DIVISION OF ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

THE NYUMBURU ANNUAL REPORT
“Forty-one Years of Cultural and Academic Excellence”

2011-2012

University of Maryland
Nyumburu Cultural Center
Building #232, Suite 1120
College Park, Maryland  20742-4517
STAFF

Dr. Ronald Zeigler
Director
(301) 314-7760

Ms. Anne Reese Carswell
Associate Director
(301) 314-7759

Mr. Solomon Comissiong
Assistant Director of Student Involvement and Public Relations
(301) 314-8439

Mr. Aaron McGrew
IT Support Associate and Facility Supervisor
(301) 314-1481

Ms. Tina Lorick
Business Manager
(301) 314-0343

Mr. David Hinton
Office Assistant
(301) 314-7758

Part-Time

Mr. Philip Thornton
IT Support Assistant

Mr. Danny Ware
IT Support Assistant
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Director’s Message

November 20, 2012

Dear Students, Colleagues, Friends, and Community Members:

The Nyumburu Cultural Center has provided academic and cultural services to the University of Maryland Campus Community for forty-one years. Through visionary ideas, the Nyumburu Staff has worked diligently to meet our departmental goals. Moreover, our office has actively promoted equity and diversity ideals as the UM campus endeavors to implement the Strategic Plan for Diversity (2010). Therefore, this annual report, (2011 – 2012), represents a compilation and documentation of the events, activities, and programs that were held at the Nyumburu Cultural Center during the past academic year.

Specifically, our student programming and services are designed to accomplish the following: (1) Develop leadership skills within our population of African Diaspora students and other ethnicities who participate in our events, (2) Cultivate an appreciation for the artistry of the African Diaspora related to music, poetry, drama, and history, (3) Educate students about current societal issues through media initiative programming, (4) Engage students in constructive community service projects that enhance Prince George’s County and other Maryland Communities, (5) Teach future generations of scholars about the African Diaspora through our eight-week Camp Shule Summer Program (6) Improve the retention and graduation rates of our constituency of African Diaspora Students and (7) Provide spiritual enlightenment and fulfillment through campus ministry.

We thank you for taking the time to read and learn about the Nyumburu Cultural Center, and its rich historical legacy that can be traced to our founder and ancestor, Mr. James Otis Williams. As Otis would often say, “Put a little sunshine into someone’s life.” On behalf of the Nyumburu Cultural Center Staff, we hope that this Annual Report “puts a little sunshine in your life,” as you read about the academic year 2011 – 2012.

Sincerely,

Ronald Zeigler, Ph.D.
Director
OUR MISSION

“The Nyumburu Cultural Center has as its mission to promote an understanding of and appreciation for African-American Culture in all of its richness and complexity. In carrying out its mission, the Nyumburu Cultural Center strives to improve the quality of life for African-American students, both undergraduate and graduate; to foster greater involvement of these students in campus programs and initiatives; to instill in these students an informed consciousness of their African-American heritage; and to improve retention and graduation rates of these students. In the various events and activities it sponsors, the Center also acknowledges, recognizes and solicits contributions of other heritages. Such efforts to cross boundaries and to intersect with other campus circles make the Center an excellent place for cultural exchange and enable the University to make greater strides in achieving genuine cultural pluralism.”
PROGRAM GOALS—2011-2012

- Continue the traditional student-oriented programming that attracts numerous students, faculty, and staff to the artistic and socio-cultural offerings of the Nyumburu Cultural Center.

- Institute creative contemporary programming that brings faculty, staff and students together, and that emphasizes intercultural dialogues.

- Establish new sources of revenue via external funding and grant-writing opportunities.

- Establish new academic liaisons with colleges and departments within the University of Maryland administrative structure.

- Expand the community outreach activities of the Nyumburu Cultural Center via community service projects, off-campus visitation projects, and collaborative career activities.

- Continue computer technology facility, Open Workstation Laboratory (OWL), which is used by students and student organizations in completing their academic and organizational projects.

- Provide administrative and mentoring support to students and campus organizations (e.g., Black Student Union, African Students Association, National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, Caribbean Students Association, National Council of Negro Women, etc.) that utilize the physical space for student programming.

- Develop unique academic programming to improve the retention rates of African American males and females, and African Diaspora students at the University of Maryland.

- Revise academic course(s) that will attract new populations of students from the African Diaspora and other diverse populations of students enrolled at the University of Maryland.
THE PROGRAMS BY THE ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR-
ANNE REESE CARSWELL

My Personal Mission Statement: In keeping with the Mission of the Nyumburu Cultural Center, my personal mission as Associate Director is to work cooperatively with the Director and staff to advance the rich culture, history, and social climate of the people of the African Diaspora.

In addition, my mission is to further unite with the Nyumburu Cultural Center’s theme to the students, “A Home Away From Home”. This is done with assurance that the environment and atmosphere of the center is always a warm and friendly place to meet and greet.

My mission is carried out and followed through by staging education, cultural and social programs, serving as a participating member of a number of active important committees, serving as advisor and providing guidance to many student organizations, supervising undergraduate interns, working to promote the advancement of the Nyumburu Cultural Center, striving to be resourceful, professional, and ethical to our many communities and directing Camp Shule, a summer camp for students ages 5 to 16, which I initiated. More precisely, my function is to:

1. Advance the Nyumburu Cultural Center
   a. Interact with the Nyumburu Cultural Center staff regarding programs events and activities in reference to reservations and set-up.
   b. Serve as a liaison with other campus units on behalf the Nyumburu Cultural Center.
   c. Post daily events activities that are being held in the center.
   d. Issue updated reservations once a week to staff members.

2. Educational, Cultural and Social Programs
   a. Manage, schedule, plan and organize, delegate and coordinate programs for the Nyumburu Cultural Center.
PROGRAMS

Summer 2011
- Camp Shule (K to 11th Grades)

Fall 2011
1. Annual Student Welcome
2. Gospel Happy Hour
3. Juke Joint
4. Nyumburu Open House
5. Nyumburu Night Out (Terp Zone)
6. SOUL (Sisterhood of Unity & Love)
7. Inspiration Worship Service (Co-sponsored)
8. Black Explosion Newspaper (Since 1968)
9. Miss Unity Scholarship Pageant (31st Annual)
10. Kwanzaa Celebration
11. Maryland Gospel Choir Winter Concert
12. Art Exhibition

Spring 2012
1. Welcome Back and Super Bowl Watch
2. Black History Month Kick-Off
3. Cultural Dinner
4. Gospel Happy Hour
5. Juke Joint
6. Inspirational Worship Service (Co-sponsored)
7. SOUL (Sisterhood of Unity and Love)
8. Black History Month Talent Showcase – The Diner
9. Black History Month Closing Ceremony
10. Tribute To Women of Color (Co-sponsored)
11. Nyumburu Maryland Day Showcase and Kids Carnival
12. Tribute To Our Warriors
13. Black Students Awards Ceremony
14. Maryland Gospel Choir Spring Concert
15. Art Exhibition

Other Duties and Responsibilities

Supervisory Responsibilities

- Supervised 2 Professional Staff
- Supervised 22 Student Assistants
- Supervised 1 graduate student
- Supervised 32 Camp Counselors

Conferences

- Southern Christian Leadership Conference Convention
- MC for the Montgomery County SCLC Chapter MLK, Jr. Dinner
- NAACP Convention Montgomery County, Maryland
- Black United Fund, Inc. Awards Luncheon

Publications

- Miss Unity Scholarship Pageant Program Booklet
- Programs list for Nyumburu Fall 2011 and Spring 2012
- Nyumburu Student Welcome Weekly Booklet

Honors and Awards

- Campus Outstanding Student Advisor of the Year
- Honorary African Student Association ‘Women of Color’ Award
- Alpha Nu Omega, Fraternity & Sorority (ANQ) - Award and Gift
- African Student Association Certificate and Gift
- Certificate of Appreciation SOUL
- Certificate of Appreciation and Gift Maryland Gospel Choir
- WETATI (Women Empowered To Achieve The Impossible) Recipient of Award
**Course Instructor**
- Maryland Gospel Choir --MUSC 329-E  1-credit (History of Gospel Music)

**Campus Committees**
1. Black Faculty and Staff EXECUTIVE BOARD
2. Adele Stamp Student Union ADVISORY BOARD
3. Black Ministries Program EXECUTIVE BOARD
4. Maryland Day Planning Committee for Nyumburu
5. Inspirational Worship Service ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF
6. BFSA (Black Faculty and Staff Association) Mentor/Mentee Co-Chair and the Annual Fish Fry CHAIR

**Community Involvement**
1. Member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. MCAC Alumnae Chapter
2. Member of Kiwanis International (Greater Landover Chapter)
3. Executive Board Member of 210 Vikings Football, Soccer, and Cheer Club (5 to 17 years of age)
4. WETATI (Women Empowered To Achieve the Impossible -Chartered Member)

**Advisor to Student Organizations**
1. African Student Association (Advisor)
2. Alpha Nu Omega Fraternity, Inc. (Advisor)
3. Alpha Nu Omega Sorority, Inc. (Advisor)
4. The Black Explosion Newspaper (Faculty Advisor)
5. Maryland Gospel Choir (Advisor and Instructor)
6. Shades of Harlem Performing Arts Ensemble (Advisor)
7. SOUL (Sisterhood of Unity & Love)- (Advisor) Initiated in Spring 2007
8. SCLC- UMCP Chapter (Southern Christian Leadership Conference) (Advisor)
9. Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc. (Advisor)
10. NCNW (National Council of Negro Women) Advisor

**Supervisory Responsibilities**
- Supervise 4 Professional Staff
- Supervise 22 Student Assistants each semester
- Supervise 32 Camp Counselors (Summer 2011)

**Campus Committee and Other Involvement**
1. Black Faculty and Staff EXECUTIVE BOARD
2. Adele Stamp Student Union ADVISORY BOARD
3. Black Ministries Program EXECUTIVE BOARD
4. Maryland Day COMMITTEE for Nyumburu
5. Inspirational Worship Service ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF
The Nyumburu Cultural Center has served the University of Maryland community since 1971 and continues to build on its foundations as the Center for Black social, cultural, and intellectual interaction. As a department, and safe space for students, Nyumburu's productions and activities include lectures and seminars, art exhibits, workshops in the dramatic arts, dance, music, and creative writing. All of which are designed to encourage student involvement, foster self awareness and bridge the gap between extracurricular involvement and academic achievement.

PROGRAM SYNOPSIS

Camp Shule

Camp Shule is an eight weeks summer enrichment camp where youth between the ages of 5 and 17, explore academic, artistic, and recreational interests in a relaxed, and creative environment. Campers participate daily in academic sessions that refresh and review reading, math, writing, and computer literacy skills. In addition to in-class workshops, campers take two field trips per week to local museums and leisure sites.

Program Break Down
Location: Nyumburu Multipurpose Room, Mezzanine, and Conference Rooms
Date: June 20, 2011 to August 12, 2011
Attendance: 225 Campers and 32 Counselors
Camp Shule 2011
Campers Performance Day Program

-MC’s.................................................. Ms. Nyesha and Mr. Thomas
-Welcome ......................................... Ms. Anne Reese Carswell
-History of Camp Shule.......................... Mr. Cynthia Redmond
-Group Introduction............................ Camp Shule Campers
-Lift Every Voice and Sing..................... Camp Shule Campers
-Poem Presentation.............................. Camp Shule Campers

“The Lion and The Gazelle” and a “A Dream Deferred”
-The Camp Shule Song

* Academic Presentation
Math & Reading........................................Kindergarten Pathfinders
Academic Skit .........................................3rd Grade Warriors
Acrostic Poem.........................................4th Grade Warriors
Math ......................................................5th Grade Trailblazers
Are You smarter than a 6th Grader?...........6th Grade Trailblazers
Explorers Writing, Math, Reading..’Shule Rap’ ....7th Grade Explorers
Memories ................................................7th Grade Explorers
Community Poem.....................................8th Grade Navigators
Math...................................................... 9th, 10th and 11th Grade Navigators

Workshop Presentations
Frog Song...............................................1st Grade Pathfinders
Spanish..................................................2nd , 3rd, 4th, and 5th Grade
Sisterhood .............................................6th & 7th Grade “What is Beauty”
Brotherhood..........................................6th & 7th “Manhood”

* Arts & Entertainment
Selections from Talent Show & Open Mic:

* Stepping
3rd Grade Boys
7th -11th Grade Girls
6th -7th Grade B

* Video Presentation by Camp Staff
Annual Student Welcome

Each year approximately 6,500 new freshmen and transfer students enroll at the University of Maryland, College Park. As we endeavor to offer supplemental support for students of color, specifically students of the African Diaspora, the Nyumburu Cultural Center sponsors an Annual New Student Welcome. Purposed with the intent of developing accessible support networks for our students, the New Student Welcome is an informal introduction to student life outside the classroom and opportunities for extracurricular involvement. With free food, music, giveaways, and returning student involvement, new students receive extended orientation to alternative social programming and Nyumburu’s varied resources.

Program Break Down

Location: Nyumburu Terrace (Patio)
Date: Monday, August 31, 2011
Attendance: 600 to 650
Co-sponsored: BSU, ASA, CSA, NAACP, and SCLC

Tribute to Our Warriors

James Otis Williams May 21, 1939 – April 4, 1997

James 'Otis' Williams served as Director of the Nyumburu Cultural Center since for 25 years. As an advocate for students and active member of the Black Faculty and Staff Association, Otis Williams had a presence that resonated with all those who came into contact with him. He worked with others to expand Nyumburu as a department and resource center for students. The halls of the center often echoed with his poetry and music.

Although, he fought hard to see the department become the free standing building many see and use today, on Friday, April 4th, 1997, four days before the 1st anniversary of the new building, Otis passed away. His passion and ethic left a legacy that continues to touch and inspire students and staff alike. For these reasons, each year we are joined by his family and friends as we honor his memory and lift up his name. To know him was a blessing, to meet him is to never forget him. He touched our hearts and made our lives better with every day he shared with us.
Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.  January 15, 1929 – April 4, 1968

Civil rights champion Martin Luther King, Jr. was born in Atlanta, GA, on January 15, 1929. In 1957, King joined with other African-American religious leaders to found the Southern Christian Leadership Conference; a year later, he published his first book, Stride toward Freedom: The Montgomery Story. As the 1960s dawned, he was widely regarded as black America's preeminent spokesman, although his policies of non-violence were often in conflict with younger, more militant factions of the civil rights movement; mass demonstrations in communities throughout the U.S. culminated in the August 28, 1963, march on Washington, D.C., where, on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial, King delivered his celebrated "I have a dream" speech to an audience of over 250,000 protesters. That December he was named Time magazine's Man of the Year, and a year later collected the Nobel Peace Prize. However, internal divisions within the black community threatened to undermine his leadership, as emerging voices like Malcolm X and Stokely Carmichael offered a stark counterpoint to King's peaceful methods.

Program Break Down
Location: Nyumburu Multipurpose Room
Date: Wednesday, April 4, 2012 - 5:00pm to 7:00pm
Attendance: 125

Co-sponsors: Black Student Union (BSU), Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc.
SCLC/UMCP Chapter (Southern Christian Leadership Conference),
Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. and SCLC (UMCP Chapter)

Menu
Baked Chicken, Fried Chicken, & Fried Fish
Macaroni & Cheese
String Beans
Candied Yams
Corn Bread
Punch/Water
Tribute To Our Warriors
April 4, 2012
NYUMBURU CULTURAL CENTER

PROGRAM

Lift Every Voice & Sing - - -Audience
Lead by Ms. Breyanna White

Mistress of Ceremonies
Ms. Nkemka Anyiwo, Nyumburu Student Ambassador

Welcome
Dr. Ronald Zeigler, Director, Nyumburu

Acknowledgement
Ms. Anne Reese Carswell, Associate Director, Nyumburu

Excerpts from one of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Speech
Ms. Jaime Drayton, President SCLC/UMCP Chapter

A Reading of James ‘Otis’ Williams writings (Poetry)
Mr. Thomas Dawson, Nyumburu Student Ambassador
and President, BSU

Musical Selections
Ms. Angie Bass (Gospel & Blues)

Reflections
Mr. Solomon Comissiong, Nyumburu and the Williams Family

Musical Selections
‘Ensideout’ (Walter Tate & Sista Pat) (Jazz)

-Step Presentation-

Invocation/Blessing
Rev. Dr. Ruby Reese Moone, Chaplain
Black Ministries Program UM
President, SCLC/Maryland State Unit

Dinner
*Power Point Presentation of J. Otis Williams*
*Tribute to The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.*
Kwanzaa Celebration

Kwanzaa is an African American celebration that honors the heritage, accomplishments, and culture of the African Diaspora. Conceived by Dr. Maluana Karenga in 1966, this seven day celebration is designed to raise cultural awareness in African Americans, while encouraging community fellowship and self-determination. Based on the nguzo saba [seven principles of Kwanzaa Umoja (Unity), Kujichagulia (Self-Determination), Ujima (Collective Work and Responsibility), Ujamaa (Cooperative Economics), Nia (Purpose), Kuumba (Creativity), and Imani (Faith)] it begins on December 26th and lasts for seven days until January 1st.

Each year, over fifteen million people around the world celebrate Kwanzaa, The Nyumburu Cultural Center joins in the celebration by hosting a one day celebration that commemorates the principles of Kwanzaa, by uniting the campus and surrounding community through dinner, song dance, libation, and a candle lighting ceremony. Moreover, as a staff, we endeavor to intertwine the center’s mission with the nguzo saba infusing its mission into our programming and philosophy for student involvement.

Program Break Down
Location: Nyumburu Multipurpose Room
Date: Wednesday, December 3, 2011
Attendance: Approximately 250
Co-sponsored by: Black Student Union, African Student Association, Caribbean Students Association, & NAACP (UMCP Chapter)

Nguzo Saba Ceremony
Candlelight Ceremony
• Master Drummer Brother Joseph
and more….

Featuring:

Miss Unity 2011-2012
(Ms. Nehemie Sejour)
-Ms. Angie Bass
-Ms. Kesha Naima Robertson

* Dinner *
Miss Unity Scholarship Pageant

The Miss Unity Scholarship Pageant was established in the fall of 1979. As an extension of Nyumburu’s ongoing programmatic efforts, The Miss Unity Pageant seeks to promote the beauty of the African Diaspora with facilitating unity among students, and highlighting the talent, poise, and intellect of contestants. More importantly, the Miss Unity Pageant, functions as another corridor to leadership providing young women with an opportunity to showcase their talent, network in the community, and advocate for a platform to raise socio-political awareness on campus and in the broader community. Many of our contestants have gone on to successfully compete in the Ms. College Park Pageant, and other local pageants and one of our Miss Unity contestants even won the Miss Black America Pageant. Another contestant was one of the five finalists in the Miss America Pageant. Thus, The Miss Unity Scholarship Pageant continues to be a rewarding event for the contestants, corporate sponsors, sponsoring organizations and audiences. The Host for 2011 was Radio Personality EZ Street of 93.9 WKYS.

Program Break Down
Location: Nyumburu Multipurpose Room
Date: Sunday, November, 13, 2012
Attendance: 315 Winner: Nehemie Sejour


Contestants for the 2011 34th Annual Miss Unity Scholarship Pageant

Left to Right (Front Row): Carson Ward, Anisah Imani, Niccara Campbell, Kara Dixon & Anesha Yorkshire.

Left to Right (Back Row): Ayesha Washington, Natsnet Haileab, Morgan Merritt; Nehemie Sejour & Rachele Macarthy
Gospel Happy Hour

As a staff and community invested in the growth and safety of our students, the University of Maryland strives to create living and learning environments that protect our students and nurture their interests. Accordingly, the Nyumburu Cultural Center consistently endeavors to provide alternative social programming that engages students in personal development and creative expression.

Gospel Happy Hour is one of the programs established in 2000 for students who seek wholistic (Spiritual, Social, and Personal) fellowship in a safe alcohol free environment. Gospel Happy Hour features a live band and student performances that range from song, poetry, comedy, skits, icebreakers, stepping, and liturgical dance. Furthermore, students are able to practice peer ministry by using the creative arts to share their testimony and stories of inspiration.

Program Break Down

Location: Nyumburu Multipurpose Room
Attendance: over 60 to 75 per event


Co-sponsors: Alpha Nu Omega Fraternity, Inc. and Alpha Nu Omega Sorority, Inc.
Nyumburu Annual Alumni Homecoming Tailgate

Sponsored by the Nyumburu Cultural Center and Black Alumni Network, the Alumni tailgate is an annual program that provides an opportunity for alumni to come back “home”, recounting past events and accomplishments. This family friendly event includes children’s activities such as a moon bounce, stilt walkers, and DJ. There is a cook out and door prizes are distributed.

Program Break Down

Location: Nyumburu Multipurpose Room and Mezzanine Conference Room
Attendance: 450 to 500
Date: Saturday, October 17, 2011
Co-sponsors: Black Alumni Network & Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. (2011)
The Black Student Awards Ceremony

At the Nyumburu Cultural Center, we believe that extracurricular involvement is a critical factor in ensuring student success and retention. We encourage students to get involved and network on and off campus. We advocate for leadership that extends beyond personal gratification to include service and purpose driven initiatives. Therefore, in order to recognize students who go the extra mile to engage leadership and opportunity, each year we host the Annual Black Student Award Ceremony. The program is designed to celebrate the achievements of all Black student organizations for the Fall and Spring semesters. We also recognize individual students who have made a mark as scholars and evolving trailblazers. Award categories vary from recognition for cultural leadership, to outstanding student organization of the year.

Many student organizations also use this time to recognize their membership for outstanding involvement and programming. Accordingly, the Pan-Hellenic Council Organizations participate in this ceremony to recognize and showcase the hard work of their respective chapters. In addition, the Tri-council of Diaspora student involvement (African Student Association, Black Student Union, and the Caribbean Student Association) all use this time to shed light on the efforts of their membership and the impact that it has made on the campus community.

Program Break Down
Location: Nyumburu Multipurpose Room
Attendance: 225 (2011)
Date: Wednesday, May 4, 2011
Student of the Year: Damien Pinkett
Annual Cultural Dinner

Black History Month is a time for historical reflection, cultural awareness, and fellowship. Accordingly, each year the Nyumburu Cultural Center and Campus Dining Services co-sponsor the Annual Cultural Dinner. With a menu that includes traditional African American cuisine, staff and students are invited to South Campus Dining Hall to fellowship and have dinner as a community. In addition to a hot meal, the Annual Cultural Dinner also features live entertainment with performances from campus poets, singers, and a house Jazz/Rhythm and Blues band. Performance Three Shades Band at South Campus and Sistah Pat (Singer), and Brother Walter Tate (Saxophonist).

Program Break Down
Location: The Diner and South Campus Dining Hall
Attendance: over 750 in attendance
Date: February, 2012

“Down Home Cooking” Dinner
Fried Chicken • St. Louis Spare Ribs • *Red Beans and Rice
Accompaniments - Select One:
Eddie’s Baked Macaroni and Cheese
*Jamaican Peas and Rice • Nelson’s Candied Sweet Potatoes
Vegetables - Select One:
Melba’s Collard Greens with Turkey Wings
Betty’s Down Home Potato Salad • *Corn on the Cobb
*Black-Eyed Peas
“Down Home Cooking” Dinner Meal Includes:
Black Bean Soup
Breads - Select One:
Hot Dinner Rolls • Corn Bread
Dr. Carver’s Sweet Potato Biscuits
Desserts - Select One:
Marva’s Bread Pudding • Sweet Potato Pie
A Variety of Pound Cakes with Ice Cream & Chocolate Sauce
“Down Home Cooking” Dinner Meal Options:
Fried Chicken Dinner
Spare Ribs Dinner
Red Beans and Rice Dinner
*Vegan
Black History Month Kick- Off and Closing Ceremony

In 1926, the efforts of Dr. Carter G. Woodson led to the recognition of Black History, as "Negro History Week" which would later become "Black History Month." Although Blacks have had a sustained presence in the United States and have represented a critical mass in the labor force, African American history was and still is marginalized in terms of mainstream academic scholarship and in some cases celebration. Therefore, Black History month has become a time for concentrated immersion in the culture and heritage of the African Diaspora.

As a department focused on promoting cultural edification and personal awareness in all students, especially students of the African Diaspora, we celebrate Black History 365 days a year. However, in commemoration of Dr. Carter G. Woodson and our ancestors, the Nyumburu Cultural Center sponsors an annual Opening reception for Black History Month with Entertainment, Food and Speaker the Honorable Carl Snowden and Closing Ceremony Mr. Steve Birdine.

Program Break Down

Nyumburu Multipurpose Room

Opening Ceremony Speaker

Attendance: 200-Kick-Off
Date: February 1, 2012

Co-sponsored by: Black Student Union, African Student Caribbean Students Association, & Association, NAACP (UMCP Chapter)

Honorable Carl Snowden
Director of Civil Rights, Office of the Attorney General for the State of Maryland

Closing Ceremony Speaker

February 29, 2012 Attendance: 250

Steve Birdine is a diversity educator, motivator, and risk taker. He has given keynote addresses and facilitated workshops and seminars at over 100 institutions, conferences, and businesses nationally. His passion for academic excellence, student motivation, diversity education, and leadership development has led him to be an inspiration and to seek innovation in dealing with long standing historical issues impacting people of color. This Chicago native armed with two degrees from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign before embarking on a fifteen-year career as a higher education administrator. His personal honors include a four-year listing in Ebony Magazine (2002-2005) as "One of America's 100+ Most Influential African-Americans". Past Grand Polaris (National President) of Iota Phi Theta Fraternity, Inc.
The Nyumburu Cultural Center

Presents

Closing Ceremony for Black History Month

National Theme 2012: “Black Women in American Culture and History”

MC’s……Cynthia Redmond & Thomas Dawson, Nyumburu Student Ambassadors

Musical Selection…… Lift Every Voice and Sing ……………………..Audience

Welcome ………………………..Ms. Kayla Johnson, Nyumburu Student Ambassador

Acknowledgements…………………………Dr. Ronald Zeigler, Director, Nyumburu

Drum Performance………………………………………………Chidi Eke & Simon

Dance Performance……………………………………………………Afrochique

Dramatic Presentation…Excerpt ‘I Have A Dream’….Master Jordan McDermott

Step Performance…………………………………………………………STEPP

Musical Performance…………………………………………………Brother Walt & Sista Pat

Introduction of Speaker.. Mr. Solomon Comissiong, Asst. Director of Student Involvement & P/R

Speaker……………………………………Mr. Steve Birdine

President/CEO of Affirmations In Action

Blessing of Food

Mr. David Morris, Alpha Nu Omega Fraternity, Inc.

** Dinner **

Coordinator of Black History Month Closing Ceremony Program

Anne Reese Carswell, Associate Director, Nyumburu Cultural Center
Retention of Black students in higher education has been an evolving issue that warrants critical attention. Like many students of color, black students often identify financial aid as a major barrier to college completion. Therefore, as a staff and department, we deem it necessary to celebrate our graduates with a reception and dinner. The Banquet includes a keynote address, and each Senior is presented with an individual gift. Families and friends are encouraged to attend.

**Program Break Down**  
**Location:** Nyumburu Multipurpose Room  
**Attendance:** 125  
**Date:** May 9, 2012

All Graduating Seniors received a Kente Stole and a certificate from Nyumburu Cultural Center.
Inspirational Worship Service

The Black Ministries Program (BMP) celebrates thirty-three years of service and fellowship to the University of Maryland community. Since its inception in 1973, BMP has based its ministry on the requests of students for a Black Church. With the aid of student groups and the Black Faculty and Staff Association, this once small Sunday morning ministry attracts a diverse body of worshippers who participate equally in praise and Black Ministries’ outreach services and programs. Accordingly, Black Ministries Program affirms 5 basic modes of its dynamic campus ministry: pastoral, priestly, prophetic, governance, and ecumenical.

Chaplain, Rev Dr. Ruby Reese Moone, avails herself to students, faculty and staff in their pursuit of spiritual ascension and a stronger relationship with God. Furthermore, as an outreach ministry, her doors are open to all who seek fellowship activities, and leadership opportunities in the church. Some of the ways Black Ministries supports the individual quest for higher understanding, are programs such as: Weekly Sunday Inspirational Service, Bible Classes, the Sweet Hour of Prayer Service, Gospel Happy Hour, the Maryland Gospel Choir, The Jonah Liturgical Dance Ministry, and the Inspirational Melodious Praisers, and the Annual Motivational Planning and Regrouping Session. More importantly, many student organizations expand service participation and promotion by co-sponsoring church services.

Program Break Down

Location: West Chapel Annex of the Memorial Chapel
Attendance: 60 to 115 Worshippers every Sunday when the University is in session
Date: Every Sunday 11am to 12:30pm
Co-sponsors: Nyumburu Cultural Center & Student Organizations

The Maryland Gospel Choir

In 1975, a small group of students united to fill a cultural void left by the Pomojo Choir on campus by organizing the University of Maryland Gospel Choir, which later
became the Maryland Gospel Choir under the leadership of Mr. Edward Duffy and students as directors. The choir members were able to earn 3 credits per semester through the African American Studies Program. A year later in 1976, Mr. Richard Smallwood became the first professional director. In 1979, the choir made the Nyumburu Cultural Center its home.

The Maryland Gospel Choir in Concert

Fall Winter Concert  
Saturday, December 3, 2011

Spring 2012 Concert:  
Saturday, April 7, 2012

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Maryland Gospel Choir
Spring Concert
7:30PM

Saturday, April 7, 2012
Clarice Smith Performing Arts Center
Dekelboum Concert Hall
University of Maryland, College Park

Program

Prayer........................................... Mr. David Morris
Scripture...................................... Mr. Pancratius Chuba
Welcome...................................... Ms. Anne Reese Carswell

Introduction of the Mistress of Ceremonies
Ms. Sade Persad
Mistress of Ceremonies
Rev. Patricia Womack

Concert I

The Maryland Gospel Choir
Presentations
Ms. Sade Persad

Concert II

The Maryland Gospel Choir

Choir Musicians
Mr. DeWayne Gregory, Choir Director/Instructor
Ms. Monique Griffith, Assistant Choir Director
Mr. Kevin Holmes – Music Director, Percussionist
Ms. Nerva Lee Harris - Pianist
Mr. David Mugerwa – Bassist
Ms. Jaquay Smith, Section Leader
Ms. Lauren Conway, Section Leader

Special Thanks

UM School of Music
Nyumburu Cultural Center

Ms. Anne Reese Carswell, Associate Director, Nyumburu Cultural Center
Dr. Ronald Zeigler, Director, Nyumburu Cultural Center
Rev. Dr. Ruby Reese Moone, Chaplain, Black Ministries Program

Thank You for Coming and Have a Safe Trip Home!!!
Center engages in direct service to the community. In addition, it is also one of the programs Miss Unity inherits when she receives her crown. As a sponsor for Adopt A-Road we make two visits each semester to clean up our road along the Cherry wood Lane corridor. Students and staff volunteer to help make the program a success.

**Program Break Down**

**Location:** Nyumburu Multipurpose Room and Mezzanine Conference Room  
**Attendance:** 13 students (2011)  
**Date:** Saturday, September 3, 2011

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**SOUL**

Sisterhood Of Unity & Love was founded in 2005 and is designed to aid college women in their quest towards self-fulfillment and personal development. Focused on generating confident self-assured women, our programs encourage self-reflection and intergenerational dialogue that allows the diverse experiences of the collective, to serve as guides to individuals traveling down similar paths. Based on the premise of Victory and Renewal, we design events and programs that cover issues of social justice, nutrition, social networking, and personal relationships. Some of the primary programs include SOUL Shut INS, PETALS and World Wide Woman Week.
Revenge of the Black Chick.

**Program Break Down**

**Location:** Nyumburu Multipurpose Room and Mezzanine Conference Room  
**Attendance:** Approximately 25 to 35 per shut-In  
**Date:** Once per month (Sept, Oct, Nov and Dec)

**SOUL (Sisterhood of Unity & Love)**

The Nyumburu Cultural Center is charged with the responsibility of advancing and augmenting the academic and diverse missions of the university by presenting a forum for the scholarly exchange and artistic engagement of African Diaspora culture and history. Juke Joint is an alternative social program designed to encourage student development and extracurricular involvement under the premise of creative expression. Incorporating poetry, vocal performances, live bands and DJs, Juke Joint has evolved into an evening of cultural engagement and free expression. The Juke Joint’s open mic format allows students and artists to introduce topics that are stimulating and diverse. Accordingly, the stage becomes a forum for dialogue driven by political rhetoric, social anxieties, and artistic freedom.
Juke Joint was consciously developed to provide students with an outlet for social interaction that was safe and entertaining. The average attendance at the Juke Joint is between 275-300 students, with an open mic performance list that can include as many as 15-20 performers. Juke Joint provides an informal opportunity to introduce Nyumburu’s resources to a broad audience.

Although this year’s co-sponsors included: The Black Student Union, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., the NAACP, the African Student Association, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc., among others.

Program Break Down

Location: Nyumburu Cultural Center - Multipurpose Room  
Attendance: 275 to 300  
Date: Once a month on a Thursday Fall 2011 & Spring 2012  
Co-sponsors: Nyumburu Cultural Center & Student organizations
Art Exhibitions

Acclaimed artist, Preston Sampson, returns to the University of Maryland’s Nyumburu Cultural Center, for a homecoming art show and reception. The site of his first exhibit, his present work is a tribute tone of the center’s founder, Otis Williams, and partial proceeds were scheduled to go to the Nyumburu Student Scholarship Fund. Sampson is a colorist whose work has been widely included in both private and institutional collections. Among his collectors are Absolute Vodka, Bank of America, Yale University, David C. Driskell Center, Samuel L. Jackson, and Maya Angelou.

Student Melissa Morgan displayed her Art work during the fall semester of 2008 in the Nyumburu Art Gallery.

Program Break Down
Location: Nyumburu Cultural Center – Art Gallery & Lobby
Attendance: 126
Date: Fall Semester October 18-30, 2011 – Students Exhibits
Maryland Day
Saturday, April 28, 2012

Entertainment at the Nyumburu Amphitheater Stage

Dynamic Dance Troup on the Nyumburu Stage Dancing for Maryland Day
Men’s rugby team invited to Sevens Collegiate Rugby Championship

The 11th-ranked Maryland men’s rugby club clinched a second consecutive conference title preparing to dance at the 2012 USA Sevens Collegiate Rugby Championship tournament on June 2. As the largest collegiate rugby event in the country, the third annual sevens championship invitational tournament in Philadelphia will host 16 of the nation’s top rugby programs and air on NBC to raise awareness for the game set to debut in the 2016 summer Olympics.

B.o.B headlines this year’s Art Attack

On Friday nights in College Park, the intersection of Knox Road and Route 1 is always crawling with girls in heels and scantily clad clothing and guys in jeans and button down shirts. All of them are looking for the next party. But everyone who was there on May 4 missed the party. The party was in Byrd Stadium were The Dean’s List and B.o.B. had one of the biggest dance parties College Park had ever seen.
EVENTS, DATA, AND PROGRAMS
COMPLIED BY: SOLOMON COMISSIONG

Assistant Director of Student Involvement & Public Relations

Contained within this annual report is a listing of all of the events, programs and community outreach that I conducted within the purview of my job title at the Nyumburu Cultural Center. However, as the reader will notice, much the work I did came from extended boundaries formed by myself and creative autonomy which was given to me by the Director of Nyumburu (Dr. Ronald Zeigler). I could not have executed half the programs I was able to if it were not for the support and confidence given to me by Dr. Zeigler.

Each event is listed and detailed in chronological order dating back to September 2011.
The Nyumburu Leadership Series is an ongoing program that occurs once a month throughout the entire academic school year. The Leadership Series is geared towards ameliorating students’ overall Leadership Skills by providing them with a variation of leadership ideologies and philosophies in an effort to allow them to formulate their own. It is also geared to providing the students with factual information under the precept that an effective leader is a well-informed leader.

Solomon Comissiong had facilitated the Leadership Series. I decided to place a theme on the 2011/2012 Leadership Series; that them geared around students learning more about world history, colonization, as well as colonization’s impact on developing nations today. This program theme was entitled, “Community Activism and Global Civic Engagement”. Students worked collectively to study information geared towards developing their overall skills sets as young social activists. The program was an overall success. The students also developed a video featuring themselves within news commentary program on social issues. I showed the students many different videos and PowerPoint presentations as a means of enhancing their overall comprehension of information.

www.nyumburuleadershipseries.com
The Nyumburu Black Male Initiative Program

The mission statement for the BMI program is:

"The Black Male Initiative (BMI) Program is dedicated to the establishment of brotherhood, scholarship, and retention of black males at the University of Maryland. BMI has a commitment to impact the campus and wider communities through collective activism and leadership that promotes the uplifting and empowerment of Black men."

I oversaw the day-to-day and month-to-month operations of the Black Male Initiative Program. Some of the responsibilities that I have are: scheduling of meetings, creation of agenda items, outreach programs, movie nights, and events. The BMI program was created in 2005 by Hank Rawlerson, Raheem Dawodo, Ronald Zeigler, and Solomon Comissiong. The goal of the program was to connect Black male students with Black male faculty and staff here at UMD as a means to improve retention rates and induce progressive leadership skills. However, the program has grown to be much, much more than that. Within the next few pages you will find the agenda for each of the meetings we have this past academic year.

One of the special events that I set up for the BMI program the past couple of years was a symposium on the State of Black Boys/Men in America. We (The Nyumburu Cultural Center’s Black Male Initiative Program) invited scholars and community activists to attend and present on some of the best practices and/or research you have done regarding black men/boys, and issues they face. Our hopes were to have each invited individual present for 30 minutes on their research/program/initiative and how it could be applied and supported in more communities. Parents, families and Black male students (of all levels) were in attendance. We wanted this symposium to be entirely solutions oriented, constructive and geared around an “it takes a village” understanding. This is going to be a great event to network and build with other academics, scholars, activists as well as community members. The symposium drew in close to 100 people and was a complete success on every level, even though the weather was rainy.
BMI Movie Nights

As a part of keeping the students engaged and creating awareness to the entire campus community, I set up the BMI Movie Night every month. This series of movie night events were focused on showing educational and engaging films/documentaries on issues and topics such as African American/African History, The Struggle for Liberation and Independence in Africa and Latin America, and the Criminal Justice System. The BMI Movie nights were well attended by students, community members, and faculty/staff, from both genders and many ethnicities and races. Each movie night event culminated with a talkback session/dialogue that included the audience. The Dates for these events were: September 21, 2011, October 19, 2011, November 16, 2011, February 16, 2012, March 14, 2012, and April 18, 2012. BMI also featured an event detailing various issues within Latin America in which we had a large community contingent from the Washington DC area attend. Many students attended as well. This event was a great success. Another powerful event and community dialogue that was hosted during a BMI Movie night was a discussion about institutional racism and the notion of a “Post Racist” America. Two Nyumburu student workers facilitated the talkback session and showcased an interactive multimedia presentation they put together. This event was amazing and elicited a lot of audience participation. In February we showed an important film entitled, “Hidden Colors”, that featured Black/African history that is often omitted from classroom teachings and therefore is not understood. We also had a large turnout for this film, which was even advertised on 89.3 FM in Washington DC. We also hosted a dynamic lecture by veteran War Correspondent, Keith Harmon Snow, who discussed the politics of genocide and some of the often under reported issues from Africa. The turnout for this event was excellent with a high level of audience participation.

EDCP 108N

FALL SEMESTER 2011

I co-taught EDCP 108N during the fall semester 2011 with Dr. Ronald Zeigler. This class was geared towards primarily freshman students of color as a means to help them improve their overall study skills, make a smooth transition to college life, and develop solid leadership skills. This course met once a week on Mondays from 10-11 am. EDCP 108N was basically an extension of UNIV 100.

Nyumburu/UMECS Books for Northern Uganda Campaign

In 2009 I was able to mobilize UMD students, and the community, to successfully raise the 13,000 dollars that was needed to send 35,000 course specific books to schools in Northern Uganda and children who were negatively impacted by the 21-year war that ended in 2006. Details of this fundraising campaign are listed below. I decided to kickoff another campaign, which was initiated in
October of 2010. This was continued throughout this academic year. This campaign we are attempting to raise 28,000 dollars in order to ship 16,000 books and dozens of computers to several more schools in Northern Uganda. We are presently in the process of raising more funds to send this second shipment of books to even more schools in Northern Uganda. My colleague Mr. Aaron McGrew is co-chairing this endeavor/project with me.

UMECS/Nyumburu Books for Africa Campaign

Dear Community Partner,

Knowledge is Power, and for those of us who have had the opportunity to become educated, we know the power of both education and knowledge. I’m asking you to participate with me in a project that will ensure the power of knowledge and education will also benefit our young brothers and sisters in Africa.

Nyumburu Cultural Center of the University of Maryland-College Park and its on-campus partners have committed to raising support for text and library books for secondary schools and school libraries in post-conflict Northern Uganda, a region devastated by a recent brutal twenty-year war. I am co-chairing the project with my colleague Aaron McGrew, the Center’s Technical Director. For more information about Nyumburu Cultural Center please visit: http://www.nyumburu.umd.edu/

A brutal twenty year war in Northern Uganda which began in 1986 displaced over two million Acholi people from their traditional villages to squalid refugee camps. The worst effects of this war have been on children and youth. More than 30,000 children were abducted and forced into child soldiering and sex slavery by the Lord’s Resistance Army which declared war on the Government of Uganda in 1986. The Acholi people were caught in the middle; several hundred thousand people died from the effects of this war, tens of thousands of women were raped and mutilated and hundreds of thousands of children were orphaned. The war ended in 2006 and since then, people have been returning to their ancestral villages to rebuild and start life anew. This includes the quest for children and youth to become well educated.

In Northern Uganda, children and youth are avid learners and eager readers but the displacement to camps from the war made it difficult for families to afford secondary school fees. Furthermore, most schools in Northern Uganda lack sufficient text books and libraries for high quality education. As a result, students in Northern Uganda overall are not performing well in high stakes national exams, cutting them out of critical higher education and professional training opportunities. We have committed to change that situation through a Books-and-Computers-for-Northern Uganda Schools Campaign that will help to transform learning and student performance in multiple secondary schools in Northern Uganda.

Our partners in this project are the United Movement to End Child Soldiering, (UMECS) based in Uganda and Washington, DC, and Books for Africa, in St. Paul, MN.
**United Movement to End Child Soldiering (UMECS)** is having huge impact in Northern Uganda through its education, guidance and counseling and peace building programs. Anchored in Uganda since 2004 when the war was raging on, UMECS is a Registered Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) in Uganda and also a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt non-profit organization here. UMECS is dedicated to eradicating child soldiering and addressing the peace-building, education and rehabilitation needs of children and youth affected by conflict. UMECS runs the **Northern Uganda Education Program** which sponsors and mentors former child soldiers, child mothers and other conflict-affected children and youth in Northern and Northeast Uganda in secondary schools through higher education graduation. UMECS is also the chief partner with the Ministry of Education and Sports in piloting **Peace Education and Guidance and Counseling in Secondary Schools in Northern Uganda**. This “first-ever in Africa” program is systemically helping to build a culture of peace to prevent new wars through peace education classes and student-centered peace activities (peace drama, peace debates, poetry, essays, song, music and dance). The program is being piloted in seven secondary schools in four districts in Northern Uganda and a teachers training college. In its first year, there have been phenomenal successes and transformative experiences. In addition, the program provides guidance programs and psychosocial counseling to address the war-related trauma. The program has won wide praise and acclaim and will mainstream into the secondary education system throughout Uganda over time.

UMECS’ all Northern Uganda culturally connected program staff administers these school and community-based programs. In addition, UMECS is soon establishing a youth-led agricultural project geared toward generating school fees for out-of-school youth on self-sufficiency, entrepreneurship basis. For more information about UMECS, please visit: [www.endchildsoldiering.org](http://www.endchildsoldiering.org)

UMECS’ partner in the **Books for Northern Uganda Schools Campaign** is St. Paul, MN-based **Books for Africa** which for the past twenty years has been sending high quality text and library books to primary and secondary schools in twenty-five African countries. For $28,000 including assembly, packing and shipping costs, **Books for Africa** will be shipping a full container of high quality, course specific secondary school text books (over 15,000 books) and thirty brand new, high capacities, fully programmed computers to secondary schools in Northern Uganda. We, Nyumburu Cultural Center, are leading the campaign to raise these funds which will bring these needed books and computers to secondary school classrooms and libraries in Northern Uganda. For more information about **Books for Africa**, please visit [www.booksforafrica.org](http://www.booksforafrica.org)

This is our second **Books for Northern Uganda Schools Campaign**. Last year, as a result of our first campaign, thousands of books were distributed to secondary schools in Northern Uganda. This includes enough books to launch the Nyumburu Cultural Center School Library at Gulu College Secondary School in Gulu, Northern Uganda, a school library that is now making a huge difference in teaching, learning and student performance at a school which educates over 1,200 students. Earlier this year, UMECS hosted a Nyumburu Cultural Center journey to Northern Uganda to visit the schools and school libraries in Gulu and Amuru districts that were the recipient of our first books campaign. This included our participation at a major event at Gulu College Secondary School to celebrate and officially launch the Nyumburu Cultural Center School Library.

This year’s campaign – with a $28,000 goal - is designed to send thousands of more books to Northern Uganda Secondary Schools and launch high capacity computer training programs at two secondary schools.
Northern Uganda Secondary Schools. So far, various campus departments and student groups at the University of Maryland-College Park have committed their support to the campaign and this number will grow. We will be conducting trainings to ensure the service learning component of this campaign builds student skills for future projects.

Your immediate support of this project will help to create momentum for this campaign and tangibly contribute to the educational empowerment of war-affected children and youth in Northern Uganda by providing the books needed for their classrooms and libraries. Here’s how you can help now.

**All donations to the project are made to Books for Africa.**

You may do so in two ways:

**A. You may make a secure online tax-deductible donation.** Click on this Books for Africa link to the Books for Northern Uganda Schools project, [https://www.booksforafrica.org/donate/to-project.html?projectId=64](https://www.booksforafrica.org/donate/to-project.html?projectId=64) then click onto the blue **Donate Now** button. (Or visit the Books for Africa website, [www.booksforafrica.org](http://www.booksforafrica.org) then click on **Donate Now**, then **Donate to a Project**, then **Uganda/Books for Northern Uganda Schools**).

**B. You may send a check.** To do so, please note the information just below:

1. Please make your tax deductible check payable to: **Books for Africa**

2. Please **note** on the memo part of the check the following: **UMECS/Nyumburu Books for Northern Uganda Schools**

3. Please **send** your check to:

Nyumburu Cultural Center
University of Maryland – College Park
Nyumburu Building #232, Suite 1120
ATTN: Solomon Comissiong
College Park, MD  20742

**Yours will be a lasting gift, a gift that will change the world.**

Sincerely,

**Solomon Comissiong**

Assistant Director of Student Involvement and Public Relations
Nyumburu Indigenous African Language Program

This academic year I started an African indigenous language program. The goal of this program is to introduce students to African culture by way of teaching them African languages. I decided to start with Kiswahili. The program has been a great success thus far. I utilize my experience with Kiswahili as well as the Living Language Program as teaching tools. I also utilize the skills of one on my student workers who happens to be fluent in Kiswahili. He facilitates many of the classes, which meet every Thursday from 3 PM – 5 PM.

This program is designed to expose students to various indigenous African languages such as Kiswahili while educating them about the cultures in which those languages are spoken. Students will be immersed in cooperative conversation based activities aimed at teaching them how to speak the designated language/s. This program is free and open to all students from various levels of experience.

OUTREACH WORK

Cesar Chavez Middle School visit (October 2011)

I was a co-organizer for an all day event that brought students and teachers from Cesar Chavez Middle School to visit UMD. Their tour concluded with a panel discussion from current UMD students of color and guest lectures from faculty/staff. This event brought in about 80 students from this DC middle school. It was an outstanding event.

I was also asked to visit Martin Luther King, Jr. Middle School in Beltsville Maryland to give a talk on Black History and Media Literacy to an audience of 500 students. I went as an ambassador of the Nyumburu Cultural Center.
Pre-Law School Workshop

On March 7, 2012 I set up a Pre-Law workshop for students with an interest in Law School. Invited former Georgetown Law School Associate Dean, Everett Bellamy, to facilitate this workshop. He detailed to students exactly what they would need to do to prepare themselves to be viable candidates for Law School. They students that attended found the workshop to be extremely helpful in outlined their necessary tasks for Law School candidacy.

Career Preparation Workshop

On February 15, 2012 I put together a Career Preparation Workshop that was facilitated by Career Center Program Director, Pamela Allen. Pamela Allen explained to students what resources are offered by the Career Center and how they can utilize them. She also worked with students on how to structure a professional looking resume. It was an extremely important and informative workshop. Students were able to gain a much deeper insight regarding preparation for their eventual post graduation employment.

First Maryland State Screening of “Growing Change”

On February 17, 2012 I set up a Nyumburu Screening of the critically acclaimed documentary, “Growing Change”. “Growing Change” is a documentary about the current sustainable food revolution in Venezuela and how local communities, through the assistance of the government, are producing and distributing healthy organic produce and foods. At the core of the documentary is the countrywide process toward food sovereignty, social justice and sustainability. It was a powerful and educational film screening which students, faculty, and community members, alike, attended. The Labor Secretary for the Venezuelan Embassy, Marcos Garcia, attended the screening as well. Many of the communities featured within the film were Afro-Venezuelan.

Nyumburu Media Initiative

This past 2011/2012 academic year I continued the Nyumburu Media Initiative for the students I work with within the Nyumburu Black Male Initiative Program as well as the Leadership Program. Thus far this initiative has been an enormous success. The Nyumburu Media Initiative has two primary foci, a Visual/Film Media component and a Radio/Audio component.
This project has enabled students to utilize an online radio platform, and a digital video camera to express themselves, as well as to report on issues that are important to them. They ameliorated their overall research skills in order to garner news from around the globe. This past year the students completed two documentaries, one on food and eating habits, the other on the issue of police brutality. This program continues to grow throughout the years to come. The radio phase of the project has already garnered thousands of consistent listeners. The websites are: /www.blogtalkradio.com/unitv-radio & www.youtube.com/unitvmedia and www.nyumburu.blip.tv.

At the end of the year students participated in a panel discussion centered on various social issues and what their solutions are to these issues. This dialogue was filmed and uploaded onto YouTube. The students did an outstanding job in articulating themselves and displaying a comprehensive understanding of various issues.
# APPENDIX

## Multipurpose Room Usage

### Fall Semester 2011
(September 2011-December 2011)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Month</th>
<th>No. of Reservations/month</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>September 2011</td>
<td>34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October 2011</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 2011</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December 2011</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total Semester Reservations = 119
Narrative: The Multipurpose Room is utilized by Student Organizations, Academic Departments, and External Customers for a variety of programmatic activities (e.g., meetings, conferences, receptions, workshops, and classes.)