

Ollie L. Jefferson's anticipated graduation from the CCMS doctoral program was heightened with excitement when she found out that on the day after her defense Ava DuVernay tweeted about her and asked for a copy of her work (she has since followed up with her).

"The day after my defense, I learned that my external examiner commended my work on Twitter," said Jefferson. "I am rarely on social media, especially during my doctoral studies, but I decided to check and found a message from my undergraduate colleague and former President of Tuskegee University Brian Johnson, Ph.D. He informed me that an extraordinary public figure was interested in my research. The next message was from Ava DuVernay requesting to read my dissertation. It is an honor to share my research with the creator-writer-director-producer of the television series "Queen Sugar."

