



John H. Johnson School of Communications

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**The Howard University John H. Johnson School Of Communications Presents:
A Screening of CBS' Prime Time Hit "*The Unit*"
With Special Guest Actor Dennis Haysbert**



Jannette L. Dates, Dean and Dennis Haysbert



Patrice N. Felker, (Broadcast Journalism '08)
and Dennis Haysbert

Washington, D.C., (October 10, 2006) – On Monday, October 2nd, CBS Television Network in partnership with the John H. Johnson School of Communications, hosted a screening of CBS' prime time hit and last season's number one new television drama, "*THE UNIT*". Immediately following the screening, the series' star, Dennis Haysbert, conducted a Q&A session moderated by Jannette L. Dates, Dean of the John H. Johnson School of Communications.

"*THE UNIT*" is an action drama that follows a covert team of special forces operatives as they risk their lives on undercover missions around the globe. Haysbert stars as Jonas Blane, who is charged with leading the unit's missions.

“Dennis Haysbert has had an amazing career in television and film media. Our Department recognizes the importance of experiential learning, so it was exciting for us to expose our students to industry insiders like Mr. Haysbert”, said Sonja Williams, chair of the Department of Radio, Television and Film.

Students echoed Professor Williams’ sentiments and are hopeful Mr. Haysbert will return to campus. “When Dennis Haysbert spoke to us, he made it very clear that he refuses to take on roles that portray African Americans in a negative way. It was very inspiring to hear this, because there are so many black actors and actresses that portray us in demeaning stereotypical ways. He is leading by example, and I respect him for being a powerful yet very humble individual”, expressed Patrice N. Felker, junior Broadcast Journalism major in the John H. Johnson School of Communications.

Haysbert recently wrapped production on the feature film “Goodbye Bafana,” in which he is playing the role of Nelson Mandela. He also recently completed filming “*Breach*” opposite Ryan Phillippe, Chris Cooper and Laura Linney. His other feature film credits include: “*Jarhead*,” “*Far From Heaven*,” “*Love and Basketball*,” “*Absolute Power*,” “*Love Field*,” “*Major League*,” “*Heat*,” “*Random Hearts*,” “*What's Cooking*,” “*Waiting to Exhale*,” “*The Thirteenth Floor*,” “*Navy Seals*,” “*Suture*” and “*Sinbad: Legend of the Seven Seas*,” as the voice of “*Kale*.”

Currently he stars in a series of ads for the insurance company “Allstate.”

Since its inception 35 years ago, the John H. Johnson School of Communications has been one of the fastest growing schools among Howard University’s 12 academic schools and colleges. The School offers undergraduate, and through the Graduate School, masters and doctoral degrees in four departments: Communications and Culture; Communication Sciences and Disorders; Radio, Television and Film; and Journalism.

The Howard University John H. Johnson School of Communications has produced several outstanding professionals in communications including: Fredricka Whitfield, CNN news anchor; Vicki Mabrey, ABC *Nightline* (formerly of CBS *60 Minutes II*); Isabel Wilkerson, Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist at *The New York Times*; and Jeff Burns Jr., associate publisher of *EBONY*.

Howard University is one of 48 U.S. private, Doctoral/Research-Extensive universities and comprises 12 schools and colleges. Founded in 1867, students pursue studies in more than 120 areas leading to undergraduate, graduate and professional degrees. Since 1998, the University has produced two Rhodes Scholars, a Truman Scholar, 13 Fulbright Scholars and nine Pickering Fellows. Howard also produces more on-campus African-American Ph.D.s than any other university in the world.
