



Center of Multicultural Affairs

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Hall of Black Achievement Celebration

The 23rd Anniversary Heritage Celebration of the Massachusetts Hall of Black Achievement honored 33 students from the Massachusetts state university system. Student achievers from BSU were Raul Vazquez, Augusto Goncalves, Stephanie Alves, Valdemiro Monteiro, Corday Silva, Tisha Hughes, Mario Lopes DeBarros, Muania Henry, Cynthia Odiah, Aisha Murnir, and Mary-Ann Roderiques.

For the first time ever, a husband and wife were inducted into the Hall of Black Achievement, which was founded at Bridgewater in 1987 to honor the societal contributions of people of color. Josephine St. Pierre Ruffin (1842-1924) was a civil

rights leader and first African-American woman to publish a newspaper, *The Woman's Era*. She organized the National Federation of Afro-American Women and co-founded The League of Women for Community Service, which is still active today assisting families in need. Her husband, George Lewis Ruffin (1834-86), was the first African American to graduate from Harvard Law School, and first to serve as a judge in Boston, where he and Josephine lived, and in the United States.

Host of the event Gloria Stanton, '74, HOBA chairperson emeritus, said each of the inductees and award recipients were teachers in their own right, mentoring others and promot-



ing education and equality in the classroom and beyond.

Race Matter Student Panel

All semester long was the Race Matters Student Panel Discussion, which was lead by Mrs. Andrea Garr-Barnes, featuring LINKS Students in the East Campus Commons. This dis-

cussion focused on race, ethnicity, racism, and white privilege for the BSU community. All employees of BSU were invited to the lunchtime discussion series. The discussion group was sponsored by the Office of Insti-

tutional Diversity, which is entering its third year, and offers BSU employees a supportive atmosphere to discuss issues of diversity, inclusion and social justice.



Black History Month Celebration

On February 16th, 6pm-8pm: CMA's Black History Month Celebration was held in the Dunn Conference Room. Guest speaker, Paul Porter has been a prominent voice in American radio and television. Having protested the immorality of some of the music being played on Hot97/WQHT, Porter was promptly removed from the air, spurring his movement from endorser to activist. During the event, he spoke about his life and career and what he expects from the younger generation. He advised students to get out there and do hands on mission, like community service and internships. He said we as students should be around the table fighting for the issues before we are put on the plate to be taken advantage of.

Gospel Week

The 1st annual Gospel week celebration was here at BSU. During the week of 4/11-4/15 many events took place on campus. Some of the programs held were a movie & discussion, bible study, fellowship dinner, bible talk and the week ended off with a Gospel Extravaganza. During the last event there were many choirs and performers, some of which include: Umass Dartmouth, Bethal Abundant Life Ministries, Trinity Covenant, BSU's own Christ Choir, and a mother daughter duo BSU's Natara Gray and her mom Kathleen Andrews.



Congratulations Class of 2011



Upcoming Events

- May 7th Kente Cloth Brunch
- May 14th Spring Commencement

Africa Awareness Week

African Awareness Week which was held March 21-26 brought diverse cultures to campus. "This is Africa" was the theme of the 4th annual African Awareness Week, chosen by the new BSU African Student Association. The cultural celebra-

tions brought to campus a youthful perspective on Africa, said organizer Dr. Louise Badiane, assistant professor of anthropology. Throughout the week were various, activities, lectures, and workshops. President Dana Mohler-Faria provided

opening remarks. African dances, art and cuisine were also on display throughout the week, ending with a "53 Countries Night" gala, featuring artists, African dance and drumming groups, and fashion shows. Following was the "Safari Affair.



Gospel Concert

On February 26th, students meet on campus and arrived at Cape Cod Community College for a gospel concert hosted by Zion Union in Hyannis. This is an annual event. Different choirs groups and solo artists from variety of churches in the area performed as a part of

Black History Month. There was also a skit about influential black women in African American history. Their was also a Portuguese kids group who did a dance during a performance. Various

students enjoyed the concert and plan on going back for future events.



The Center for Multicultural Affairs fosters cross-divisional collaborations that promote student success.



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The Center for Multicultural Affairs (CMA) will provide multicultural programming resources to Bridgewater State University's student organizations, faculty and departments that request assistance. Multicultural programming resources include assistance with identifying cultural entertainers, speakers, authentic recipes, and vendors. CMA will also assist student organizations, faculty and departments with research on cultural customs and traditions for BSU cultural events. CMA staff members may serve as the advisor to multicultural student organizations upon the group's request or when it is determined by CMA and the Office of Student Involvement and Leadership (OSIL) that such a role is necessary.



*"Be the change that you wish
to see in the world"*

- Mahatma Gandhi

Passover Celebration

The 3rd annual Passover celebration was held on Thursday, April 21, 2011 in the Council Chambers.

Passover is a Jewish holiday and festival. It honors the story of the Exodus, in which the ancient Israelites were freed from slavery in Egypt. Passover begins on the 15th day of the month of Nisan in the Jewish calendar, which is in spring in the Northern Hemisphere, and is celebrated for seven or eight days.

It is one of the most widely observed Jewish holidays. The pro-

gram started off with opening remarks from Dr. Jabbar Al-Obaidi, Coordinator of the Middle East Studies program followed by welcoming remarks from Andrea Garr-Barnes, Director of the Center for Multicultural Affairs. Dr. Howard B. London, Provost/VP for Academic Affairs, and Dr. Edward Minnock, VP of External Affairs also spoke on the event. The guest speaker during the celebration was Rabbi Hannah Orden. She spoke on the many traditions, read stories from the special book called the

Haggadah, and guests enjoyed a Passover style meal. Student speaker Augusto Goncalves '11, spoke on the importance of familiarizing ourselves to different cultures and Dr. Jabbar ended the event with closing remarks.



Written by Student Scholar: Cynthia Odiah '11