

Accent!

A Newsletter for the African American Community



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Students of Color Still Active in College Culture

Black Student Unions were born out of student activism of the late 1960s. Black students rallied and protested to implement changes in college and university cultures—asking for faculty and staff who looked like them, for Black Studies programs, and for the creation of support offices and organizations.

Efforts continue today at OSU Mansfield. The presence of the African American Student Union is a testament that the activism of the 1960s was not unwarranted. Fifteen committed students have joined together to carry the banner and move the organization forward.

Student president Jazmen Henderson has impressive goals to help support and uplift the campus and greater community through programs such as: honoring Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, forming study groups, serving as mentors to area school children and high schoolers, as well as volunteering in the community.

Three staff are actively involved in advising the campus group: Ketwana Wilson-McCormick, coordinator of multicultural affairs; Cathy Stimpert, director of human resources; and faculty advisor Scopas Poggo, assistant professor of African American and African studies.

The campus community looks forward to the group growing and expanding in the years to come.



OSU-M board member John Jordan talks with students at a recent multicultural mixer held on campus.



Three members of the African American Student Union, (l to r) Monique Keels, Alaina McCruel and Laurie Dawson, share a moment together.

2007-2008 African-American Student Union Executive Board

President: Jazmen Henderson
Vice-President: Marvin Hudson
Secretary: Aminata Sheriff
Vice-Secretary: Alexandria Burke
Treasurer: Vanita Dinkins
Vice-Treasurer: Amie Kaikai
Event Coordinator: Naana Appiah
Historian: Alaina McCruel
Parliamentarian: Royce Daniels

Black History Month Celebration

Activities celebrating Black History Month will be held at the OSU Mansfield/NC State campus during Winter Quarter 2008. Both institutions are sponsoring the event along with the MedCentral College of Nursing.

The activities listed below are free (except for the Soul Food Dinner) and are open to the public.

- ◆ **Thurs., Jan. 31 at 7:00 p.m.-Moving Blues Schoolhouse (Mansfield Senior High School)-sponsored by Arts & Lectures.**
- ◆ **Tues., Feb. 5 at 7:00 p.m.-Fat Tuesday Celebration (Eisenhower Student Union)-co-sponsored by Arts & Lectures.**
- ◆ **Wed., Feb. 6 at 8:00 p.m.-Homecoming Hip Hop Dance (to follow Mansfield Maverick's basketball game which starts at 6 p.m.)-co-sponsored by Student Affairs.**
- ◆ **Tues., Feb. 12 at noon-1 p.m.-Preacher Moss & the End of Racism Tour-TAG event (Eisenhower Student Union).**
- ◆ **Tues., Feb. 12 at 6 p.m.-Soul Food Dinner (featuring the food of Tina's Homestyle Cooking; at Eisenhower Cafeteria).**
- ◆ **Thurs., Feb. 14 at noon-Leslie Alexander, Assistant Professor of History, "We Are a Distinct People: Black Identity in Antebellum America" (Eisenhower Student Union).**
- ◆ **Wed., Feb. 20 at 7:00 p.m.-Jim Lucas as Martin Luther King (Renaissance Theatre)—co-sponsored by Arts & Lectures. The event is free, but tickets are required. Call 419-755-4314.**
- ◆ **Tues., Feb. 26 at noon-1 p.m.-University Choir concert (Conard Performance Hall).**
- ◆ **Thurs., Feb. 28 at noon-1 p.m.-Rebecca Wanzo, Assistant Professor of African-American and African Studies and Women's Studies, "In the Shadow of Anarcha: African American Women, Pain, and Medical Research" (Eisenhower Student Union).**

OSU-M Introduces New Course

Multicultural Perspectives 101 is a new course being offered at OSU Mansfield during winter quarter 2008. The one-hour course focuses on the various multicultural perspectives of underrepresented groups on college campuses.

Students will be encouraged to examine their own personal biases as they seek to gain a greater understanding and learn from those different than themselves.

The course is being taught by Ketwana Wilson-McCormick, OSU-M's new multicultural affairs coordinator.



**Ketwana
Wilson-McCormick**

Student Profile: Vanita Dinkins Maintains Balance with a Busy Schedule

OSU-M freshman Vanita Dinkins has performed well keeping up with a busy college schedule this past autumn. The biology major from Cleveland, Ohio, has balanced classes, working in the multicultural office, and membership in the African American Student Union, where she serves on the executive board and as treasurer.

Such a schedule is not new for Dinkins, as in high school she established herself as a student leader, a member of the National

Honor Society, and volunteered for her church and the Red Cross.

Asked what she might say to high school seniors thinking about college, Dinkins responded, "College is only hard if you make it hard, so stay on top!"



Vanita Dinkins

Essay Contest Winners Named

Two area students, Ashley Beck, a 10th grader at Mansfield Senior High School, and Jazmen Henderson, a freshman at OSU Mansfield, were named the winners of an essay competition held as a prelude to Black History Month activities sponsored by OSU Mansfield, NC State, and MedCentral College of Nursing.

Students were asked to consider W.E.B. DuBois' (1903) proclamation that "the problem of the twentieth century is the problem of the color line" and whether this prediction remains true in light of the recent "Jena 6" events. They were also asked to comment on whether Black History Month impacts race relations in America.

A committee of three faculty and staff reviewed the submissions.



Lucas to Reflect on Martin Luther King's Life

Martin Luther King, Jr. impersonator Jim Lucas will appear Wednesday, February 20, at 7:00 p.m. at the Renaissance Theatre as part of Black History Month events sponsored by OSU Mansfield, NC State, and MedCentral College of Nursing.

Lucas has received acclaim across the nation for his stirring and dramatic recitations depicting the life and times of the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. A student of the teachings of Dr. King, Lucas is an advocate of his philosophy of nonviolent civil action to effect social change.

In August 1983, Lucas attended the 20th Anniversary of the March on Washington. It was during that march that Lucas received the inspiration to learn and later recite Dr. King's speeches. Since then, Lucas has traveled nationwide delivering various renditions of Dr. King's "I Have A Dream" speech, "I've Been to the Mountaintop," excerpts from "The Drum Major Instinct" and "The Letter from Birmingham Jail," and other works in a dramatic one-man show.

Tickets for this event are free and may be obtained by calling 419-755-4314.



Jim Lucas

Volunteer Opportunity Provided for MLK Day

The OSU-M Multicultural Affairs Office is planning a Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service on Monday, January 21, at Friendly House, 380 N. Mulberry St. in Mansfield.

Volunteers will work with children on arts and crafts projects.

The local day is linked to a National Day of Service that can be previewed on the website MLKDay.org. For more information, contact Ketwana Wilson-McCormick, OSU-M multicultural affairs coordinator, at 419-755-3910.



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