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Black Alumni

A publication of the MU Alumni Association • Fall 1998

Celebrating a cultural cornucopia

Center stands as a symbol of MU's commitment to diversity.

Harambe!" shouts Karsten Cash. "Harambe!" echoes the crowd. With this African tradition known as call and response, the Black Culture Center's grand opening ceremony got under way Sept. 3.

"Harambe is a Swahili word for unity," Cash, director of the center, told the more than 200 guests. "I felt that was quite appropriate for today, as we are all gathered here unified to commemorate this special occasion."

Dance, drums, jazz, a poetry reading, speeches and another African tradition called libation added to the ceremony's success.

"It's good that after so long, the University has finally made a real visual and physical commitment toward Pan-African and African-American student life," says Mark Miller, president of the MU Alumni Association and long-time Black Alumni Organization board member.

"This is a milestone, and it should say a lot to alumni, students, the black community and the Missouri community as a whole that the University is a partner in ensuring our success and support."

When MU made a commitment to further diversity, part of that commitment was the building of a new \$2.4 million Black Culture Center that would promote the expansion of multicultural programming to benefit all students, faculty and staff. The center was funded through the generosity of the University and private contributions.

The 11,000-square-foot building replaces the Black Culture Center, which opened in 1978 on Virginia Avenue. The first Black Culture house opened in 1972 on Turner Avenue. The new center at 813 Virginia Ave. houses a computer lab with 20 workstations, a multipurpose

room with video equipment furnished by the MU Parents Association, meeting rooms for campus organizations, administrative offices and a full kitchen.

Classes, meetings, banquets, events and other activities will be held in the center, which also has several study areas. Regular programming will include lecture series, poetry and jazz nights, art exhibits, food festivals and seminars.

Cash says he expects the center to buzz with activities that represent the campus's diverse populations. As director, his sights are set on creating a well-rounded experience for African-American, Hispanic, Asian and Native American groups, giving students of color opportunities to delve into their own culture and history as well as giving white students opportunities to learn more about the richness of MU's divergent cultures.

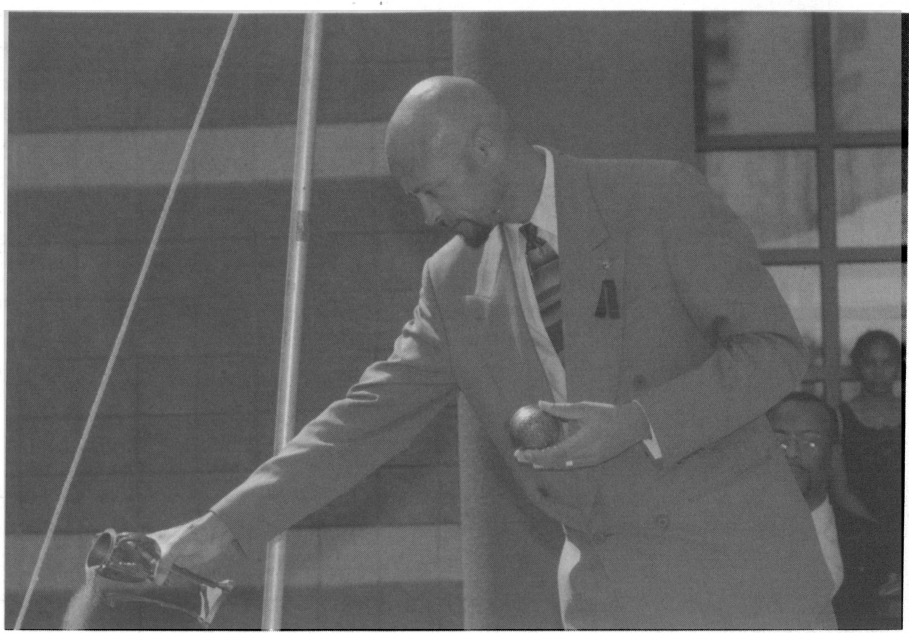
"Our vision is to provide students of color a home away from home

See Center on Page 6

At the Black Culture Center's grand opening Sept. 3, Michael Middleton performed a libation, an African ritual recognizing ancestors by pouring African soil onto the ground. Following tradition, the acting deputy chancellor and interim vice provost for minority affairs and faculty development, sprinkled dirt from West Africa on the ground in front of the new building.

Middleton called upon the ancestors' spirit to consecrate the Black Culture Center as a place where all people may gather "to discover and appreciate the beauty that we see in, and the strength that we derive from, our difference; to the end that they may grow stronger and become more responsible citizens of the world and stewards of its bounty."

Nancy O'Connor photo



Dear Friends,

The new Black Culture Center has finally arrived. And it is magnificent. Many of you were on hand Oct. 16 and 17 to see its splendor for yourself. We hope you enjoyed celebrating with us Homecoming '98 along with the 30th anniversary of the Legion of Black Collegians while getting to know the new Black Culture Center.

What did you think about the new prospective BAO conference room? We want to dedicate this room to you — our BAO members and friends. But in order to make the organization's presence in the new center a reality, we need your financial support.

As you know, a campaign to raise the \$25,000 needed to dedicate and name the conference room was announced Sept. 3 at the center's official grand opening ceremony. We have already raised \$2,500 toward supplying the room with books and periodicals. Please help us raise the remaining \$22,500.

Our goal is to have all pledges in hand by Homecoming 1999, which marks the 20th anniversary of the BAO. Use the form on Page 3 to make your pledge to be paid over a two-year period, or to send in an outright donation. Gifts of \$100 or more will be recognized on a plaque in the room. Gifts of \$500 or more will be noted on the center's major donor wall.

We hope you will join us in supporting the Black Culture Center. This partnership between the BAO and the University points to a new tradition of support for black students, black alumni and our black student organizations. It's been a long time coming, but it's here. We need your support to ensure the Black Culture Center and the BAO conference room are here for all of us now and for generations to come.

With questions about your gifts, which are tax deductible, call Shannon Sowell, director of development for student affairs, at (573) 884-1810.

Sincerely,

Mark A. Miller, president
MU Alumni Association

LaTia King Westfall, president
Black Alumni Organization

BAO Officers

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Immediate past president

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St. Louis

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Glenn Ellis, BS '84, MA '97, St. Louis

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Karsten Cash, director, Black Culture
Center

Michael Middleton, acting deputy
chancellor, interim vice provost for
minority affairs and faculty development

Charles Sampson, interim dean, Graduate
School

Family, friends: Support us

The Black Alumni Organization is working hard to increase its membership. At the grand opening of the new Black Culture Center Sept. 3, we simultaneously initiated the 1998-99 official BAO membership drive.

Our goal is to get 200 new members by Homecoming 1999, which commemorates the 20th anniversary of BAO.

To achieve this goal, we are targeting several groups, starting with people for whom we have current addresses on file who are receiving BAO's newsletter, other Mizzou publications and MU Alumni Association invitations.

- Other groups include
- currently enrolled black students
 - former BAO members
 - recent graduates worldwide
 - graduates from Columbia, Kansas City and St. Louis
 - black faculty and staff on campus
 - board member professional and personal contacts
 - international students

■ associate members, or "friends of BAO."

If you have ideas on how the BAO can effectively reach these primary support groups or others, please contact me. Needless to say, there is a lot of work to be done, and we need your help if we are going to reach our goal of 200 new members by Homecoming '99.

Why should you join the BAO?

Several answers come to mind, the most basic being: MU is doing a lot of good things to improve diversity on campus such as minority scholarships, special recruitment strategies and enhanced retention programs. And what better example of the University's commitment than the new \$2.4 million Black Culture Center?

Another reason for joining the BAO is to support the MU Alumni Association. The association financially supports your local chapter and the school or college from which you graduated.



A native of Kansas City, LeAnn Scott, BS HES '91, MPA '98, is vice president/president-elect of the Black Alumni Organization. Scott, a former MU admissions representative, now serves as coordinator of visitor relations. You can reach her at (573) 882 6333 or Scott@missouri.edu.

See Support on Page 5



University of Missouri-Columbia

I/We wish to join in supporting the Black Culture Center. Please designate my gift of \$_____ to the Black Alumni Organization's pledge for the BAO Conference Room.

I/We pledge \$_____, making payments for _____ year(s) in quarterly or semiannual installments, beginning _____ (month).

Name, please print _____		Spouse's name _____	
Address _____			
City _____	State _____	ZIP Code _____	
() _____	() _____		
Home telephone _____		Work telephone _____	

MU Black Culture Center-BAO

Gift or initial pledge payment of \$_____ is enclosed (payable to University of Missouri-Columbia).

CHARGE VISA MasterCard
 Discover

Expiration date _____
 Card # _____

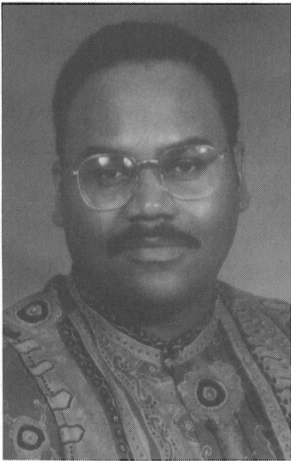
(Signature as name appears on card)

MATCHING GIFTS: Your employer or your spouse's employer may multiply your contribution through a matching-gift program. Please ask your human resource director for the appropriate form.

_____ (name of company) will match this contribution.

Fax to (573) 882-5145, or make check payable to University of Missouri-Columbia, and send to 123 Reynolds Alumni Center, Columbia, Mo. 65211

A Roaring Good Time



Glen Ellis, BS '84, MA '97, of St. Louis served as BAO's 1998 Homecoming chair.

Alumni far and wide caught the Tiger spirit and returned to Ol' Mizzou Oct. 16 and 17 for the Black Alumni Organization's special weekend of Homecoming festivities.

In fine tradition, we also celebrated the 30th anniversary of the Legion of Black Collegians and the grand opening of the new Black Culture Center.

If you missed our party, here are some of the highlights:

On Friday, Oct. 16, the BAO held an elegant open house and reception and the fourth annual scholarship awards program at the Black Culture Center.

Hosted by Debbye Turner, DVM '91, former Miss America and host of KSDK Channel 5's *Show Me St. Louis*, the awards program honored distinguished alumni and committed supporters, BAO student scholars, as well as all founders and officers of LBC. This semiformal affair featured memorable performances by the spirit-lifting LBC Gospel Choir and the soul-stirring Black Theatre Workshop.

This year's scholarship recipients were sophomore Kahaleed Tillman from Joliet, Ill.; junior Ayanna Bell from St. Louis; and graduate student

Maureen Allwood-Gocha from Columbia.

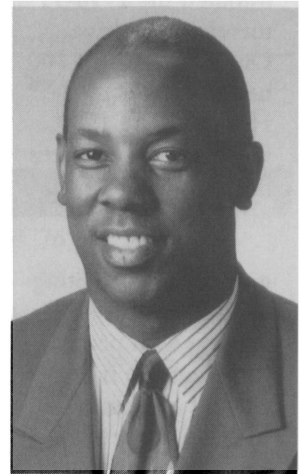
Other honorees were: Jacqueline Coleman, one of MU's first black cheerleaders; Vivian King and Marvin Cobbs, MU's first black reigning Homecoming Queen and King; Floyd Perry Jr., one of the founders of LBC who served as its first adviser; Audrey Wilson Rowe, first African-American cheerleader at MU and in the Big Eight Conference; Russ Mitchell, co-anchor of CBS News Saturday Morning; Clyde Ruffin, founder of the award-winning Black Theatre Workshop; and Arvarh Strickland, professor emeritus of history, MU's first African-American faculty member.

On Saturday, Oct. 17, the BAO gave a Salute to MU's Black Athletes during our annual barbecue preceding the MU vs. Oklahoma football game.

Art Holliday, BJ '76, of KSDK Channel 5 in St. Louis was the master of ceremonies. Kevin "Kevy Kev" Pulley of St. Louis radio station

MAJIC 105 loaned his talents to the cause. All former and current MU athletes were invited to share in this special occasion to honor the first black athletes in MU sports history. A commemorative plaque was dedicated in their honor.

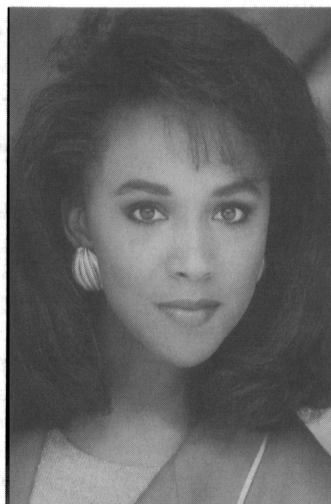
Art Holliday, BJ '76, co-anchor of *Today in St. Louis* on KSDK-TV, was the master of ceremonies for the BAO's Salute to Black Athletes Oct. 17 at the Black Culture Center.



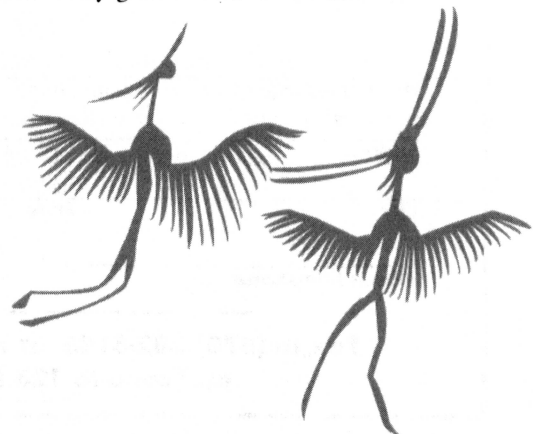
Trailblazers include: Roy Thorpe, baseball; Chanda Johnson, gymnastics; Norris Stevenson, football; Melvin West, football and track; Debra Walker, Myron Smith, Annette Hollins and Pam Green, basketball; Al Abram Jr., basketball; Ritchie Ponquinette, volleyball; and Letitia Moses and Amelia Moses, golf.

The fun continued Saturday night at the Black Culture Center Ol' School Social.

And, by the way, we had a roaring, funky good time! — *Glen Ellis*



Former Miss America Debbye Turner, DVM '91, presided over the BAO's open house and reception Oct. 16 at the Black Culture Center.



Support

From Page 3

To find out just how much your paid membership benefits all of us, log onto the MU Alumni Association's web site at www.mizzou.com.

My overall experience here at MU has been a positive one, and I want that to be the case for all current and future Tigers out there.

LeAnn Scott, BAO vice president/president-elect

How can you help?

Join the BAO. Fill out the membership form to your right and send it to us today.

Then call the MU Alumni Association at 1-800-372-6822 and give us the names and addresses or other pertinent information on any MU relatives or friends you have kept in touch with over the years. Even if you think we might have a particular person's address, call anyway. We would rather be safe than sorry. Once we get current, accurate addresses on people, we can do more to encourage them to join; so please call today.

My overall experience here at MU has been a positive one, and I want that to be the case for all current and future Tigers out there. As alumni and supporters, we have to give back. Please do what you can. We cannot do it without YOU! — *LeAnn Scott*

Black Alumni

is published twice during the academic year by the MU Alumni Association. **Send comments to:** BAO, 123 Reynolds Alumni and Visitor Center, Columbia, Mo. 65211. **Call:** 1-800-372-MUAA or (573) 882-6611. **Fax:** (573) 882-5145. **E-mail:** MUAA@mizzou.com. **Web site:** www.mizzou.com

Todd Coleman, staff liaison to the Black Alumni Organization.



Show your support

for the Black Alumni Organization
by joining the MU Alumni Association

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/ZIP _____

Class year _____ Student # _____ Phone () _____

Spouse attended MU. Spouse's name _____

Charge VISA card # _____

MasterCard # _____

Discover card # _____

Signature _____

(required for credit card use)

BAO

Annual Membership Fees

Student\$15

Dual student\$22.50

(Students may charge dues to their student ID accounts.)

Individual\$30

Individual 65 or older\$20

Dual\$45

Dual 65 or older\$30

Faculty-staff\$20

Dual faculty-staff\$30

Fax membership to (573) 882-5145 or make check payable to:

MU Alumni Association and return to Membership,

123 Reynolds Alumni Center,

Columbia, Mo. 65211.

Center

From Page 1

where they can find personal, professional and academic support," Cash says. "That's why it is imperative we accomplish and maintain professional programs here, and work on student growth and development," he says, adding the more all students become involved with the center, the more the University sees its re-investment in the Black Culture Center was a great investment.

"BAO is privileged to support such a dynamic institution," says LaTia King Westfall, president of the Black Alumni Organization. "The facility offers a lot of new space for students and alumni to learn, socialize and relax."

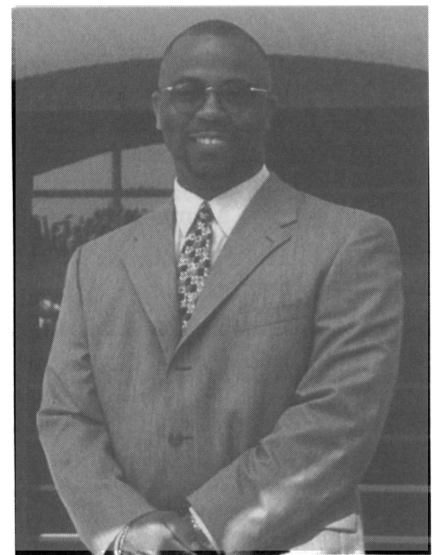
In an effort to expose more students to multicultural art, the center houses two hallway galleries,

Karsten Cash, director of the Black Culture Center, came to Mizzou June 3 after a stint at Eastern Illinois University, where he was academic adviser for the Gateway Program, which is similar to MU's Minority Achievement Program. A native of Boston, he earned a bachelor's degree at Wesleyan University and a master's degree at the University of Massachusetts.

Rob Hill photo

where the works of students, faculty and staff will be displayed. The south hallway is reserved for traveling displays. Through Nov. 3, a series of shaped canvas paintings by Adrienne Hoard, associate professor of art, will be on exhibit.

Two conference rooms make up the perimeter of the building, one of which is furnished by the provost's office. The room contains visual aid equipment, and a conference table and chairs adorned with the MU logo and Afro-centric cloth.



BAO to furnish conference room

The other conference room is dedicated to the Black Alumni Organization. BAO members and friends are being asked to raise \$25,000 during the next year (see story on Page 7). Money raised above this amount will be used for books, furnishings and other resources for the room. "BAO's investment in this conference room ensures our presence in the center as well as a permanent place in MU's black

history," Westfall says.

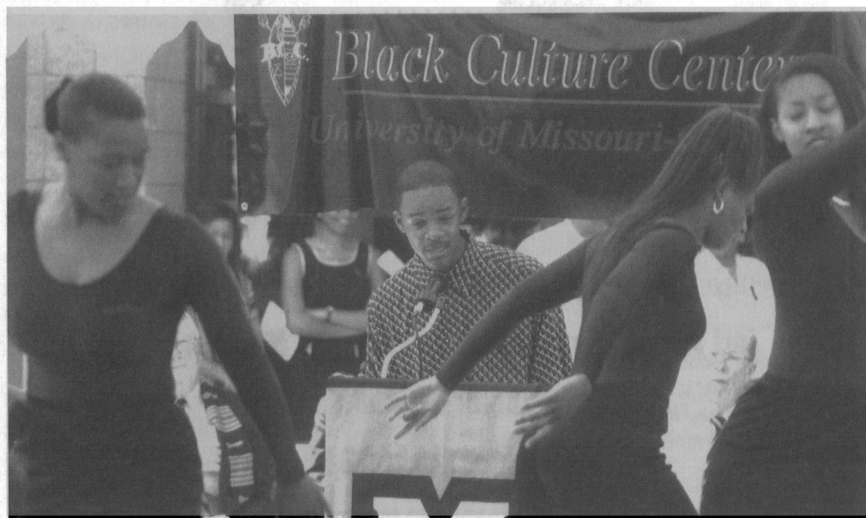
Anyone interested in supporting this effort should complete and return the form on Page 3 or call Shannon Sowell, director of development for student affairs, at (573) 884-1810.

MU's Black Culture Center, above left, officially opened its doors Sept. 3.

At the center's grand opening ceremony, John Hopkins, a junior in arts and science from Mexico, Mo., did *Lift Every Voice and Sing* as members of the Legion of Black Collegians dance squad, Shades, performed an interpretive dance.



Rob Hill photos



BAO to raise \$25,000 for its conference room

Can you believe it? The new Black Culture Center is now a reality. The Black Alumni Organization hopes to dedicate a conference room in honor of all BAO members and supporters. To do so, we need to raise \$25,000 during the next year. And since the BAO has made this historic financial and symbolic commitment, I am asking each of you to do what you can personally, professionally and socially to help the BAO keep this promise.

The Black Alumni Organization is you; it is all of us. Individuals, families, sororities and fraternities are asked to consider making gifts of any amount to this cause. We also need help in securing larger gifts (\$10,000 or more) from companies and organizations.

All gifts will be personally acknowledged; those of \$100 or more will be permanently inscribed on a commemorative plaque within the new conference room. Contributions of \$500 or more will be prominently displayed on a wall within the Black Culture Center. If you have already made a gift, you may re-designate it to the BCCBAO cause in order to receive this special recognition.

A BCCBAO tribute gift can be as rewarding to the giver as it is to the



LaTia King Westfall, BJ '90, is president of the Black Alumni Organization. Originally from East St. Louis, Ill., she is a graduate student at the University of Missouri-St. Louis and works as a fund development manager with the Girl Scout Council of Greater St. Louis. You can reach her at 2 Brower Lane, Florissant, Mo. 63031; phone (314) 830-0306 or by e-mail: s1034390@admiral.umsl.edu.

receiver. A contribution may be made in your name, a company or an organization's name, in someone else's name, in honor of a friend, as a memorial to a loved one, or for special occasions such as Kwanzaa, birthdays or anniversaries.

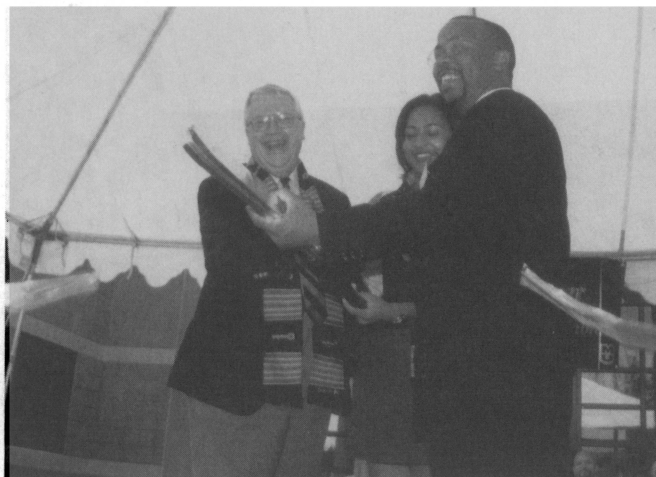
Complete the form on Page 3 and return it with your pledge or gift. Pledges can be made over two years, and all gifts are tax deductible. Donations received before Dec. 31, 1998, will be listed in the spring issue of the *Black Alumni* newsletter.

Thanks in advance for overwhelmingly and sincerely supporting your Black Alumni Organization. For more information, call Shannon Sowell, director of development for student affairs, at (573) 884-1810. — *LaTia King Westfall*

47 join BAO since May 1

- Mark Adair, Fairfield, Ohio
- Cassandra Adams, Kansas City
- Qiana Allen, St. Louis
- Tamyra Anderson, Kansas City
- Terri Bolton, Kansas City
- Charmaine Boyd, Country Club Hills, Ill.
- Timothy Briscoe Jr., Columbia
- Kena Williams Christian, Orlando, Fla.
- Tyrone Christian, Orlando, Fla.
- Duane Cook, Columbia
- Aaron Crittendon, St. Joseph, Mo.
- Cheryl Davis, Chesterfield, Mo.
- Corynne Davis, Florissant, Mo.
- Yolanda Davis, Chicago
- Joseph Deering, Columbia
- Susan Dixon, Columbia
- Quoleshna Elbert, Kansas City
- A. Cornell Ellis, Kansas City
- Debra Ellis, Kansas City
- Christina Eubanks, Plano, Texas
- Tinesar Forrest, Omaha, Neb.
- Nicola Gaitor, Thomson, Ga.
- Kiwanee Harvey, St. Louis
- Hillari Hawkins, Washington, D.C.
- Rollin Jackson, Columbia
- Tanya Jones, St. Peters, Mo.
- Kara Kaylor, Blue Springs, Mo.
- Robyn King, Kansas City
- Glenda Lutalo, Columbia
- Michael Norman, Minneapolis
- Margaret Ofodile, West Bloomfield, Mich.
- Pamela Outlaw, St. Louis
- Lennette Parks, Jefferson City
- LaSandra Pearl, Kansas City
- Erma Pegg, Columbia
- Earnest Perry Jr., Columbia
- Denise Randolph, Hazelwood, Mo.
- Danielle Rice, Columbia
- Candice Richie, Kansas City
- Alfreda Rush, St. Louis
- Naomi Smith, Farmington Hills, Mich.
- Karen Stemmons, Columbia
- Don Taylor, St. Louis
- Farrah Walker, Kansas City
- Larry Watkins, Fredericksburg, Va.
- Benita Williams, Kansas City
- Patsy Young, Syracuse, N.Y.

Draped in a traditional African kinte cloth stole, Chancellor Richard L. Wallace assisted Alanna Heffner, president of the Legion of Black Collegians, and Karsten Cash, director of the Black Culture Center, in officially cutting the ribbon to signal the center's opening Sept. 3.



Rob Hill photo

Let us hear from you.

Tell us what you are up to, how you are doing and what is happening in your life. Send us information about births, deaths, anniversaries, weddings, announcements and accomplishments. Be sure to include your name, degree and graduation date, address and phone number.

Send to BAO, 123 Reynolds Alumni and Visitor Center, Columbia, Mo 65211, or fax to (573) 882-5145, attention BAO.

Thanks to all alumni and friends who attended Fireside Chats in Columbia; the Miss Holiday's Blues BAO reception in Kansas City; the Missouri Black Expo BAO Summer Reunion in St. Louis; Off to Mizzou picnics in St. Louis and Kansas City; and the Missouri School of Journalism/BAO reception held at the National Association of Black Journalists convention in Washington, D.C. Special thanks go to Chancellor Richard L. Wallace, Vice Chancellor Charles Schroeder and the Office of Student Affairs Chris Koukola and the Office of University Affairs, the BAO executive board and the MU Alumni Association board and staff. Thanks also to LeAnn Scott, Glenn Ellis, Avila Hendricks, LaSandra Pearl, Leonard Graham, Sandy Patterson, Kevin and Loren Wilson, Stacy Fowler, Lisa Jones Townsel, Karsten Cash, Linda Garth, Erica Calbert, Mike Hoeflerlin, Ron Kelley, Christine Winfield, Shannon Sowell, Bruce Porter, Shannon Fry, Darlene Miles and Nancy Wawrzyniak.

Congratulations to **MARK MILLER**, BS RPA '78, MS '82, on becoming president of the MU Alumni Association, representing more than 28,000 MU alumni members worldwide.

LATIA KING WESTFALL, BJ '90, and husband Lamontez celebrated their fifth wedding anniversary on July 28.

Our heartfelt condolences to **TODD COLEMAN**, executive director of the MU Alumni Association and BAO ex-officio board member, on the recent loss of his dear mother.

Black alumni
Received on: 08-27-99
University of Missouri -
Columbia

Black Alumni Organization, MU Alumni Association
123 Donald W. Reynolds Alumni and Visitor Center
Columbia, Mo. 65211

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