

Nommo

NEWSLETTER OF THE ASSOCIATION FOR BLACK CULTURE CENTERS

Fall 2014

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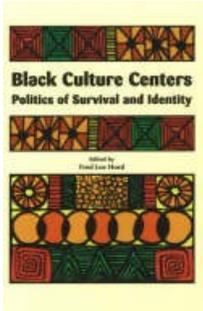
Book Power

Recent releases in literature, history, and culture.

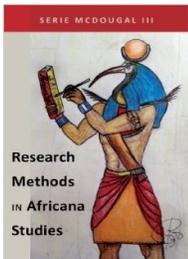
45 Years & Counting: A Perspective on BNAACC

By Rory James

Director, Bruce D. Nesbitt African American Cultural Center



Black Culture Centers: Politics of Survival and Identity
Edited by Fred L. Hord
Third World Press



Research Methods in Africana Studies
By Serie McDougal III
Peter Lang Publishing

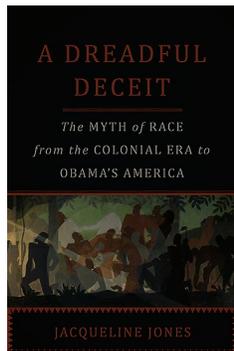


The Black Power Mixtape: 1967-1975
By Goran Hugo Olsson
Haymarket Books, Chicago

More books on page 2



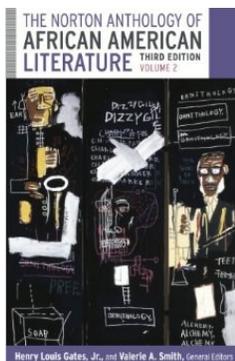
The Bruce D. Nesbitt African American Cultural Center (BNAACC) Center will host professionals and students from across the country for the Association for Black Culture Centers' Annual Conference this month, and we are truly honored to do so. The conference's theme—"Culture Centers in Higher Education: 45 Years of Identity, Innovation, and Intersectionality"—is relevant to us and sister culture centers founded between the 1968-1970 academic years. Over 45 forty years ago, Illinois embarked upon one of the most ambitious affirmative action programs of any major public university, Project 500. In 1968, following the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., the University of Illinois created the Special Education Opportunity Program (SEOP), designed to admit and support 500 disadvantaged, mostly black students in the entering fall Class of 1968. This influx of students had a major effect on the University, and the campus culture underwent substantial changes. That following spring a group of black students submitted a list of demands to University of Illinois Chancellor Jack Peltason, calling for the end of institutional racism. One of the demands called for the immediate establishment of a black cultural center large enough to serve the needs of black students and the community. In the fall of 1969, the Afro-American Cultural Program opened its doors. *Continued on page 9...*



A Dreadful Deceit: The Myth of Race from the Colonial Era to Obama's America
By Jacqueline Jones
Basic Books



Norton Anthology of African American Literature, Vol 1
By Henry Louis Gates, Jr. and Valerie A. Smith
W. W. Norton & Company



Norton Anthology of African American Literature, Vol 2
By Henry Louis Gates, Jr. and Valerie A. Smith
W. W. Norton & Company

ABCC President's Corner

Dr. Rodney T. Cohen
Assistant Dean of Yale College and Director
Afro-American Cultural Center-Yale University



As I sit on campus and enter the final planning stages of the 45th Anniversary of the black cultural center at Yale officially known as the Afro-American Cultural Center, I also sit in a dual role of working with the final planning of the 24th annual conference of the Association for Black Culture Centers (ABCC). Both institutions that I am proud to represent have reached a critical milestone, one 45 years and the other 25 years, and as with any organization with longevity, it existed before your arrival, and you hope that it will continue to exist after your departure. Milestones tend to bring about celebration, a reflection on where you have been and where you hope to go, an acknowledgment of the luminaries who made possible its

existence and the other acknowledgment of individuals lauded and unsung who played a role along the way. But what is often missing in the conversation is the continued need and relevance of that organization in the current climate and context of its existence. All organizations and institutions have faced or will face this dilemma.

Now at a quarter century mark, ABCC is taking a hard look at what it will do in order to continue its role as an organizer and advocate for the hundreds of culture centers it serves. ABCC, along with the many black (and multicultural) centers we advocate for, are challenged to stay current, relevant and effective in a period of limited resources and notions of a post racial society. Since many of our Centers arose out of the radicalized strife and racial conflict of the 1960s, some suggest that these institutions have become outdated and balkanizing in the Age-of-Obama.

I have always argued that the true value of an organization is not during its early years of existence, but its true value really kicks in after years of testing, challenges and a harsh crucible of seasoning. Early on in their histories, many of these Centers served as safe-houses, literally protecting small numbers of black students on white campuses from hostile students, stares and language. It was a place for students to call home and feel safe to be “black” and do black stuff.

Today, many campuses do not have to face constant bombardment of racial hostility of the past, but there still remains an atmosphere of fear and lack of knowledge related to many cultures. The role of the cultural center today is potentially more robust than it was 45 years ago. These centers can provide the critical out-of-classroom experience of the Diaspora through conversation, music, discussion, cuisine, debate and expression, fully integrated in the academy while pushing to enrich the academy.

In this light, ABCC is moving in a direction of thinking critically about long term sustainability and how to also think about partnering and collaborating with organizations that share a similar mission and vision. In a recent article in DIVERSE magazine, Dr. Fred Hord and I had an opportunity to discuss the direction of ABCC and the thought process behind this move. ABCC, like the many cultural centers that seek to survive and thrive, must think about some new and innovative things that will address the next 45 – 50 years of black culture on college campuses.

Executive Director's Report

By Dr. Fred Hord, ABCC Executive Director and Founder
Knox College

In the months since NOMMO was published online last spring, much good has happened. This short summary will focus on the following matters: 1.) ABCC feature story in *Diverse*, 2.) formal working relationships with the major student activity and Black academic organizations, 3.) sharpening/revising of accreditation booklet and outline, and 4.) current benefits of ABCC institutional membership.

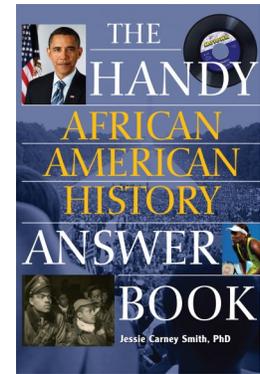
The multi-page feature story on ABCC in the Academic Kickoff Issue of *Diverse* was especially significant. Journalist Ken Cooper conducted a lengthy interview with ABCC President, Dr. Rodney Cohen- Yale University and the Executive Director. (There will be a few free copies of that issue at the conference.)



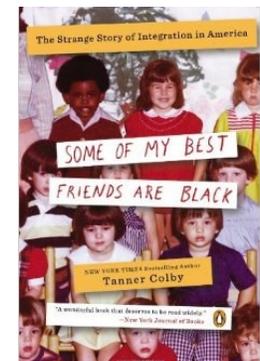
Certainly, the work ABCC has done since spring on the consolidation and further formalizing of collaborative work with the major student-activity and Black academic national organizations has increased our visibility as an organization connecting campus groups and connecting Centers with the larger community. The following is a very brief summary of where the ABCC is with these organizations, focusing on those collaborations which seem most likely to benefit both us and our partner. With the National Association for Student Personnel Administrators and the Association for College Personnel Administrators, we have really moved on some incredible initiatives, including the late April Webinar with NASPA and the recent acceptance of our proposal to present at next year's annual conference of the ACPA. With the National Association of Chief Diversity Officers, we have chosen to accept their offer of having a Professional Organizational Membership, which provides an entry to a member of multiple beneficial projects. With the American Association of Blacks in Higher Education, we have already committed to representation at the next annual conference and shall be sending them an article to publish in their new journal. And although we do not have new agreements for collaborative work with the National Council for Black Studies and the Association for the Study of African American History and Culture, we continue to work with their current Presidents to arrive at an arrangement suitable for all.

The ABCC continues to refine and simplify our process of accrediting Centers. Nonetheless, it is vital that we protect its vigor. Board member, Dr. Tashia Bradley, Colby College, and I recently took another look at our two documents—one the fall, formal one and the other a clear outline of the process providing enough information for Center Directors to explain the importance of Centers negotiating the entire process, and to make persuasive case for its increasing their visibility, variability, and credibility. There will be a brief report at the conference on a couple of Centers that are leading the way in this most significant initiative.

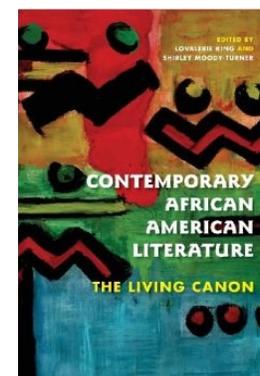
The revised list of benefits for ABCC institutional members is on our website at www.abcc.net. Review it, and let us know what you think, including sharing other benefits with us that would make ABCC membership even more attractive. They include 1) access to formal accreditation process, 2) our independent speakers bureau; 3) book and DVD discounts; 4) conference registration discounts; 5) newsletters; 6) networking with all active Black and Multiculture Centers; 7) job bank postings; 8) professional development at Pre-Conference Institutes.; 9) publication possibilities in the ABCC series of books on Centers; and 10) conference student track if your Institution is a college or university.



The Handy African American History Answer Book
By Jessie Carney Smith
Visible Ink Press

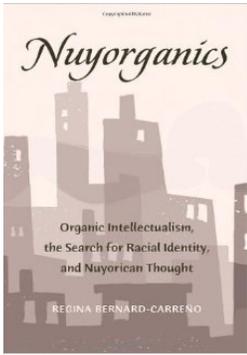


Some of My Best Friends Are Black
By Tanner Colby
Penguin Group

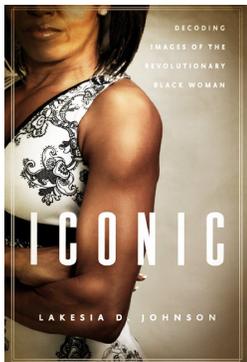


Contemporary African American Literature: The Living Canon
Edited by Loyalerie King and Shirley Moody-Turner
Indiana University Press

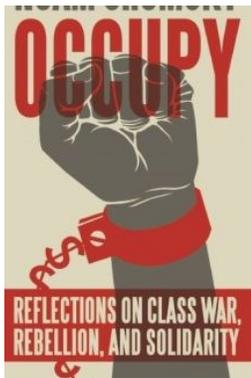
More books on page 4



Nuyorganics Organic Intellectualism, the Search for Racial Identity, and Nuyorican Thought
By Regina Bernard-Carreno
Peter Lang Intl. Academic Publishers



Iconic: Decoding Images of the Revolutionary Black Woman
By Lakesia D. Johnson
Baylor University Press



Occupy: Reflections on Class War, Rebellion, and Solidarity.
By Noam Chomsky
Zuccotti Park Press

More books on page 6

NU Students Take A Stand!

By Dr. Richard O'Bryant, Director of The John D. O'Bryant African-American Institute



On Wednesday September 17, 2014, Northeastern University students took a stand in support of the people of Ferguson, Missouri, Mike Brown and Mike Brown's family!

Inspired by the organizing of the National Pan Hellenic Council (NPHC) - Northeastern University chapter, students gathered at Krentzman Quadrangle and marched across campus to the John D. O'Bryant African American Institute in a show of support and solidarity with the people of Ferguson Missouri, Mike Brown and Mike Brown's family. Mike Brown is the young black man that was shot and killed by a Ferguson Missouri Police officer. Several nights of public protest, unrest and police intervention brought the events to national prominence and attention.

Leading a peaceful demonstration, the group of more than 75 students, staff and faculty marched down the pathway next to Ell Hall and Curry Student Center, through Snell quad, continuing down the walkway next to Egan Engineering building, crossing Forsyth Street (with NUPD present), through Centennial commons and ending at the front of the Institute. The students loudly, forcefully, but respectfully chanted "NU - for Mike Brown", "Hands up - Don't Shoot", "No Justice - No Peace," and "Justice - it starts with us." The procession, on a mild Wednesday September evening, echoed throughout the campus and attracted new participants of various races, ethnicities and backgrounds along the way.

The march concluded at the Institute with a group photo (see above) and students with their hands up repeating the chants. The evening ended with a panel discussion about Ferguson and police brutality, sponsored by the brothers of Iota Phi Theta Fraternity, Incorporated. The panel included a law student, community activist, a Boston police officer and an NU professor.

The Northeastern staff at the John D. O'Bryant African American Institute and the Center for Student Involvement that supported the students were very proud of the way the students conducted themselves in an orderly, professional, but firm manner to get their message and public support expressed.

Well done students, well done!

Stay connected with the ABCC on your device

By Donnie Forti, ABCC Webmaster

Staying connected with the ABCC and its members is easier with the ABCC app for your phone or tablet.

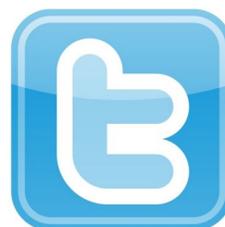
From conference updates to the latest job opportunities at our institutional members, the ABCC app keeps you updated wherever you are. The app also allows you to contact ABCC headquarters with your comments and questions. Visit the iTunes App store or Google Play store to download this free app.

In addition to the app, the ABCC launched two efforts on ABCC.net to better connect institutional members. First, we have links to ABCC member Centers with Facebook and Twitter accounts at www.abcc.net/directory. We invite you to follow all of our member Centers to share ideas. You can also find ABCC headquarters on Twitter @abcc1987 and Facebook at www.facebook.com/AssociationForBlackCultureCenters.

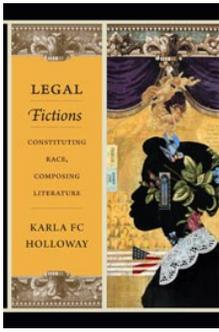
The second effort is a page on ABCC.net for events and programming on your campus. At www.abcc.net/campus, we will post your events. From conferences to concerts, we hope the page becomes a spot to showcase the unique programming at our member Centers.

As 2015 draws closer, the ABCC is preparing to redesign ABCC.net. The new site will use responsive design to detect your device's screen size and adjust the layout accordingly. The goal is to complete the site by mid-2015.

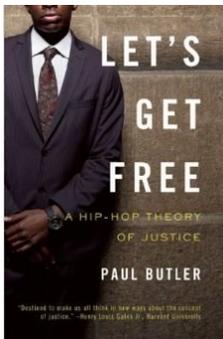
A strong website depends on great content. If you have photos or video of events your Center has organized, share them on our Facebook page or Tweet us. We look forward to showing and sharing how your Center is impacting your campus on ABCC.net.



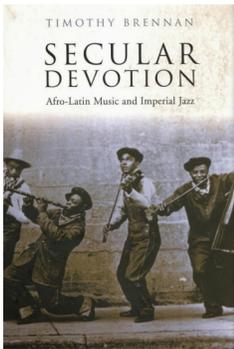
**Be sure to be added to the ABCC List-serve
so that you can get updated information from the National Headquarters!**
Please visit the ABCC website at www.abcc.net
Follow the link to provide information so you can receive regular updates about conferences, newsletters, and other workings of the ABCC. Join now!



Legal Fictions: Constituting Race, Composing Literature
By Karla FC Holloway
Duke University



Let's Get Free: A Hip-Hop Theory of Justice
By Paul Butler
The New Press



Secular Devotion: Afro-Latin Music and Imperial Jazz
By Timothy Brennan
Verso Publishers

University of West Georgia's Honors recognizes first African American Student

Submitted by: Deirdre Rouse, Director , UWG Center for Diversity & Inclusion



The summer of 1963 proved to be a pivotal year for the University of West Georgia, nestled in Carrollton Georgia. Mrs. Lillian Williams became the first African-American student to enroll at the University of West Georgia - then West Georgia College and graduate in 1967. On April 12, 2014, during the annual alumni weekend, the University of West Georgia (UWG) recognized the significance and impact of Lillian Williams by celebrating the 50th anniversary of her enrollment year with a dedication and tree planting ceremony involving Mrs. Williams' family, UWG faculty, staff, and students, along with community members. Mrs. Lillian Williams, a beloved Carroll County educator, left behind a legacy of strength, courage, and commitment for all future students. It is apparent that the seed Mrs. Williams has sown has produced a legacy of commitment toward

education. Due to Mrs. Williams' strong passion for education, the inaugural Lillian Williams Scholarship is being implemented by the UWG Development & Alumni office and the Williams family. Additionally, culminating the celebration on September 9th and 13th, the University of West Georgia produced and held a viewing of a documentary video and exhibit honoring Mrs. Williams, which will be permanently housed in Ingram Library located on campus.

The Dr. Fred L. Hord Legends and Legacy Award

The Legends and Legacy Award is given to someone who has made invaluable contributions to the Association for Black Culture Centers over an extended period of time. In 2011, it was given to Dr. Fred L. Hord, ABCC Executive Director, Founder, past President and Current Executive Director.

In 2012, it was given to Mr. Charles Brown of Indiana State University. Last year, we had three recipients: Dr. Eric Abercrombie, University of Cincinnati, Dr. Francis Dorsey, Kent State University, and Ms. Terry Duffy, ABCC Executive Assistant at National Headquarters.

The latest release from California Newsreel. Available in May 2014

This award-winning and timely documentary **by Black filmmakers** boldly examines the challenges facing African American communities regarding the issue of LGBT civil rights.

THE NEW BLACK



"A rare exploration of divergent views among African Americans about same-sex marriage. Stunningly balanced, complex, nuanced, and compelling, the film makes an important contribution to Black political history."
—**Beverly Guy-Sheftall, Spelman College**

"By showing how one community struggles to reconcile its religious convictions with its love for its LGBT brothers and sisters, The New Black assails the myth that African Americans are more homophobic than other groups."
—**E. Patrick Johnson, Northwestern University**

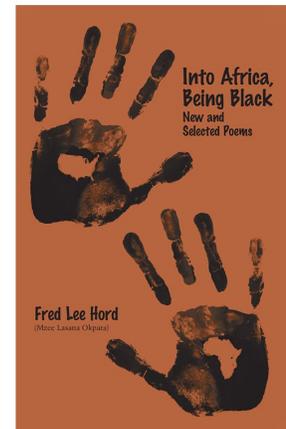
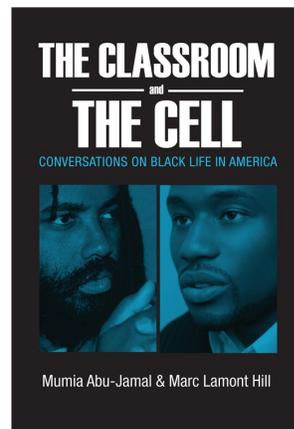
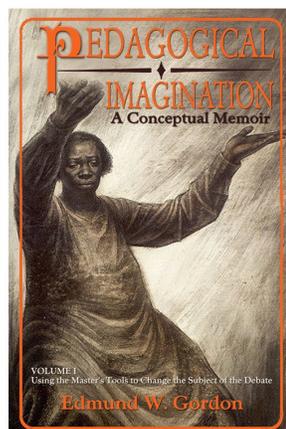
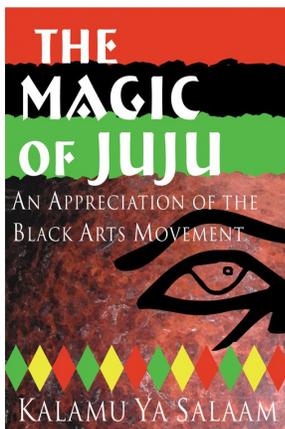
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Diverse scope**



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Diverse is the only bi-weekly national print newsmagazine focusing on matters of access, opportunity, and inclusion for all in higher education.

Diverse magazine and **Diverse Online News** are also available on the iPad!



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www.DiverseEducation.com

ASSOCIATION FOR BLACK CULTURE CENTERS

24th Annual Conference

"Culture Centers in Higher Education: 45 Years of Identity, Innovation & Intersectionality"

Featured Speakers



Damien Conners
Southern Christian
Leadership Conference,
Inc.



Dr. Helen Neville
University of Illinois at
Urbana-Champaign



Dr. Peniel E. Joseph
Tufts University



Harriet Washington
Author, *Medical
Apartheid*

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Oct. 30-Nov. 2, 2014

45 Years & Counting: A Perspective on BNAACC ...continued from page 1

By Rory James, Director-Bruce D. Nesbitt African American Cultural Center



As the current director I stand in awe of the legacies forged by the former BNAACC directors and staff, dedicated alumni, and the countless unsung heroes who advocated for an inclusive campus for our African American brothers and sisters. Additionally, my staff and I strive to create sustainable programs that honor our rich history while simultaneously developing our African American students culturally, professionally and socially. BNAACC remains a hub for artistic expression via our Academy of African American Arts, WBML Radio, and the University of Illinois Black Chorus. We address African American student retention and first-year transition via our 100 STRONG Retention Program. We expose our students to campus resources, faculty research and civic engagement through our “Food for the Soul” Lunch Series held every Wednesday throughout the year. Lastly, we are venturing into new territories by incorporating innovative programming and STEM outreach via our “Black Geek Week” and collaborations with National Society of Black Engineers (NSBE), National Organization of Minority Architects (NOMA), and others.

Brothers and sisters, 2014 has been a whirlwind year so far for BNAACC, and we have been presented with a plethora of opportunities; nonetheless, it has not come without its challenges. This past August our center relocated from the “Black House” of 30+ years, to a temporary location on the Champaign side of campus. This relocation was rooted in the demands of our concerned African American students and stakeholders who strongly encouraged university administration to provide better accommodations for the students and staff who utilize the center in the spring 2014 semester. This was one of many climate concerns brought forward by our students who were inspired by the social media campaigns of Black students at the University of Michigan, UCLA and Harvard University. Similarly, our undergraduates began a social media hashtag (#BeingBlackatIllinois) which resonated with many students of color across the country who have felt marginalized at predominantly white institutions. This semester we have continued these vital conversations with Illinois administrators, and we are currently discussing how the institution can address the decreasing African American student enrollment and increase our yield of African American first-years. Student activism is part of this center’s legacy, and we are fortunate to have several administrators who are attentive to our students’ needs. That does not mean our work is complete though!

We remain a vibrant and active Black Cultural Center. When you arrive in Urbana-Champaign on Thursday October 30, 2014, I encourage all of you to converse with our students and colleagues. I truly believe there is power in us creating a universal voice of advocacy for culture centers and the monumental work we do on college campuses. We know our centers to be safe havens for so many. Nevertheless, that message must be consistent not only at Illinois—but at Purdue, Yale, Knox, Vanderbilt, Cleveland State and other institutions. The University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign is a great and distinguished institution that continues to groom the brightest minds and graduate some of the most impressive alumni in the world. BNAACC remains a relevant and integral part of this institution, and we will always advocate for the African American students who are our primary stakeholders.

Diverse Issues in Higher Education did a feature story on ABCC in the August 28th Academic Kickoff issue. The story, by Kenneth J. Copper, was titled "Black Culture Centers are Embracing Multiculturalism and Intellectual Conversation."

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Diversity Counts! Cultural Center – Embracing the Old but Engaging the New

By Dr. Carolyn Princes, IUP African American Cultural Center Director



Society today is quite different from the days when ethnic culture centers first began. Simply put, diversity is the way of the future and not just a passing fad. Amid fast and natural occurring demographic shifts and increasing technological and global changes, our students' environment, beliefs, and experiences are also different. Although the landscape is and has been changing, most social measures suggest that our students still need us today, and that our goal and fight are no less relevant or complex than what it was 45 years ago. Like higher education in general, cultural centers must

change, and change rather quickly, if they are to remain viable institutions that help with meeting the continuing need of students of color. They must work to help produce "an educated workforce" that needs individuals who have the ability to work more effectively with people of racially/culturally different and diverse backgrounds, but must be more innovative and creative in their operations and perhaps more so than what was originally required.

They must also remain true to their historical and traditional mission, but be as inclusive as possible, relevant, engaging, and "real." They must employ new or different paradigms for sustainability and for reaching their target populations. This to say that, as culture centers attempt to prepare students to be lifelong learners in a world that is changing daily and almost faster than the speed of light, they must function in accord with how our students see and do things today. Further, as higher education administrators attempt to deal with shrinking budgets, fiscal restraints, and a slew of other social, political, and economic issues (e.g., growing technologies, diversity, and limited resources), culture centers work must demonstrate to administrators, as they do to students, that a focus on diversity in its broadest sense includes, not excludes our students as part of the equation. And perhaps most important, culture centers must continue to show and/or impart programs that demonstrate to Universities how they are helping them to meet their current and future objectives (learning outcomes, etc.). Lastly, culture centers must work to bring University administrators and others back into a world which many of still do not fully understand, or perhaps, even want to understand.

Using a combination of theory, practice, realism, and student involvement, IUP African American Cultural Center introduced the Diversity Counts Program during spring 2013. As a comprehensive diversity initiative that encompasses the office's major programming and service efforts, it is an incentive-driven program that uses an ethnic-based approach to enhancing diversity consciousness and student success. It is opened to all students, and some serve as Diversity Advocates, earning a small stipend for their participation as well points for a diversity certificate and raffle tickets that provide them with opportunities to receive various office or donated prizes. Faculty involvement and support are mainstays of the program. The program also encompasses student learning outcomes that are intentional and consistent with the mission of the University and the Division. A program-specific report is produced, and its outcomes are incorporated into the office's annual report. In general, this highly interactive, fun learning experience has been well-received by the University community. A directive was received for 2013-2014 to extend the program across the campus resident halls of approximately 4,400 students and, besides a total remodeling of the AACC office, the office also received a 200 percent increase in funding for the program itself, as well as funds to establish a Multicultural Suite. Statistically significant differences were found among the participant's diversity learning, and in and of itself, the latter received a nearly unbelievable positive reaction while students of the Cultural Center have shown an excitement, an engagement, and an identification with the Center that is almost beyond anything that I have seen in a long time.

In sum, alone, the historical practices of cultural centers just won't work anymore. Diversity Counts! But so do the historical/social, cultural, and educational needs of African American and other traditionally URM's. Cultural Centers work must always be seen as a work in progress, not static, but fluid. "Any student who emerges into our culturally diverse society speaking only one language and with a monocultural perspective on the world can legitimately be considered educationally ill-prepared," and part of the duty of culture centers is to help make sure this happens. As the Ethiopian proverb states: "when spider webs unite, they can tie up a lion."

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Afro-American Cultural Center's 45th: Celebrating a Legacy of Leadership

By Michael Morand



Shades, the undergraduate a cappella group, was among the groups performing at the student showcase at the AACCC 45th anniversary (Photo by Ifeanyi Awichie)

In a session looking at the history of “The House” at the opening of the weekend’s celebration, Azmar Williams ’15 quoted the founders as he urged those assembled to look forward: “The history of the Afro-American Cultural Center or ‘The House’ as many of us like to call it is, primarily, a history of how students have shaped ‘The House’ and how ‘The House’ has shaped students,” he said. “From its inception, the center has stood not only as a nexus for mentorship, scholarship, and activism, but also as a launching pad for leaders in a wide and ever-growing range of fields. Over the past 45 years, the center has grown to reflect a more diverse black community at Yale — serving as a safe haven and place of refuge for students from all over the African diaspora — and has carried its mission beyond Yale and New Haven to communities around the globe.

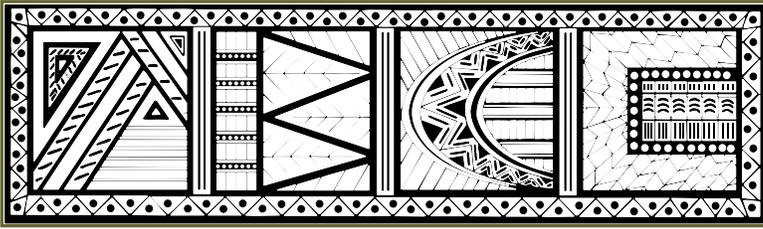
Street Renamed in Honor of the Institute of Positive Education

By Terry L. Duffy, ABCC Executive Assistant
ABCC National headquarters— Knox College

Congratulations to Professor Haki Madhubuti, (Third World Press).

The city of Chicago acknowledged the contributions of the Institute of Positive Education by giving the 7800 block of South Ellis Avenue the honorary name of ‘Institute of Positive Education Way’. This tribute was in recognition of the 45 years that the Institute has worked tirelessly in that community. On Friday, October 24, 2014, the new sign was unveiled in a ceremony with local residents, businesses and dignitaries in attendance.

The National Association for Black Culture Centers (ABCC) is proud to honor one of its very best supporters.



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