

Black Alumni

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Mizzou commits to improvement

w/ faces and new facilities revitalize Black Studies Program

UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI
COLUMBIA

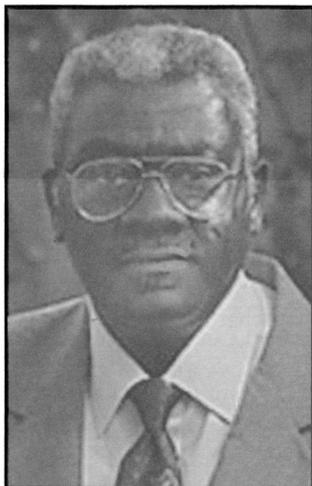
The aphorism “when it rains, it pours” has positive applications for the Black Studies Program this year as it adds a new director, new space and a new resource center to its credits.

In recent years, the program has seen an increase in course offerings, faculty-member affiliates and office technology. “We are ready to move to another level, says Dr. Arvarh Strickland, interim director. “The things we’ve been able to do in past years will allow the new director to concentrate on evaluating the program’s curriculum as well as charting the course toward a major in black studies,” Strickland says. “We should see some great things happening in the program for years to come.”

The search for a program director ended in February, when Julius Thompson was picked to fill the post that had been vacant for almost two years. The associate professor of history and black American studies at Southern Illinois University-Carbondale, begins his tenure at MU June 1. “I am excited to have an opportunity to work with the excellent faculty, staff and students at one of the nation’s premier institutions of higher education,” he says. “Although my major efforts will be

in the black studies program and the history department, I believe that my interdisciplinary focus in the social sciences and the humanities will extend across the campus to reach other academic units as well.”

A distinguished historian and scholar of African-American literature, Thompson has



Julius Thompson received a bachelor’s degree in history from Alcorn State University in Lorman, Miss., and master’s and doctoral degrees in history from Princeton University.

published three books on the black press in Mississippi and one on black life in Mississippi; a book on the black arts movement in Detroit; two popular books, *Hopes Tied Up in Promises* and *Blues Said: Walk On*; and he recently completed a book of poems for publication.

Thompson will arrive just in time to help his staff move across campus to Gentry Hall, where the entire east wing on the third floor is being renovated for the

Black Studies Program. At 3,600 square feet, the new area gives the program about 2,650 more square footage than what it now has in the Arts and Science Building.

The re-designed space will house the Walter C. Daniel Resource Center. An endowment fund has been set up to support this effort in recognition of Dr. Daniel’s contributions to higher education and the field of black studies. Books, periodicals,

reference materials and media resources in this center will supplement and complement resources already in Ellis Library on the African-American experience. Also the center will house Daniel’s extensive private library of African-American literature, donated by his widow, Lee Daniel. Income from the fund will be used to update these materials and purchase new resources.

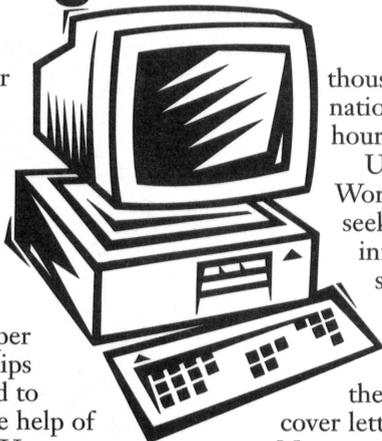
Daniel, a professor of English at MU from 1972 to 1989, died March 7, 1995. As MU’s first vice chancellor, he was instrumental in advancing the cause of affirmative action, recruiting African Americans to campus, developing a campus academic plan and coordinating the University’s budget.

His success as an administrator never overshadowed his love of teaching and working with students. “Dr. Daniel was influential in my life. He always seemed to find time for me when I was a student, and whenever I left his office, I realized he had taught me something,” says Kellen Winslow, BES ’87, former Mizzou football star and National Football League Hall of Famer, who serves as the campaign’s general chairman.

Campaign gifts are tax deductible to the full extent of the law, and all contributions are welcome. Major credit cards will be accepted; checks should be made payable to University of Missouri-Daniel Fund and sent to The Development Office, 306 Donald W. Reynolds Alumni and Visitor Center, Columbia, Mo. 65211.

Netting scholarships

No longer will college students and prospective college students have to spend hours hunting through mountains of paper to find scholarships they are qualified to receive. With the help of technology at MU, students can search through



thousands of scholarships nationwide in less than an hour.

Using Financial Aid's World Wide Web page, seekers can link to information on scholarships offered each year through FASTweb (Financial Aid Search Through the Web). Tips on writing cover letters also are available. Many specialized scholarships go unclaimed, because no one is

found who qualifies for them, says Kathy Bass, assistant director of MU's financial aid office. With this new technology, more students will be able to claim those unused dollars to help fund their education.

The service, free to students and accessible through any form-supporting web browser, can be reached at

<http://www.missouri.edu/~mufinaid>

"We want to provide a service to students that will give them the best possible information on scholarship resources," Bass says. "This service also will help students identify scholarships they may not be aware of when they begin their search."

Freshman class increases in quality, quantity

Official enrollment figures released in September indicate that MU has one of its biggest and best freshman classes ever. Across the board, there were increases in number of freshmen and indicators of quality, such as ACT score and class rank.

Of added significance is the African-American student retention rate, the highest it has been in three years and higher than overall student retention.

African-American student retention is at 83.4 percent, up from 77.5 percent in 1994. Overall, student retention is at 82 percent.

The average ACT score for the fall freshman class is 25.1, marking the first time in the University's history when this average rose to 25 or more. Approximately one-third of the students ranked in the top 10 percent of their high-school graduating class.

"The word is getting out that MU offers an

academically rigorous and affordable education," says Dr. Charles Schroeder, vice chancellor for student affairs.

"Our focus on undergraduate teaching, improved advising, personal attention and residential learning communities makes MU one of the best educational values in the nation and enables us to attract the best and brightest freshmen."

Total enrollment for fall 1995 was 22,313, up from 22,136 in 1994. The total number of undergraduates was 16,784, compared with 16,439 for fall 1994.

Professional school enrollment was 1,088, down from 1,113 in 1994; and graduate school enrollment was 4,441, down from 4,584 in 1994.

MU enrolled 3,845 first-time freshmen in 1995, including 282 African Americans. Since 1993, the University's African-American enrollment has posted a net gain of 200 percent.

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 # _____

Signature _____

(required for credit card use)

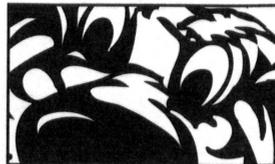
BAO

Individual, Annual \$30

Individual, 65 or older \$20

Mr. and Mrs., Annual \$45

Mr. and Mrs., 65 or older .. \$30



Make your check payable to **MU Alumni Association** and return to **Membership**
123 Reynolds Alumni Center
Columbia, Mo. 65211

Hurray, hurrah, Mizzourah



Toya Batson of Independence, Mo., teaches the Tiger fight song to some high-school students who will be freshmen at MU this fall.

didn't like this campus," Batson says. "I have great respect and love for Mizzou, and this job helps me learn how to sell a product. MU is a product that needs to be investigated. It's a serious investment, so I want to give prospective students and their parents accurate facts."

Batson began promoting MU her freshman year through United Ambassadors, a group she co-founded to help the admissions office recruit ethnic minority students. Today, she serves as its adviser. In her junior year, she was tapped for QEBH honorary society, and last fall was a co-director of Homecoming. She's served as community adviser and conference counselor for a couple of residence halls, as well as an interviewer of students applying for the George C. Brooks Scholarship, the most competitive of MU's scholarships for ethnic minority students.

Some people think the awards are given just on the basis of color. "When you sit in these interviews, you know that isn't true," Batson says. "These students are so brilliant, and have so much talent and are highly competitive, that it is just a farce for some to say that they are getting the aid because of their race."

Batson's plans of racing across stage in May, picking up her diploma and heading for the corporate world may change. More than likely she'll continue her education at MU, pursuing a graduate program in higher education and student affairs. Why the change of mind? Earning a bachelor's degree in business helped her see how organizations work and businesses are structured, but through her involvement with various campus organizations, she says she sees a need to help students grow during their college experiences.

"There are still things I want to see happen on campus, and I want to be a part of making them happen."

Buses pull up in front of the Reynolds Alumni and Visitor Center and await their passengers. On the center's second floor, Toya Batson has fifteen minutes to get 33 high-school students ready to board the coaches bound for Kansas City and St. Louis. She hurriedly moves around the room, answering last-minute questions about tuition-payment schedules, reminding the students of the filing deadlines for financial aid forms and collecting their evaluations on their overnight stay at Mizzou, and with five minutes to spare, she leads the group in an impromptu performance of *Fight Tigers*.

"Bye; hope you had a good time; look forward to seeing you at summer welcome," she tells the high-schoolers as they head out the door.

These students, who already are admitted to MU, have been on campus for almost 24 hours, hanging out, interacting with currently enrolled students and accompanying them to classes,

staying in residence halls, enjoying music and munchies, and going on scavenger hunts. All of this and more is part of the Clue Into Mizzou Program, one of the events targeted for African Americans, Hispanic Americans and American Indians, that Batson coordinates as an intern in the high school and transfer relations office, the recruitment arm of the admissions office.

According to her supervisor, CeCe Leslie, the office lucked out the day Batson applied to be an intern.

"We didn't know we had hired a tornado until her first day on the job," says Leslie, assistant director of admissions. "Toya is a whirlwind of leadership, organization, style and spunk as she welcomes her recruitment assignments. When it comes to sharing her enthusiasm about MU, she is every college campus' dream student. My wish would be to clone Toya."

Pride in MU is Batson's trademark, Leslie notes.

"You couldn't do this if you

Homecoming parade just around the corner

Mark your calendars now. Homecoming '96 is scheduled for Oct. 26. Look for the schedule of events in the fall newsletter.

Homecoming '95 was successful

Thanks to the wonderful work of the Homecoming committee, the weekend was a tremendous success, beginning with the social hour Friday evening at Spanky's, which attracted more than 30 people. On Saturday, former and current Tigers lined Columbia's streets to watch the parade. Afterward, more than 200 alumni, students and friends showed up for the traditional barbecue at the Black Culture Center. Then it was off to the stadium to watch the Tigers defeat Oklahoma State. That evening,



more than 50 people attended the Scholarship Dance in Memorial Union.

What a great weekend to celebrate our friendship and rekindle old memories. Thanks again to everyone who assisted with this great effort.

1996 Tiger Football Schedule

- Aug. 31 at Texas
- Sept. 14 MEMPHIS
- Sept. 21 CLEMSON*
- Sept. 28 at Iowa State
- Oct. 5 at SMU
- Oct. 12 KANSAS STATE
- Oct. 26 OKLAHOMA STATE
(Homecoming)
- Nov. 2 COLORADO
- Nov. 9 at Nebraska
- Nov. 16 at Baylor
- Nov. 23 KANSAS

Kickoff time 1 p.m. at Faurot Field
***Kickoff time 6:30 p.m.**
(All times subject to change)
To charge tickets call 1-800-CAT-PAWS

Cast your ballot . . . 1996-97 BAO board

Here is the slate of board members proposed for the BAO for 1996-97.

Vote yea or nay on the coupon and return it to BAO, MU Alumni Association, 123 Donald W. Reynolds Alumni and Visitor Center, Columbia, Mo. 65211

Members

- Ladell Flowers, BS Ed '74, M Ed '76, Kansas City
- Leonard Graham, BS CiE '75, Kansas City
- Mable Grimes, BS '65, MS '68, PhD '76, Columbia
- Avila Hendricks, student member, Columbia

- Mark Miller, BS RPA '78, MS '82, Columbia
- Elizabeth Miller, community member, Columbia
- Sandy Patterson, BS BA '88, St. Louis
- Barnest Patton III, MPA '95, St. Louis
- Mike Ransom, BS Acc '88, St. Louis
- Kevin Wilson, BFA '89, MPA '92, St. Louis

Ex-Officio Members

- Todd Coleman, executive director, MU Alumni Association
- KC Morrison, vice provost, minority affairs and faculty development
- Michael Middleton, AB '68, JD '71, professor of law

I approve the proposed Black Alumni Organization board for 1996-97 Yes No

I want to get involved with the Black Alumni Organization Yes No

Name _____ Student # _____

Address _____
 Street/City/State/ZIP

Business _____ Job title _____

Address _____
 Street/City/State/ZIP

Home Phone () _____ Business Phone () _____ Fax [] _____



Dr. John Bullion, right, professor and chairman of history, helped dedicate the Arvarh E. Strickland Room.

Moving on

Dorsey, Grimes and Strickland bid adieu

Dr. Carolyn Dorsey retired last August after 18 years in the College of Education. She was an associate professor of educational leadership and policy analysis. Dorsey came to MU in 1977 as the first female faculty member in the department, then called higher and adult education, and as the first coordinator of the Black Studies Program, a position she held until 1985.

"It's time to go and do something different," she said in an interview last July. "The life of an academician is non-stop. I am looking forward to a change of pace and spending time with my little dog."

Dorsey, who has returned to her hometown of Dayton, Ohio, teaches part time at Wooster College.

In recognition of her work in the College of Education, friends, family and colleagues have set up the Carolyn A. Dorsey Minority Fellowship Fund, providing annual awards to African-American graduate students in the higher education program. Contributions may be sent to the Development Office, 306 Donald W. Reynolds Alumni and Visitor Center, Columbia, Mo. 65211.

Paulette Grimes, who is director of Minority Student

Programs and adviser to the Legion of Black Collegians, resigned her post in January to devote full time to her educational and personal development. "It's time to move on for my personal growth and development, as well as to be able to finish my dissertation for my professional career," says Grimes who had been at MU 15 years. She will stay in Columbia until she completes all requirements for a doctorate in higher education.

About her replacement, Grimes says: "It's important that the university brings in somebody who truly cares about students and who will be committed to helping them grow and develop into being the best they can be." Until a replacement is found, Richard Johnson, director of student life, will serve as interim director of Minority Student Programs.

Dr. Arvarh Strickland is back on the list of firsts at MU.

More than 100 guests packed Room S203 in Memorial Union April 3 to witness the space being dedicated as the Arvarh E. Strickland Room.

The meeting room is one of several at the Union that honors "Mizzou Firsts." Others are named for the first graduate, first female graduate, first minority graduate and first president. Now one is

named for MU's first African-American professor and founder of the Black Studies Program.

Commenting on Strickland's career, John Bullion, professor and chairman of history, told the audience: "There is honor in being first in anything; but there is even greater honor in being first and prevailing and succeeding, and establishing oneself to the point that one is remembered, not so much for being first, but for being excellent."

Strickland, who came to campus in 1969, officially retired last December in order, he said, for him to "do something a little less valuable to humanity, but more enjoyable to me." Along with teaching, he served as chairman of the history department, was interim director of Black Studies twice and associate vice president for academic affairs for the University of Missouri System.

At the ceremony, Strickland said that having a room named in his honor marks a point in history — the coming of age of African Americans at this University. "Past, current and future black students, faculty and staff will now see that we have been accepted as an integral part of the history of this institution. I am proud of that."

Adding to the numerous honors given to Strickland over the years, MU is setting up the Arvarh Strickland Endowment in Black American History and Culture. Contributions may be sent to the Development Office, 306 Donald W. Reynolds Alumni and Visitor Center, Columbia, Mo. 65211.

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Send comments to BAO, 123 Reynolds Alumni Center, Columbia, Mo. 65211.

Call 1-800-372-MUAA, (573) 882-6611.

Fax [573] 882-5145.

E-mail MUAA.umc4ac1@alumni.missouri.edu

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Step this way

Maybe it wasn't the Savoy, but Columbia's Missouri Theater fit the bill April 13 when nearly 80 members of MU's eight black fraternities and sororities stomped on stage, competing for a \$500 first prize.

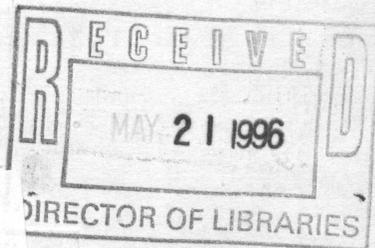
In this year's All Greek Step Show, each team had 15 minutes to impress judges and the standing-room only crowd with their best routines. And we're not talking low-impact

aerobics, either. Stepping is a traditional dance made up of synchronized footwork and hand clapping that has been passed down through generations of black Greek life.

For the fifth year in a row, the members of Delta Sigma Theta sorority outstepped their competitors and walked away with the trophy. Kappa Alpha Psi placed first among the fraternities.

Hard work and prayer paid off, says diva Erin Braxton, a senior in journalism from St. Louis. "The competition was fierce, making this what a step show should be."

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