and countries outside of the United States are not included in the table.

Earned Master's Degrees, by U.S. States/Countries

The 32 master's degrees earned by the 2011 *Root 100* awardees in the United States were conferred by institutions in 14 states (with Washington, D.C. as a state equivalent): 5 (15.6%, but 14.3% of 35 total) in New York; 4 each (12.5%, but 11.4% of 35 total) in California and Pennsylvania; 3 (9.3%, but 8.6% of 35 total) in New Jersey; 2 each (6.2%, but 5.7% of 35 total) in Georgia and Michigan; and 1 each (3.1%, but 2.86% of 35) in Indiana, Connecticut, Louisiana, Maryland, North Carolina, and Rhode Island. The 3 master's degrees earned outside of the United States were all conferred to males in the United Kingdom (Table 12).

For males, of the 20 master's degrees earned in the United States, 4 (20%, but 17.4% of 23 male degrees, and 11.4% of 35 total) were conferred in Pennsylvania; 3 each (15%, but 13% of 23 male degrees, and 8.6% of 35 total) in New York, California, Massachusetts, and New Jersey; and 1 each (5%, but 4.35% of 23 male degrees, and 2.86% of 35 total) in Georgia, Michigan, Indiana, and Louisiana (Table 12).

For females, of all 12 master's degrees earned in the United States, 2 each (16.7%, but 5.7% of 35 total) were in New York and Washington, D.C.; and 1 each (8.3%, but 2.86% of 35 total) in California, Massachusetts, Georgia, Michigan, Connecticut, Maryland, North Carolina, and Rhode Island (Table 12).

**Table 12: Breakdown of Earned Master's Degrees of 2011 Root 100 by State/Country
n=31 Individuals with 35 Masters Degrees**

		% within	% of		% within	% of		
State/Country	Male	Gender	Total	Female	Gender	Total	Total	% of Total
New York	3	13	8.6	2	16.7	5.7	5	14.3
California	3	13	8.6	1	8.3	2.86	4	11.4
Pennsylvania	4	17.4	11.4	0	0	0	4	11.4
Massachusetts	3	13	8.6	1	8.3	2.86	4	11.4
New Jersey	3	13	8.6	0	0	0	3	8.6
United Kingdom	3	13	8.6	0	0	0	3	8.6
Georgia	1	4.35	2.86	1	8.3	2.86	2	5.7
Michigan	1	4.35	2.86	1	8.3	2.86	2	5.7
Washington, D.C.	0	0	0	2	16.7	5.7	2	5.7
Indiana	1	4.35	2.86	0	0	0	1	2.86
Connecticut	0	0	0	1	8.3	2.86	1	2.86
Louisiana	1	4.35	2.86	0	0	0	1	2.86
Maryland	0	0	0	1	8.3	2.86	1	2.86
North Carolina	0	0	0	1	8.3	2.86	1	2.86
Rhode Island	0	0	0	1	8.3	2.86	1	2.86
Total	23	99.8	65.8	12	99.8	34.3	35	99.96

Source: Compiled and computed by author from "2011 The Root 100 List," 2011, October 4. The Root Magazine. Retrieved on October 4, 2011 from: <http://www.theroot.com/root-100/2011/list>.

Note: The data in the explanation section above of the masters degrees earned in the United States and countries outside of the United States are not included in the table.

Earned Master's Degrees, by Institution (College/University)

The 32 master's degrees earned in the United States were conferred by 21 institutions: 4 (12.5%, but 11.4% of 35 total) from Harvard University; 3 each (9.4%, but 8.6% of 35 total) from Stanford University and Princeton University; 2 each (6.2%, but 5.7% of 35 total) from Columbia University, University of Pennsylvania, American University, and Union Theological Seminary; and 1 each (3.1%, but 2.86% of 35 total) from Brown University, Duke University, Georgia Tech, Indiana Wesleyan University, Johns Hopkins University, Louisiana Baptist University, Michigan State University, New York University, Pennsylvania State University, Savannah College of Arts and Design, Temple University, University of Michigan, University of Southern California, and Yale University. The 3 master's degrees earned outside the United States were conferred by 3 institutions in the United Kingdom: London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, Oxford University, and Royal College of Arts (Table 13).

For males, of the 20 master's degrees earned in the United States, 3 each (15%, but 13% of 23 male degrees, and 8.57% of 35 total) were from Harvard University, Stanford University, and Princeton University; 2 each (10%, but 8.7% of 23 male degrees, and 5.7% of 35 total) from the University of Pennsylvania and Union Theological Seminary; and 1 each (5%, but 4.35% of 23 male degrees, and 2.86% of 35 total) from Georgia Tech, Indiana Wesleyan University, Louisiana Baptist University, Michigan State University, Pennsylvania State University, and Temple University (Table 13).

For females, of all 12 master's degrees earned in the United States, 2 (16.7%, but 5.7% of 35 total) were conferred by American University; and 1 each (8.3%, but 2.86% of 35 total) were conferred by Harvard University, Columbia University, Brown University, Duke University, Johns Hopkins University, New York University, Savannah College of Arts and Design, University of Michigan, University of Southern California, and Yale University (Table 13).

Table 13: Breakdown of Earned Master's Degrees of 2011 Root 100 by Institution

	Degree by	% within	% of	Degrees by	% within	% of		% of
Institution	Males	Gender	Total	Female	Gender	Total	Total	Total
Harvard University	3	13	8.57	1	8.3	2.86	4	11.4
Stanford University	3	13	8.57	0	0	0	3	8.6
Princeton University	3	13	8.57	0	0	0	3	8.6
Columbia University	1	4.35	2.86	1	8.3	2.86	2	5.7
University of Pennsylvania	2	8.7	5.7	0	0	0	2	5.7
American University	0	0	0	2	16.7	5.7	2	5.7
Union Theological Seminar	2	8.7	5.7	0	0	0	2	5.7
Brown University	0	0	0	1	8.3	2.86	1	2.86
Duke University	0	0	0	1	8.3	2.86	1	2.86
Georgia Tech	1	4.35	2.86	0	0	0	1	2.86
Indiana Wesleyan University	1	4.35	2.86	0	0	0	1	2.86
Johns Hopkins University	0	0	0	1	8.3	2.86	1	2.86
London. School of hygiene and tropical Medicine	1	4.35	2.86	0	0	0	1	2.86
Louisiana Baptist University	1	4.35	2.86	0	0	0	1	2.86
Michigan State University	1	4.35	2.86	0	0	0	1	2.86
New York University	0	0	0	1	8.3	2.86	1	2.86
Oxford University	1	4.35	2.86	0	0	0	1	2.86
Pennsylvania State University	1	4.35	2.86	0	0	0	1	2.86
Royal College of Arts, UK	1	4.35	2.86	0	0	0	1	2.86
Savannah College of Arts and Design	0	0	0	1	8.3	2.86	1	2.86
Temple University	1	4.35	2.86	0	0	0	1	2.86
University of Michigan	0	0	0	1	8.3	2.86	1	2.86
University of Southern California	0	0	0	1	8.3	2.86	1	2.86
Yale University	0	0	0	1	8.3	2.86	1	2.86
Total	23	99.9	65.7	12	99.7	34.3	35	100

Source: Compiled and computed by author from "2011 The Root 100 List," 2011, October 4. The Root Magazine. Retrieved on October 4, 2011 from: <http://www.theroot.com/root-100/2011/list>.

Note: The data in the explanation section above of the masters degrees earned in the United States and countries outside of the United States are not included in the table.

Earned Juris Doctorate (JD) Degrees, by U.S./World Regions

All 13 Juris Doctorate degrees earned by the 2011 *Root* 100 awardees were conferred by institutions in the United States. Of these 13 Juris Doctorate degrees, 5 (38.6%) were conferred by institutions in the Northeast; 4 (30.8%) in the West; and 2 each (15.4%) in the Midwest and South. Of a total of 10 (77% of total) Juris Doctorate degrees conferred to males, 5 (50%, but 38.5% of 13 total) were in the Northeast; 2 each (20%, but 15.4% of 13 total) in the Midwest and South; and 1 (10%, but 7.7% of 13 total) in the West. All 3 (23% of total) Juris Doctorate degrees conferred to females were in the West (Table 14).

Table 14: Breakdown of Earned Juris Doctorate Degrees of the 2011 Root 100 by Region

		% within	% of		% within	% of		% of
Region	Male	Gender	Total	Female	Gender	Total	Total	Total
Northeast	5	50	38.5	0	0	0	5	38.6
West	1	10	7.7	3	100	23.1	4	30.8
Midwest	2	20	15.4	0	0	0	2	15.4
South	2	20	15.4	0	0	0	2	15.4
Total	10	100	77	3	100	23.1	13	100.2

Source: Compiled and computed by author from "2011 The Root 100 List," 2011, October 4. The Root Magazine. Retrieved on October 4, 2011 from: <http://www.theroot.com/root-100/2011/list>.

Earned Juris Doctorate (JD) Degrees, by U.S. States/Countries

The 13 awardees with Juris Doctorate degrees earned them from institutions in 9 states (with Washington, D.C. as a state equivalent): 3 (23.1%) in California; 2 each (15.4%) in Connecticut and Massachusetts; and 1 each (7.7%) in Illinois, Michigan, New York, South Carolina, Washington State, and Washington, D.C. There were 10 (77% of 13 total) Juris Doctorate degrees earned by males: 2 each (20%, but 15.4% of 13 total) in Connecticut and Massachusetts; and 1 each (10%, but 7.7% of 13 total) in California, Illinois, Michigan, New York, South Carolina and Washington, D.C. There were 3 (23% of 13 total) Juris Doctorate degrees earned by females: 2 (67.7%, but 15.4% of 13 total) in California, and 1 (33.3%, but 7.7% of 13 total) in Washington State (Table 15).

Table 15: Breakdown of Earned Juris Doctorate Degrees of 2011 Root 100 by State/Country

		% within	% of		% within	% of		% of
State/Country	Male	Gender	Total	Female	Gender	Total	Total	Total
California	1	10	7.7	2	66.7	15.4	3	23.1
Connecticut	2	20	15.4	0	0		2	15.4
Massachusetts	2	20	15.4	0	0	0	2	15.4
Illinois	1	10	7.7	0	0	0	1	7.7
Michigan	1	10	7.7	0	0	0	1	7.7
New York	1	10	7.7	0	0	0	1	7.7
South Carolina	1	10	7.7	0	0	0	1	7.7
Washington	0	0	0	1	33.3	7.7	1	7.7
Washington, D.C.	1	10	7.7	0	0	0	1	7.7
Total	10	100	77	3	3	23.1	13	100

Source: Compiled and computed by author from “2011 The *Root* 100 List,” 2011, October 4. The *Root* Magazine. Retrieved on October 4, 2011 from: <http://www.theroot.com/root-100/2011/list>.

Earned Juris Doctorate (JD) Degrees, by Institution (College/University)

The 13 awardees with Juris Doctorate degrees earned them from 10 institutions: 2 each (15.4%) from Harvard University, Stanford University, and Yale University; and 1 each (7.7%) from Howard University, New York University, Seattle University, University of California, Berkeley, University of Illinois, University of Michigan and the University of South Carolina. There were 10 (77% of 13 total) male awardees with Juris Doctorate degrees from 8 institutions: 2 each (20%, but 15.4% of 13 total) from Harvard University and Yale University; and 1 each (10%, but 7.7% of 13 total) from Stanford University, Howard University, New York University, University of Illinois, University of Michigan, and University of South Carolina. The 3 (23% of 13 total) Juris Doctorate degrees earned by females were from: Stanford University, Seattle University and the University of California, Berkeley (Table 16).

Table 16: Breakdown of Earned Juris Doctorate Degrees of 2011 Root 100 by Institution

	Degrees	% within	% of	Degrees	% within	% of		% of
Institution	Male	Gender	Total	Female	Gender	Total	Total	Total
Harvard University	2	20	15.4	0	0	0	2	15.4
Stanford University	1	10	7.7	1	33.3	7.7	2	15.4
Yale University	2	20	15.4	0	0	0	2	15.4
Howard University	1	10	7.7	0	0	0	1	7.7
New York University	1	10	7.7	0	0	0	1	7.7
Seattle University	0	0	0	1	33.3	7.7	1	7.7
UC Berkeley	0	0	0	1	33.3	7.7	1	7.7
University of Illinois	1	10	7.7	0	0	0	1	7.7
University of Michigan	1	10	7.7	0	0	0	1	7.7
University of South Carolina	1	10	7.7	0	0	0	1	7.7
Total	10	100	77	3	99.9	23.1	13	100

Source: Compiled and computed by author from “2011 The *Root* 100 List,” 2011, October 4. The *Root* Magazine. Retrieved on October 4, 2011 from: <http://www.theroot.com/root-100/2011/list>.

Earned Doctorate Degrees, by U.S./World Regions

This study identified 9 awardees with 10 doctorates, including 1 Medical Doctorate: 7 doctorates (70%) earned in the United States, 2 (20%) earned in Europe; and 1 (10%) earned in the Caribbean (Medical Doctorate). Of the 7 doctorates earned in the United States, 5 (71.4%, but 50% of 10 total) were in the Northeast; and 2 (28.6%, but 20% of 10 total) in the South. There were 8 doctorate degrees (80% of 10 total) earned by males: 5 (62.5%, but 50% of 10 total) in the Northeast; and 1 each (12.5%, but 10% of 10 total) in the South, the Caribbean and Europe. The 2 doctorate degrees (20% of 10 total) earned by females were in the South and Europe (Table 17).

Table 17: Breakdown of Earned Doctorate Degrees of 2011 Root 100 by Region
n=9 Individuals and 10 Doctorates

	Degree	% within	% of	Degree	% within	% of		% of
Region	Male	Gender	Total	Female	Gender	Total	Total	Total
Northeast	5	62.5	50	0	0	0	5	50
South	1	12.5	10	1	50	10	2	20
Europe	1	12.5	10	1	50	10	2	20
Caribbean (MD)	1	12.5	10	0	0	0	1	10
Total	8	100	80	2	100	20	10	100

Source: Compiled and computed by author from “2011 The *Root* 100 List,” 2011, October 4. The *Root* Magazine. Retrieved on October 4, 2011 from: <http://www.theroot.com/root-100/2011/list>.

Note: The data in the explanation section above of the doctorate degrees earned in the United States and countries outside of the United States are not included in the table.

Earned Doctorate Degrees, by U.S. States/Countries

The 10 doctorate degrees earned by the nine 2011 *Root* 100 awardees were from 6 states and 2 countries outside of the United States: 2 doctorate degrees (28.6% of 7 U.S. total degrees, but 20% of 10 total) in Pennsylvania; and 1 each (14.3% of 7 U.S. total degrees, but 10% of 10 total) from Connecticut, Georgia, North Carolina, New Jersey, and New York. Of the 3 doctorates (30% of 10 total) earned overseas, 2 (66.7%, but 20% of 10 total) were from the United Kingdom and 1 (33.3%, but 10% of 10 total) from Jamaica (MD) (Table 18). Of the 6 doctorate degrees (60% of 10 total) earned by males in the United States, 2 (33.3%, but 25% of 8 male total, and 20% of 10 total) were in Pennsylvania; and 1 each (16.7%, but 12.5% of 8 male total, and 10% of 10 total) were in Connecticut, Georgia, North Carolina, New Jersey, and New York. The 2 doctorate degrees (25% of 8 male total and 20% of 10 total) earned by males outside the United States were from the United Kingdom and Jamaica (Medical Doctorate). The 2 doctorate degrees (20% of 10 total) earned by females were from North Carolina and the United Kingdom (Table 18).

Table 18: Breakdown of Earned Doctorate Degrees of 2011 Root 100 by State/Country
n=9 Individuals and 10 Doctorates

	Degree	% within	% of	Degree	% within	% of		% of
State/Country	Male	Gender	Total	Female	Gender	Total	Total	Total
Pennsylvania	2	25	20	0	0	0	2	20
United Kingdom	1	12.5	10	1	50	10	2	20
Connecticut	1	12.5	10	0	0	0	1	10
Georgia	1	12.5	10	0	0	0	1	10
Jamaica	1	12.5	10	0	0	0	1	10
North Carolina	0	0	0	1	50	10	1	10
New Jersey	1	12.5	10	0	0	0	1	10
New York	1	12.5	10	0	0	0	1	10
Total	8	100	80	2	10	20	10	100

Source: Compiled and computed by author from “2011 The *Root* 100 List,” 2011, October 4. The *Root* Magazine. Retrieved on October 4, 2011 from: <http://www.theroot.com/root-100/2011/list>.

Note: The data in the explanation section above of the doctorate degrees earned in the United States and countries outside of the United States are not included in the table.

Earned Doctorate Degrees, by Institution (College/University)

The 10 doctorate degrees earned by the nine 2011 Root 100 awardees were from 7 United States institutions and 3 institutions outside of the United States: Duke University (female), Georgia Tech, Oxford University (female), Pennsylvania State University, Princeton University, Union Theological Seminary, University College London, University of Hartford, University of Pennsylvania, and the University of the West Indies (Medical Degree) (Table 19).

**Table 19: Breakdown of Earned Doctorate Degrees of 2011 Root 100 by Institution
n=9 Individuals and 10 Doctorates**

	Degree	% within	% of	Degree	% within	% of		% of
Institution	Male	Gender	Total	Female	Gender	Total	Total	Total
Duke University	0	0	0	1	50	10	1	10
Georgia Tech	1	12.5	10	0	0	0	1	10
Oxford University	0	0	0	1	50	10	1	10
Pennsylvania University	1	12.5	10	0	0	0	1	10
Princeton University	1	12.5	10	0	0	0	1	10
Union Theological Seminary	1	12.5	10	0	0	0	1	10
University College London	1	12.5	10	0	0	0	1	10
University of Hartford	1	12.5	10	0	0	0	1	10
University of Pennsylvania	1	12.5	10	0	0	0	1	10
University of the West Indies (MD)	1	12.5	10	0	0	0	1	10
Total	8	100	80	2	100	20	10	100

Source: Compiled and computed by author from “2011 The *Root* 100 List,” 2011, October 4. The *Root* Magazine. Retrieved on October 4, 2011 from: <http://www.theroot.com/root-100/2011/list>.

Note: The data in the explanation section above of the doctorate degrees earned in the United States and countries outside of the United States are not included in the table.

Summary and Conclusions

This study has illustrated that the 2011 *Root* Magazine 100 most influential young Black Americans are the living examples of the achievements of the Civil Rights generation and their ancestors before them. One can also claim that these 100 talented young Black Americans are among the twenty-first century version of W.E.B. DuBois’ goal of a creation of a talented tenth of Black Americans. These young Black Americans are not only among the most important tax payers and investors in the United States, but at least 7 out of every 10 of them have already earned at least a bachelor’s degree, including from Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs), and other prestigious private and public colleges and universities in the United States and the world. For example, Clement and Lidsky (2011) note that “There are 105 HBCUs in the United States today...” (p.150; also see “News and Views: Ranking Black Colleges According to Their Alumni,” 2000).

Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) continue to enroll and confer degrees to hundreds of thousands of Black students and students from other racial groups. In fall 2007, there were 306,515 students (118,640 males and 187,875 females) enrolled at HBCUs, with Black students accounting for 253,415 (82.7%) (157,102 Black females and 96,313 Black males) (Snyder and Dillow, 2010, p.355). In this study, Howard University, Morehouse College and Florida A & M conferred 8 total (11.1% of 72 bachelor’s degrees) bachelor’s degrees to 8 *Root* 100 awardees. In 2011, 64% and 61% of students graduated from Howard University and Morehouse College, respectively (“Tracking Graduation Rates at HBCUs,” 2012). The degree attainment data in this study also show that 7 of the 8 Ivy League institutions (Brown University, Dartmouth College, Columbia University, Harvard University, Princeton University, University of Pennsylvania, and Yale University) (excluding only Cornell University) conferred dozens of bachelor’s, master’s, JD, and doctorate degrees combined to these young Black Americans. Stanford University, Oxford University and many prestigious private and public colleges and universities in the United States and overseas also conferred degrees to these young African Americans.

The issue of prominent Black American elites helping their racial communities is gradually being discussed or examined especially as the economic class gap among Black Americans continues to widen (Kaba, 2011c, p.21; Kaplan and Kaplan, 1997; Lyne, 2000; Robinson, 2011; Roach, 2002; Whitehead and Stewart, 2005; Whitehead and Stewart, 2005; Wilson, 2011). Kaplan and Kaplan (1997) point out that: “The new reality is a version of meritocracy, in which a large but elite minority dominates economic and social decisionmaking. Members of this elite are highly educated, having been recruited from a variety of social classes and ethnic groups through the sorting mechanism of education. Members of the elite, however, rarely advocate for the interests of the nonelite group from which they come, for their new lifestyle quickly removes them far from the concerns of the nonelites” (p.425). According to Wilson (2011), “... the mobility pattern of blacks is consistent with the view that in the modern industrial period, economic class has become more important than race in predetermining job placement and occupational mobility for African Americans” (p.57). Lyne (2000) notes that: “The connections between the African American middle class and lower classes have been broken to the point that the increasing number of high-profile black leaders and elected officials rarely represent the interests of the African American underclass.... Inclusionist and even nationalist political strategies have served the African American middle class with varying degrees of success, but they have done virtually nothing for those left behind in U.S. inner cities” (p.39). Wilson (2011) continues by pointing out that:

“...poorly trained and educationally limited African Americans have seen their job prospects increasingly limited to low-wage sector jobs, they have faced rising rates of unemployment and nonlabor-force participation, and they have endured slower movements out of poverty.... In the economic realm, the black experience has moved historically from economic racial oppression experienced by virtually all African Americans to the economic subordination of the black poor. As a result, a deepening economic schism has developed in the African American community, with the black poor falling further and further behind higher-income blacks” (p.57; also see Washington, 2006).

Lyne (2000) notes that “...the African American middle class has been moving to the suburbs...” (p.39). Kaba (2007a) writes of a “... gradual exodus of educated Black Americans out of central cities, where they are concentrated in very high numbers to the suburbs, where very few or no poor blacks reside, leaving their cities in difficult economic condition.... In 2002, 36% of blacks lived in the suburbs” (pp.20-21).

Roach (2002) writes of: “The communal sense that Blacks are expected to ‘give back to the community...’ and Roach presents this quote: “If a Black person makes it, then there’s an expectation that he or she has to give back...” Writing about professional basketball players and other Black elites in the United States, Whitehead and Stewart (2005) discussed the debate as to the various arguments within academia and society in general in terms of whether these elites have any such responsibility to help or support their community just because they are Black and wealthy or influential (pp.380-388).

However, one can find many examples of African American elites, including members of the 2011 *Root* 100 advocating on behalf of the poor, weak and those being treated unfairly by the country’s harsh and unfair justice system, especially against Black males of all ages. Furthermore, Black American elites appear to have a dual burden of helping their compatriots outside of the United States and inside the United States, while at the same time fighting to stay alive themselves (Abu-Jamal and Hill, 2012; Alexander, 2010; Bebea, 2009; Bobo, 2009; Bobo and Thompson, 2006; Gray and Hall, 2005; Harris-Perry; Kaba, 2011d, p.139, 2011g; 2010c, pp.114-118; 2007a; Logan, 2011; Moyo, 2010; Pierce, 2008; Prince 2006; St. John, 2000; “2011 Giving Back 30,” 2011). For example, “... it was widely reported in early 2007 that, the African American billionaire, Oprah Winfrey, opened a \$40 million Leadership Academy for girls in South Africa. She could have easily built such a school in one of America’s poorest inner cities, where most blacks reside and need such an academy” (Kaba, 2007a, p.20). On January 13, 2012, the *Associated Press* reported that “Of the 75 students who started at her [Oprah Winfrey] school in 2007, all 72 who graduated are headed to universities in South Africa and the United States” (“Oprah Winfrey South African School Celebrates 1 st Graduates,” 2012).

Prince (2006) points out that, “In another pattern of within-class differentiation, there are many black professionals who keep close contact with low-income and working-class African Americans” (p.73). According to Logan (2011), “...affluent blacks lived in neighborhoods that were 14-15 percent poor... On average around the country, in this whole period of nearly two decades [1990 to 2009], affluent blacks ... lived in neighborhoods with fewer resources than did poor whites” (p.5).

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Appendix

Regional Breakdown of the United States (N=51)

Northeast (n=9)

Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Vermont.

Midwest (n=12)

Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, South Dakota, Wisconsin.

South (n=17)

Alabama, Arkansas, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Mississippi, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, West Virginia.

West (n=13)

Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, Washington, Wyoming.

Source: “Summary Social, Economic, and Housing Characteristics: 2000 Census of Population and Housing,” (2003, June). Selected Appendixes: 2000. PHC-2-A. Washington, D.C.: U.S. Census Bureau.