1-1-2006

African American Education Program newsletter, 2006

Eastern Washington University. Africana Studies Program

Follow this and additional works at: https://dc.ewu.edu/africana_pubs

Recommended Citation
https://dc.ewu.edu/africana_pubs/43

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by EWU Digital Commons. It has been accepted for inclusion in Africana Studies Program Publications by an authorized administrator of EWU Digital Commons. For more information, please contact jotto@ewu.edu.
From the Director
Dr. Nancy J. Nelson

This is the close of my ninth year at Eastern. I have watched many students grow from incoming freshmen to competent graduates. It never gets easier to watch them leave to continue their adult lives. Some keep in touch and it is always wonderful to hear of jobs, higher degrees, marriages and children. The summer is much too quiet after the exhausting year. Then, in the fall many return. The students help incoming freshmen learn their way around campus and it all starts again. I think that I have the most rewarding job that anyone can have. 

Under the leadership of our graduate assistant, Nicholas Russ, our mentoring program has reached a larger number of students. They have built strong support networks to help each other with course work and life challenges.

We were very fortunate that undergraduate student, Ed King, joined us to facilitate the many events hosted by the student clubs and organizations. Ed King, co-founder of the Annual The Dream Continues Block Party, again organized the event. The rain (again!) did not stop the fun.

Social Work practicum student, Godfrey Elizia, joined our program this year. His research will help with future plans for the mentoring program. He spoke to the university and community about the effects of trauma on refugee children. This continued research will be very useful to those who work with this unique group of children.

I want to say thank you to Tony Anthony, who has taught for us for several years. He immediately responded when we needed faculty to teach Scott Finnie’s four courses one winter and continued to teach African History upon Finnie’s return. Anthony has chosen to leave us to concentrate on his business. His infectious smile will be missed. I will especially miss the many conversations we would have on the program and the state of world affairs.

There are many decisions that must be made each year. Many are made quietly, without bumps and often without notice. Course offerings are decided, as well as who will teach them. The budget is developed and proposed. Problems are swiftly addressed. Some decisions are larger, such as the one to again change the name of the program from the African American Education Program to the Africana Education Program. Some of you will remember when the name was changed from the Black Education Program. The changes were made after much research and discussion. Please read more about the name change in the newsletter.

It has been a very busy year and all the events may not be noted in the newsletter. However, they are deeply imbedded in our memories and in our hearts.
Arevalo named new president of EWU

Becomes the 25th university president at EWU since it was founded in 1882

Excerpts from Easterner/Isaura J. Gallegos
January 10, 2006

University of Texas-Pan American provost Dr. Rodolfo Arevalo was announced as the 25th president of EWU Monday during a press conference in Tawanka Commons.

During discussion on the motion, Budke said Arevalo “is the right guy at the right time.” Jo Ann Kauffman, member of the BOT, also said that although there were “many fine candidates, in all cases Dr. Arevalo emerged as the absolute best candidate.”

Arevalo said he was “truly excited about joining the Eastern family” and was humbled by the task he has been given. Also, he said there would be consistency with some things the institution has had before and that he and his wife, Nadine, look forward to living on campus. In addition, Arevalo said he was “interested in hearing from on the campus and off campus.”

Welcome President Arevalo & Family!

The African American Education Program gets a new name! Founded as the Black Education Program in 1971, the name was changed in 1998 to the African American Education Program. July 2006 the name will be the Africana Education Program. The name is in line with the national trend in higher education, which allows the program to be more inclusive of all students of African descent.

During the 2005-2006 academic year Eastern had its highest enrollment of African students. There were also students from Jamaica. It is important that all students feel they are a part of the program. The new name will help to accomplish this goal.

Changing the name from African American Studies to Africana Studies will allow for course offerings to expand beyond the United States to include the total African Diaspora. The goal is to offer courses on the black experience in individual African countries, the Caribbean, South America and Europe.

This is a very exciting time at EWU as the African American Education Program enters its 35th year as the Africana Education Program.

Congratulations to our 2006 Graduates

Joshua Bellinger
Antoinette Burkley
Phillip Carr
Mikel Fierro
Brett Lister
Aislinn Edwards
Jeffrey Fromm
Charles Green
William Grubbs II
Oscar Harris Jr.
Hassan Hassan
Jesse Hendrix III
Marquita Himes

Eric Kimble
Lekeisha Kinard
Frank King Jr.
Lafewt Knox Jr.
Tanisha Lewis
Jameeka Scott
Jeri Martinez
Felicia McClary
Sandra McMillan
Senayet Mulatu
Jonathan Phillips
LaTia Ray
Melissa Robinson
Nathaniel Jackson Jr.

David Schlegel
C Andrew Sims
Isaiah Trufant
Janelle Villelia
Samantha Donalson
Rachi Wortham
Crystal Wall
Jacqueline Williamson
Calvin Ball-Masters
Godfrey Elizai-Masters
Roy Hood-Masters
Catheryn Jayne-Masters
Ramona Mack-Masters
Janelle Walker-Masters
The brothers of the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. held their second annual Royal Ball Friday, May 5th in the Pend Oreille Pavilion’s VIP Ballroom at the Northern Quest Casino.

Guests were greeted with smiles and a pleasant welcome as the brotherhood put their best foot forward.

“The event was so well organized. It was professionally put together,” said Nancy Nelson, director of the African American Studies Program. “You think about the event being a student event but it wasn’t like that, it was a professional event.”

“I was really impressed. It was elegant but in a way that appealed to young people,” said Drew Peneton, president of Sigma Phi Epsilon fraternity. “There were hors d’oeuvres and appetizers and when we had eaten, we got up and danced. We had a really good time.”

Nate Jackson, the president of Omega Psi Phi, spent most of the evening greeting guests at the door and mingling with the crowd, occasionally breaking into some impromptu “hopping” or strolling with some of his brothers (a series of choreographed moves performed with other people, similar to line dancing).

The dining tables were laid out beautifully, according to attendees, covered with white table cloths and decorated with an elegant floating centerpiece of tea lights and royal purple and old gold flowers, the colors of Omega Psi Phi.

The fraternity’s colors were not confined to the table settings as purple and gold lights shined on the walls while a PowerPoint presentation of 50 slides was played.

Once dinner was finished, DJ Precision began the evening’s dancing announcing, “The dance floor is now open!” Following the pronouncement, all of the “fellas” in their finest and ladies in their flowing gowns and not-so-simple little black dresses took to the floor.

“It was exciting,” said attendees from the American Indian Studies Department. “When a good song came on everyone would get out there and dance. It really got everyone pumped up.”

As soon as DJ Precision put the needle to the record, “Yay Area” by rapper E-40, the fraternities and sororities in attendance sped to the dance floor, and that’s when things really started jumping.

The ballroom rocked with intensity and emotion as the groups stomped their feet and swung their arms in unison to the rhythm of the music. People who weren’t dancing surrounded the floor, trying to get a glimpse of the dancers as the ball took on the aura of a dance-off; groups of dancers in synchronicity progressed from move to move with increasing feeling.

“Since I came to Whitworth from Tacoma all I have done is study,” said one Whitworth College student. “I had the time of my life.”

Attendance at the ball was not limited to EWU students, faculty from several different departments at EWU, Vice President of Student Affairs, Bill Ponder and Richard “Deacon” Meyer, the dean of students, were present. People from the community and students from other colleges, including Spokane Falls Community College, Spokane Community College, Gonzaga University, Whitworth College and Washington State University also attended according to Billy Grubbs II, vice president of Omega Psi Phi.

“It was good to see the diversity of the people there; alums, people from the community, just tons of people there - current staff and faculty,” said Nicole Devon, recruiter for American Indian Studies. “As an alum I can say there has never been an event like this, at least in my time here.

“The involvement in the events and all of the things that Omega Psi Phi and the African-American community are doing on this campus is phenomenal compared to even five years ago.

Continued to page 4
New Club Celebrates African Culture

Excerpts from EASTERN Magazine
Summer/Spring 2006

When Filmon Gebrekristos arrived on campus last school year, he sensed that other African students might feel isolated.

“My thought was just that African students at Eastern had nowhere to go,” said Filmon, who’s from Eritrea. The routine of class, homework and being shut up in dorm rooms, isolated from each other, seemed sterile to him.

So Filmon suggested getting together “We just started meeting up, talking, chatting,” he said. Last fall he officially organized the group, calling it the African Alliance. “Basically, it’s just reuniting all the Africans together. Letting them know they’re not the only ones out here. That if we’re going to struggle, we all struggle together. Or if we need help, we help one another.”

Club members performed costumed dances and read poetry in March at Showalter Hall to an enthusiastic audience. Filmon’s sister, Feven, a sophomore, read a poem she wrote titled, “They Never Mentioned the Truth.” It included the lines: “We came from war-torn Africa. We came to be free. We came for a new beginning. The so-called American dream. Why did they never mention the pain?”

The group now has about 35 members and is open to anyone. “We’ve got Ethiopians, Somalians, Eritreans, Kenyans, Congo, Qatar. We’ve got Indians. We’ve even got an Italian,” said founder and president Filmon. “But at the end, it comes down to all of us being students. We’re all students at Eastern, trying to make it in this world.”

2nd Annual “Dream Continues Block Party”

The 2nd Annual Dream continues Block party took place on May 20th 2006. Despite the unplanned weather problem and change of location, the event turned out to be a big success. For not only the EWU student body but also the Cheney community.

This non-profit event hosted many different activities such as bouncy boxing, sumo wrestling, free food catered by Chicken N More, Mahi the balloon artist and talent from local artist. Thank you for every one who made this event possible. Your donations and time were very much appreciated. Thank you to Ed King for his tireless work in putting on the Block Party.

By Marchecia Harris

EWU Welcomes New Staff

Congratulations on your new positions here at EWU.

Congratulations
Dr. Nancy Nelson, PhD
Zeta Phi Beta is not your average sorority. They don’t participate in rush, they choose not to have a house and they were founded in the early 1900s, along with eight other primarily African-American sororities and fraternities in the National Pan-Hellenic Council.

“We were founded during a time when there was still racial injustice,” said Ashley Mangum, vice president and community service coordinator for the sorority’s Eastern chapter. They have been a presence on campus since 1993 and, like other sororities, they are required to maintain their grades and pay dues.

Founded on the campus of Howard University in Washington DC in 1920, the organization has been traditionally composed of African-Americans, but the sorority is open to anyone who wants to join. Washington State University has two members who are not African American.

While Zeta Phi Beta’s activities do focus on the black community, everyone is invited to attend functions hosted by the group. “A lot of times it’s just misunderstood,” said Mangum. “We get an automatic reaction from people who don’t have an understanding of our organization.”

The sorority is built on a rich history that includes the “Four Principles”—sisterly love, scholarship, service and finer womanhood.

“That’s not just stuff that we say,” said Mangum, “That’s what we live by every day. We live by what we were founded on every single day.”

All four of the members on campus feel that the history and ideals of the organization are a huge part of why they chose to join.

“I was exposed to the group in seventh grade,” said Jameeka Scott, the president of Zeta Phi Beta. “They stuck out to me because they were so down to earth. Members of the group approached us and told us we could be what we wanted to be; other organizations did not acknowledge us. My mom’s friend was a member and she took some friends and I on a college tour. These women were inspirational to me. I can’t think of any other organization I’d want to be a part of.”

“With me, first and foremost, it was the principles, said Mangum. “I saw the way they (members of sorority) carried themselves was different from how other women carried themselves. Zeta Phi Beta women carry themselves with class and dignity; they’re phenomenal women.”

“When I came here, I didn’t have any friends or family,” said Tephaney Stewart, secretary for the campus chapter. “I got Jameeka as my mentor and she invited me to some events. I didn’t have that many strong women in my life. Zetas are just strong, powerful, smart women. Now I can better embrace myself.”

“I grew up with all brothers so I didn’t know what it was like to have a sister; I had really big issues with trusting women in my life,” said Treasurer Asllin Edwards. “I met a girl in high school who was a member, so when I got to Eastern I looked into the Greek system and spent time with the girls in the organization. My mom was a member of the Black Panther Party of Defense. I wanted to be a part of a strong organization like she was.”

Unlike other sororities, where graduates become alumni of the association, Zeta Phi Beta graduates become members of graduate chapters.

“To be in this organization is a lifetime commitment,” said Scott. Graduate members continue to work with service organizations as well as provide support and set examples for younger members.

Zeta Phi Beta has four members on Eastern’s campus, six members in the Spokane graduate chapter and over 150,000 members nationwide.

As a community service and action-oriented organization, they partner with the March of Dimes, participate in the Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS) Walk and Walk America. They also visit local women’s shelters and are working on a summer program for children in Spokane. All of the activities the sorority hosts on campus are open to the entire student body.

To encourage personal development, the sorority recently hosted Finer Womanhood Week. The week included activities such as study tables, bible study, workout day, game night, movie night and more in order to stimulate the mind, body and spirit of the participants.
Scott Finnie Honored for Teaching Excellence!

Scott Finnie, PhD

Centurytel Faculty Achievement Awards

Dr. Scott Finnie came to Eastern in 1992 as visiting assistant professor and is now assistant professor in the Africana Education Program. He has taught African American Studies, Multicultural Teaching and Counseling and Assessment. He earned a BA in English in 1979 from Gonzaga University, MA in American History in 1992 from EWU, and PhD in leadership studies 2000 from Gonzaga University.

In 2003, Finnie was selected for Leadership Spokane Association’s Community Trustee Leadership Award and Most Influential Faculty Member at the Annual College of Arts and Letters. Finnie was selected as a delegate to the Spring 2006 Oxford Roundtable at Oxford University to present a paper on affirmative action. Finnie’s research focus, the history and dynamics of affirmative action in the struggle for civil rights, has led to several pending publications. The former GU point guard (1975-1979) owns a consulting business for diversity training and cultural competency, and he is a frequent guest speaker throughout Eastern Washington.

Excerpts from EWU 2006 Commencement Booklet

Finnie Responses...from Cheney, WA to Oxford England

As mentioned in our Fall 2005 Newsletter, Finnie was invited to attend the Oxford Round Table held at Oxford University for five days last March. The conference on “diversity in society” was composed of 45 delegates from England, Africa, Canada, and the United States (including EWU’s Dr. Gilbert Garcia from the Chicano Education Program).

The first half of each day's agenda consisted of four hours of individual presentations followed by group analysis over themes of theory and practice. The second half of each day involved tours of Oxford’s historical sites as well as half of the university's 39 colleges and campuses.

Finnie presented a paper entitled “Arriving at Affirmative Action: The American Imperative and Past Antidiscrimination Policies.” The following is an abstract of his article:

As the world’s top democracy, the American imperative of “liberty and justice for all” continues to haunt our nation’s consciousness. The glaring history of racial injustice involving America’s people of color has exposed the futility of antidiscrimination policies that have been only remedial in nature as well as after the fact. The objective of the following examination is to review the major steps of antidiscrimination measures taken by the federal government since the Civil War to combat racial inequality in American society: Reconstruction and the Fourteenth amendment, policies under the Administrations of Roosevelt and Truman, the 1954 Brown Decision by the Supreme Court, and the 1964 Civil Rights Act. These four areas will be assessed in light of public policy, the role and responsibility of the federal government, and the intent and purpose behind affirmative action in its inherent meaning and definition.

The paper and presentation was well received at the forum. Finnie is looking forward to having his article published in an upcoming edition of the Oxford Forum Journal.

Breakthrough Ministries

Pastor Otis Manning of the Word of Faith Christian Center blessed us with numerous hours of his time during winter and spring quarter ministering to our students on EWU campus. The crowd was sometimes small, but Pastor Manning focused on areas that would appeal to our students. The first flyer said, Whether you're married, engaged, dating, or just in a friendship, the Bible gives you answers on how to have fulfilling relationships. Some of Pastor Mannings topics were on communciation & honesty, the covenant of marriage, temptation, love & hate, love & lust, and relationships. Besides Pastor Manning ministering to students, he also found the time to support events put on by the department.

Our Program saluted Pastor Manning for his kindness and his support at the 2006 Graduation. We are very thankful for his service to our students.
How to Support the Africana Education Program

There are several ways to support the Africana Education Program and our students. Here are three:

1. Attend our events—most of which are initiated and organized by students. Watch your e-mail or mail for flyers listing events.

2. In kind tickets—you can donate tickets to multicultural banquets and events. It is important for students to attend several events in the community. Unfortunately, not many students can afford to do so.

3. Monetary contributions: Donations to the Africana Education Program are used for events for students for which state funds cannot be used. You can also donate to the Marjorie Boyd Wellington Scholarship award or start a new scholarship.

Your support is needed and greatly appreciated. Call us at (509) 359-2205 or (509) 359-6150

COURSE LISTINGS

FALL 2006

AAST/HUMN 214-01
Introduction to African American Culture
10:00 am to 10:50 am Scott Finnie

AAST301-01
Harlem Renaissance
11:00 am to 11:50 am Nancy Nelson

AAST/HUMN 214-82
Introduction to African American Culture
12:00 pm to 12:50 pm Scott Finnie

AAST/HIST 216-83
20th Century African American History
1:00 to 1:50 pm Scott Finnie

Watch for new courses!
Africana Education Newsletter
On-line!

Future issues of the Africana Education Program’s newsletter will be available on line at http://www.ewu.edu/x7413.xml. If you prefer to receive a hard copy, please call to let us know at (509) 359-2205 or email aaep@mail.ewu.edu and we will be happy to send one to you.

If you would like to receive notices of our announcements via email, please send your email address to aaep@mail.ewu.edu.

Thank you for your continued support of the Africana Education Program.

Students in music, athletics, art or whatever, distinguishing yourselves through awards or honors -- please let us hear from you! We want to share the news. Items included in AEP Newsletters come to our attention via e-mail to (aaep@mail.ewu.edu), press releases, the Easterner, friends, etc. But we need YOU too, to tell us - don’t be shy - we want to share YOUR bit of good news!

If you MOVE, please notify our office with your new address so you may continue to receive newsletters!

NOTE: EWU students who mark “Restrict Address” on registration documents anytime during their attendance at EWU, do not receive department mailings unless they request their name/address be added to AEP mailing list (359-2205), OR the student goes to the Registrar’s (Sutton Hall), shows photo ID and asks that the restriction be removed, OR the student changes his/her status via EagleNET!