Africana American Education program newsletter, 2005

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From the Director
Dr. Nancy J. Nelson

John D. O'Bryant said to those in education, "If you are not here to serve students, you are in the wrong place." Started 34 years ago by students, AAEP continues to exist for students. As an academic and student service program, we put a lot of heart into assisting our students. This fall we welcomed the largest African American and African enrollment in Eastern's history. However, the number is not what is most important; it is the students themselves. To sum things up, there is no need to worry about our future. We will be in good hands.

Since our students do not toot their own horns, I will do so for them. In the newsletter is a partial list of the volunteer activities they have participated in or hosted. In addition to these, students are planning and sponsoring events. Senior Aislinn Edwards organized the best Kwanzaa Celebration Eastern has ever put on at Eastern. Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc. hosted the first annual Greek Yard Show that featured African American and Latina step groups from EWU and WSU. They also sponsored Dialogue with the Doves, an informative discussion on the dangers of rape drugs. The student clubs and organizations including NAACP, Black Student Union, African Alliance, Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc. and Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc., are hosting several events for January and February. We hope you can attend one or several of the events. Watch your mailbox!

The students from Africa have formed the African Alliance. The group is made up of students from several African countries including Eritrea, Kenya, Sudan, and Ghana. We are excited about the wealth of history and knowledge they will be sharing. Those of you who attended the Kwanzaa Celebration had the opportunity to see a beautiful dance from Eritrea. We will be learning about the tribal system, languages, foods and culture. This is really an exciting time.

Thanks to generous ticket donations from university and community members, 28 students attended the NAACP Freedom Banquet. During the social hour, all of the students were out of their seats networking to meet community leaders. One of the many joys of being director of the program is hearing the conversation after events. The discussions run deep! 2006-2007 AAEP will celebrate its 35th year anniversary. The theme is The Evolution of Blackness. Watch for details. Also, we will include articles from newsletters in our archives.

I want to especially thank the community members who attended our Welcome Lunch at the start of the academic year. Students notice and appreciate your support, as do I. There is always so much going on in our office. I invite you to stop by. You may even find yourself drawn into the conversations and being unable to leave.
Showalter Auditorium was packed Wednesday night as Coach Ken Carter made his entrance. Carter ran down the aisle of the auditorium, blowing his whistle and high-fiving students to the left and right.

Carter entered to a standing ovation as audience members watched a short clip of last spring's hit movie starring Samuel L. Jackson as Carter, the basketball coach in Richmond, Calif., who placed academics above athletics to push his players further in life.

After leaping onto the stage, Carter began his presentation, which he promised would not be too long or too short, "like a woman's dress."

Carter kept the attention of his audience, mostly consisting of Eastern students, with a sampling of ages from elementary students to parents and teachers, with a combination of jokes and memorable inspirational quotes.

The former high-school basketball coach started by telling the crowd about his childhood in McCoy, Miss., where he was the only boy out of eight children. He explained that his family was "Broke, but not poor. broke is financial, poor is a state of mind."

Family was just one of the many themes that Carter touched on during his 45-minute speech. "I had seven sisters. And they were always there to validate me," Carter said.

Carter's sisters taught him several lessons in life, one in particular he repeated several times throughout his speech. "Always listen to the woman," Carter said.

This was followed by cheers, perhaps more than any other part of his speech.

Also the owner of a sporting goods store, Carter shared tips on moneymaking for any prospective entrepreneurs in the crowd.

"The only people who make money are the people who work at the U.S. Mint. But we all have the opportunity to earn money," he said.

He illustrated his point when he gave a $20 bill to a student who jumped up when Carter asked, "Who knows who is on the $20 bill?" and again, when he handed out a $100 to another bold student at the question and answer session, simply for being gutsy enough to ask for the money himself.

Attitude was a big part of the mantra that Carter preached to the crowd. He didn't seem to be able to stress enough how important it was that people take advantage of their surroundings and use them to their advantage.

He used his basketball team as an example as students at Richmond High, they saw athletics as their only way out of a poor financial situation. Determined to show them otherwise, Carter hired the six prettiest girls at the school to work in the library, as a way to get his players to study.

Carter also shared the story of "Worm," who wasn't one of the best players on the team, but was always raring to go on the sidelines, waiting to be put in. Even after committing three fouls and missing three shots in a minute and a half, Carter put Worm back in the game because he said, "successful people are enthusiastic after they fail."

After Carter's presentation, students lined up for the question and answer session, which lasted almost as long.

Questions ranged from, "What is the greatest quality a coach can have?" to "Can I have your autograph?" Carter answered each question, and promised to stick around for autographs and pictures afterwards.

The autograph line wrapped around the auditorium with students inspired either by the movie or Carter's presentation.

"It was amazing," said freshman Kayla Grubaugh, who waited in back of the line for an autograph. When asked what part of the speech resounded with her most, she said, "The whole thing about looking in the mirror and thinking of yourself better."
'Stop the Hate: Train the Trainer' program comes to campus

Excerpts from Easterner
By Isaura Gallegos, Nov. 1, 2005

"Stop the Hate Train the Trainer" is a training opportunity at Eastern Washington University that is designed to educate and train students, faculty and staff as well as to create an action plan that will deal with issues of hate and bias on campus.

Jim Mohr, advisor for Student Organizations and Greek Life, said that the idea to have something like this on campus came from a commitment to diversity issues.

Although the training is national training, there is the option to have "expert leaders from human rights and hate crime agencies" come to EWU.

A benefit of this is that more people would be able to participate if they do not have to travel out of state.

One of the appeals of the training, Mohr said, is that it provides tools to battle acts of hate that are specific to a college campus community.

Furthermore, the training provides an action plan specific to the needs of EWU.

The end result is a core group of leaders with the knowledge and skills to organize workshops and create events on campus.

The training took place Friday, Saturday and Sunday. It will be 18 to 20 hours of intensive training that was not be designed for those who need or would like to take a diversity 101 course.

Support for this event was provided by a Board of Trustees diversity grant, Associated Students, Student Life, Residence Life, African American Education Program, Human Resources, Spokane Teachers Credit Union, Eagle Entertainment, Office of Student Rights and Responsibilities, Student Organizations and Greek Life.

Greek Yard Show By Aislinn Edwards

Eastern Washington University held its first annual Greek Yard Show on September 30th hosted by Zeta Phi Beta Sorority Inc. The show targeted the ethnic Greek organizations on EWU and Washington State University's campuses. The purpose of the show was to allow the ethnic Greek organizations at EWU and WSU to provide historic information about their organization and what they stand for. The show was a big success. With attendance by the faculty, students and the organizations in both the National Pan Hellenic Council and the National Association of Latino Fraternal Organization.

The participants included Zeta Phi Beta Sorority Inc., Kappa Delta Chi Sorority Inc., Delta Sigma Theta Sooty Inc., Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority Inc., Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity Inc., Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity Inc. and Omega Psi Phi Fraternity Inc. These are community service organizations that are represented on both the EWU and WSU college campuses.

It was exciting to see the attendance of the show in the Multi Purpose Room early Friday afternoon. As other Greek Organizations on EWU's campus have banners in the PUB and houses on campus, the Greek Yard Show was an excellent opportunity for the participating organizations to be recognized. Attendees anxiously awaited the show and talked about the event days afterwards. The Yard Show should grow to be a big event on campus that will continue for years to come.

Dialogue with the Doves

Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc. presented Dialogue with the Doves, a discussion on date rape drugs. Dr. Golie Jansen, Director of the project Changing Campus Climate; Reducing Violence Against Women at EWU, and Quincy Burns, a detective with the EWU police, talked about the dangers that may be a part of dating such as rape, stalking, control and domestic violence and how to recognize these dangers. They also described the various date rape drugs that may be slipped into unattended drinks at parties. The 30 men and women who attended the event were very involved in the presentation, asking questions and talking about possible situations and protective measures. The Zeta's are considering offering the presentation again Winter Quarter.
STUDENT VOLUNTEERING 2005

Took kids from Bethel AME Community Center to see a play
Participated in SID’s Walk
EWU Festival of Giving
3-canned food drives for Cheney and Spokane
Blanket Drive for Spokane
Halloween Candy for Bethel AME Community Center
Cheney School supply drive
Christmas – adopt a kid – Cheney Alternative Middle School
Shriners Hospital – have fun with the patients
Recycling education drive
Collect African American hair care products for crisis center
Organizing EWU Kwanzaa Celebration
Organizing Black History Month events
EWU Giving Tree
MLK Program Planning committee
Collecting Turkeys for MLK Center dinner
Help serve MLK Center Thanksgiving dinner
Toy drive Cheney
MLK Day Planning committee
Student of Color Career Day panel members
Clothing drive – Spokane
Emergency coat drive

AAEP’s Scott Finnie Invited to Oxford Round Table

AAEP assistant professor Scott Finnie received a prestigious invitation to the Oxford Round Table to join in a discussion on diversity in society, March 19th thru 24th, 2006.

Held at Harris Manchester College at Oxford University, England, the Round Table discussions first convened in 1989. The success of that initial gathering led to a continuation of the events, which consider important public policy matters bearing on human rights, law, economics, public finance and politics.

Finne is one of only 35 specialists who have been asked to participate in this international Round Table. He holds a PhD from Gonzaga University in leadership studies with a special emphasis on U.S. race relations and has taught a wide variety of courses in Eastern’s African American Studies Program since 1993. His engaging classes are regularly recognized as favorites by EWU students.

Finne is also a consultant in cultural competency and ethnic history.

The Oxford Round Table is a unique forum, not a conference in the conventional sense, but rather an opportunity for select leaders in the public and private sectors and scholars to discuss government policy over a five-day period in collegial, “think-tank” atmosphere in the ancient city of Oxford.

Annual Welcome Luncheon Well Attended

The African American Education Program’s annual Welcome Lunch has outgrown its room! This fall, as with every fall, AAEP hosted its Welcome Lunch to acknowledge incoming and returning students. The Monroe Hall Lounge, which has held the event for many years, was filled with students, faculty, staff and community members. Members of the Spokane Chapter of NAACP, Pastor Otis Manning from Word of Faith Christian Center, Pastor Ezra Kunlow from Holy Temple Church of God in Christ, and Richard Williams were among the community attendees.

Following welcoming remarks from Interim President Brian Levin-Stankevich, Dean Mike Frumkin, AAEP Director, Nancy Nelson and AAEP Assistant Professor, Scott Finnie, student club presidents Ashley Mangum (president BSU) and Phil Carr (NAACP) invited students to get involved. Plenty of time was allowed for food and fellowship. The primary purpose of the event is to provide students the opportunity to meet each other. Next year we will need a larger room!
Hurricane Evacuee Transfers to EWU

Excerpts from Easterner, Oct. 4, 2005 by Sara Butler, Contributing Writer

With her head held high and her eyes lit up, Marchecia Harris walks the way any senior would—with pride. She smiles warmly at strangers as they pass by and even though it’s pouring rain, she doesn’t mind the long and hilly walk back to her dorm. By now it takes more than a little rain to intimidate Harris. Only a month ago her life was turned upside down by a much bigger storm—Hurricane Katrina.

If not for Katrina, Harris would be hanging out with her boyfriend in New Orleans or taking in some Cajun food with friends. She would be finishing her degree in communications disorders and preparing to graduate from Xavier University next December.

Harris admitted she would be doing a lot of things differently, “We all had plans! We were going to do this, that. My roommate was about to graduate in May, I still had a semester to go. I just got a boyfriend. Everything was happy. We weren’t paying any attention to the hurricane,” she said.

Instead, Harris finds herself in Morrison Hall with little more than what she bought here, and a comforter given to her by Associate Vice-President for Enrollment Services Michelle Whittingham. Not only has her school changed, but so has her lifestyle. “It’s really different [here]. I come from a big city and then I go to a little town where everything is within walking distance and I’m the minority once again. I was like, ‘Ok, I’m not in the South anymore’, ” Harris said.

Explaining the differences, Harris said, “Every school I’ve ever gone to from kindergarten until I graduated high school has been diverse. Xavier was the very first school I went to that had a [an African American] majority, and I was very comfortable there and then I come here and it’s like I’m always on guard for some reason when I leave.”

However, Harris has not let being a minority keep her from making friends. She said, “I like most people I’ve met. My roommate is Asian. I met a Mexican girl in Streeter, and a Mexican dude on the eighth floor, and we all hang out all the time. At my campus [Xavier] it was the same way. You had the Asians, you had the whites and they all sat with whoever they were comfortable with. It’s always going to be like that. It’s like that here and I don’t expect any different.”

Harris does not know when she’ll be able to return to Xavier, or if there is even a Xavier to which to return. Since her friends and boyfriend have scattered across the country, she does not know when or if she will see them again. Still she considers herself one of the lucky ones because, unlike thousands of people, she had a way out. Since the mayor of New Orleans declared a mandatory evacuation prior to Katrina, Harris and her friends expected Xavier to bus them out. When the buses did not come, they drove to Atlanta. Harris escaped the violence of the hurricane with her life, but little else.

Harris said she hopes other students do what they can for the people in need, “You don’t need to donate money, but I’m sure there are some people out there that have a lot of clothes in their closet and don’t need them. Food would always help. Just little things. Little things you take for granted like toothpaste and all that mess. People sitting in the Astrodome probably don’t have that. Money can only do so much, just getting the actual thing can do so much better.”

“Everyone has been so helpful,” Harris said.

For now, Marchecia Harris keeps her head up. She said that she plans to return to Xavier next semester “Hopefully when the next semester comes everybody will come back down and it’ll be back to normal.”

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Support African American Education

There are several ways you can support the African American Education Program and our students. Here are three:

1. Attend our events - most of which are initiated and organized by students. Watch your 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 African American 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 greatly appreciated. Call us at 359-2205 or 359-6150.

African American Education Welcomes Godfrey Elizai

Graduate Social Work student Godfrey Elizai joins the African American Education Program to complete his practicum. In addition to working closely with the mentoring program and developing retention strategies, Elizai will also present on the effects of trauma on refugees on Wednesday, March 8th at noon.

While an undergraduate, Elizai conducted research through the McNair Scholars Program. In 2004 he received an outstanding research award at the Research Symposium for his study on trauma and its effects on Sudanese refugee children living in the Tri-cities. He intends to continue to work with refugees after completing his Masters in Social Work.

Elizai knows about refugees first hand. He was a refugee in Uganda where he taught English. The resourceful 18 year old created a classroom under trees using bark for paper and cassava and coal for writing. His continued commitment to working with refugees could prove to be useful. Elizai will be able to teach others how to effectively work with refugees and as a practicum student at he will help EWU better understand the growing refugee population.

Kwanzaa

The 2005 Kwanzaa Celebration was the biggest and best held at Eastern. Organized by senior, Aislinn Edwards, the event drew a record breaking crowd of more than 300 students, faculty, staff and community members. The event was hosted by Josh Bellinger and Khadijah Rayzaq who kept the audience entertained as the attendees learned how Kwanzaa was started and the significance of each of the seven days. Not a religious holiday, Kwanzaa serves to unite African Americans and other cultures to learn about themselves and to build unity. Originated by Dr. Maulena Karenga, Kwanzaa was first celebrated December 26, 1996. December was chosen because it is the time of harvest in many African countries.

Sponsored by the African American Education Program and Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc. the Kwanzaa celebration included poetry readings, dance and music. The event closed with social time where many lingered to talk and enjoy the cakes that EWU's bakers beautifully decorated with Kwanzaa designs.

We welcome the African Alliance, the newly formed club for students from African.
The following African American Education Program (AAEP) scholarships are based primarily on academic excellence and social responsibility. You must apply for admission to Eastern Washington University before you can be considered for any/all of these scholarships. A minimum grade point average of 2.5 is recommended before applying. Mark the appropriate space for the scholarship you are seeking (a separate application packet must be submitted for each scholarship for which you are applying).

**Multicultural Achievement Scholarships (5 awarded)**

Open to first-year (freshmen) students or entering transfer students with a demonstrated commitment to promoting the African American Community. This scholarship is automatically renewed for 1 additional year if a 3.3, or above, cumulative GPA.

**Minds in Motion Scholarship provided by Avista Corporation**

Open to undergraduate students only. Students residing in areas served by Avista Corp., with a minimum 2.5 GPA and more than 45 college credits, majoring in accounting, biology, chemistry, business, communications, computer science, technology, economics, mathematics, natural sciences or government.

Submit an essay not to exceed 1,000 words on how you will use your education to make positive contributions to the African American community.

**Hayes Scholarship**

Awarded to students who are pursuing a degree (declared major and/or admitted) in the College of Business and Public Administration, and/or the Urban and Regional Planning Program. G.P.A. of 2.5 minimum and demonstrated financial need.

**Minnie Whittenbach Memorial Scholarship**

Open to students with more than 45 college credits, a minimum 3.0 G.P.A., a demonstrated financial need and majoring in a health related field.

**Majorie Boyd Wellington Academic Excellence Award**

No application necessary for this award. Awarded to the African American student with the highest G.P.A. (Award. Approx. $500 per year, depending on the stock market)

What do you consider your ethnic origin? ____________

Completed scholarship application must be received at the AAEP Office as of 4:00 PM, Friday, February 24, 2006

Late and/or incomplete applications will not be accepted.
Winter

African History 11:00 - 11:50
Scott Finnie

Intro to African American Culture 12:00 - 12:50
Scott Finnie

Early African American History 1:00 - 1:50
Scott Finnie

Early African American History – 6:00 – 10:00
Patrick Williams – adjunct

African American Family – TR 1:00 – 3:20
Nancy Nelson

Contemp. African American Lit. MW 1:00 – 3:20
jenna williams

Hist. & Dynamics of US Slavery Saturdays
Feb. 25 and March 4 8 a.m. – 6 p.m.
Scott Finnie

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 AAEP 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 AAEP 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!