SUMMER 2008 - VOLUME 1 - ISSUE 1

OSUNITY

A community magazine about the African American experience at Ohio State



RUSSELL SIMMONS VISITS OHIO STATE

A HIP-HIP MOGUL SHARES A FEW VALUABLE WORDS WITH OSU STUDENTS

IT'S ALL ABOUT THE BENJAMINS

HOW TO KEEP YOUR HARD EARNED MONEY FROM GOING DOWN THE DRAIN

STREET PASTOR

A LOOK AT HIGHLIGHTED UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT YAVES ELLIS

Photo by Jo McCulty

WELCOME



Dear Prospective Students:

Thank you for picking up the inaugural issue of OSUnity, a publication honoring our enrolled and prospective African American students. The Ohio State University is quickly becoming one of the top colleges of choice for African Americans. We strongly believe this success is due to the quality of our academic programs and our unwavering commitment to support and embrace the richness of our student diversity. We proudly promote diversity among our faculty, staff, and students, and as a member of the Ohio State community, you would be in a unique position to enrich our campus. We provide not only wide-ranging academic and extracurricular opportunities, but also a place where your unique voice and cultural perspective will enhance the experience of those around you.

As president of Ohio State, I look forward to seeing how each incoming class will shape its environment, and I am delighted that you are considering becoming part of the Ohio State family for this next, crucial stage of your life and the life of our community.

Sincerely,

E. Gordon Gee
President



It's with great enthusiasm that I welcome you to The Ohio State University through this inaugural issue of OSUnity. The African American experience at Ohio State is historically engrained in the university's earliest traditions. Ever since Sherman Hamlin Guss enrolled as the first African American at Ohio State in 1888 and earned his bachelor's degree in 1892, Ohio State has continued to attract and support African Americans. Few of us today are fully aware of the historical significance Ohio State has played in educating the first African American doctors, lawyers, veterinarians and pharmacists in the Midwest or of the role many of our first black alums played in blazing new trails in education and industry for others to follow.

The university has now earned a number of national awards including recognition as the top producer of African American baccalaureates in the Big Ten and ranking by Black Enterprise Magazine as one of the top 50 colleges in the country for African Americans. Ohio State has one of the highest African American graduation and retention rates to be found among leading public research institutions.

Ohio State continues to build on this legacy by supporting our students through scholarships, mentoring, tutoring, and cultural enrichment programming that encourages student success. I certainly hope that many readers of this inaugural issue will be encouraged to look closely at what Ohio State has to offer them.

Mac A. Stewart
Chief Diversity Officer
and Vice Provost for the Office of Minority Affairs

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COVER PHOTO

3rd Year Journalism student
Heather Hope
Hometown
Atlanta, GA

Heather is involved in many student organizations on campus outside of excelling in the classroom. She is just one example of student success at Ohio State and we are proud to feature her on the cover of this inaugural issue.

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HIGHLIGHTED FACULTY

Dr. James Moore III

From the Gridiron to the Ivory Tower

By Jonathan Hall, Ph.D. Student-Ecology Program

You've heard this story before. A young black male athlete overcomes the odds and blossoms into a football star with a genuine shot at making it to the National Football League (NFL). Unfortunately, tragedy strikes as the promising young star goes down with a severe knee injury during a play, while dozens of fans are collectively cheering. As the young man is helped off the field, he contemplates his situation, wondering if his dreams have been torn apart similar to (as he will soon find out) his anterior cruciate ligament (ACL). For many athletes, life becomes an unusual struggle as they rely on the academic skills they may have neglected up to this point in their lives. Some never hone these skills and sink deeper into despair. Some even discover that there is life after football and that their misfortune on the gridiron is a springboard to utilize talents that they never realized or used to full capacity. And, some bounce back from injury, finish their collegiate football career, and then decide to get their master's and doctoral degree in counseling. Actually, I know of only one person to do this: Dr. James L. Moore III, associate professor in Counselor Education and director of the Todd Anthony Bell National Resource Center on the African-American Male at The Ohio State University.



Photo by Jo McCulty

Life-Changing South Carolina Memories

Dr. Moore's path to academic excellence began at home with his family on Montgomery Road, the street where his parents, two siblings, grandparents, aunts, uncles, and cousins all resided. Dr. Moore describes the housing conditions for some rural southerners as being "substandard." He knew many families living in tin roof houses with well water and an outhouse; conditions one would not expect individuals in the United States would experience in the '70s, '80s, and '90s. Dr. Moore's father - known affectionately in his family as the Black Aristotle - once told his son that simply observing suffering changes a person to the point that his life will never be the same again. It is certain that Dr. Moore was changed by what he saw growing up in rural South Carolina, and it was this change that served as the foundation for his academic and professional career.

Unforgettable Delaware State University Memories

In the hallways of Delaware State University's dorms, James L. Moore III and his friends engage in conversations about the state of black men. It is during this time that the soon-to-be Dr. Moore and his

friends discussed what could be done to increase the number of black males doing positive things with their lives or "living optimally," as Dr. Moore has been known to say. These experiences afforded Dr. Moore the opportunity to think critically about his future beyond football.

Mentorship, Encouragement, and Guidance: Preparation for Graduate Studies

It was his Delaware State professor, Dr. James Scott King, who told him that he had the academic genius to do well in graduate school. Because of his respect and admiration for Dr. King, who is also a South Carolina native, Dr. Moore strove for excellence off the field even more. It was the steady mentorship of his Virginia Tech professor, Dr. Tom Hohenshil, that set the standard for Dr. Moore's academic aspirations as a college professor. It was the guidance of Dr. Bevlee Wolford, associate professor and associate dean in the College of Engineering at Virginia Tech, that provided the essential lessons and practical experiences in university life so many academic professionals lack. Most importantly, it was the love and support of a strong family built on the principles of hard work, faith, and love of community that never allowed Dr. Moore to accept anything less than his best, whether it was on the field or in the class room.

Message to Black Students

Dr. Moore's message to black students, especially black male students, is delivered with the enthusiasm of a Baptist preacher and the thoughtfulness and intelligence of a skilled counselor. He encourages black students to aspire and achieve beyond what is expected of them. Dr. Moore challenges them, and himself, to study African American history and commit to being the very best that they can possibly be. He says, "Without this knowledge and commitment, African American students will struggle to define themselves and to accomplish their goals." He also stresses that African American students should always surround themselves with positive people. Moore says, "This is key for their success." Finally, Dr. Moore encourages black students to take advantage of resources and opportunities that are available to them on and off campus. "Knowledge does not come knocking," he enthusiastically remarks. "It is up to us to seek it out." Dr. Moore believes that, more than anything, poor decision making has contributed to the

"Knowledge doesn't come knocking...it is up to us to seek it out."

misfortunes of young black males in these modern times. It is one of the main reasons he decided to become a counseling professor and professional. "There are not many excuses one can make when one reads and hears about the great feats and accomplishments of Frederick Douglass, Thurgood Marshall, Alain Locke, W. E. B. Dubois, Benjamin E. Mays, James Baldwin, Kenneth Clark, Mary McLeod Bethune, Charles Hamilton Houston, and Richard T. Greener," says Moore. He believes that African American students can succeed at The Ohio State University and any other university in this country because others have.

Dr. Moore: The Person and Scholar

While Dr. Moore is a serious academic, he is also a devoted husband and father. The example of fatherhood and commitment to family set by his grandfather (James, Sr.) and father (James, Jr.) continues in the third generation with Dr. James L. Moore III, and he hopes it will continue with his son (James IV). This is extremely important in this day and age, when so many black father figures are difficult to find.

Engaging Conversations

From the moment you engage Dr. Moore in conversation, you quickly realize that he is special and has a lot to offer. He demands excellence from himself in all aspects of life and thus expects excellence from everyone around him. A man who once wanted to play desperately on Sundays realized he had other talents that far exceeded making tackles and interceptions. He turned a torn ACL into a Ph.D. from Virginia Tech and a professorship at The Ohio State University. He is a man devoted to family, faith, and the improvement of his community. Reach beyond your expectations and have a conversation with Dr. Moore. I guarantee you'll be better for it. ■

Dr. Moore with young men from the Todd Bell Resource Center on the African-American Male



It's All About the Benjamins

How to keep your money from going down the drain

By Jamila Williams, 2nd year-Journalism Major



So now you're out of your parents' house and out on your own. Before you decide to splurge on those new Jordans that just came out, or the latest items from Coach's fall lineup, think again.

The independence college gives can be both beneficial and detrimental for students. College is one of the most crucial financial time periods of your life. You should also know that it is a time where you will either pick up good spending habits or bad spending habits. And these spending habits will either make you or break you down the road. Some students learn spending habits (good and bad) from their parents either through observing or actually sitting down and discussing money management with them.

Daylon Pritchett, a senior in consumer affairs, picked up good money management skills from his mother but also saw the pitfalls one could experience because of bad choices his father made.

"I don't spend what I don't have," said Pritchett. "I'm a limited credit card user and I only have one to build my credit."

One of the biggest mistakes college students make when coming to campus is falling into the credit card trap. College students make up a large percentage of the credit card market. In fact, credit card companies absolutely love college students. Their research shows that if they are successful at getting a college student to sign up for a credit card, he/she will most likely be a lifetime customer. 18-25 year olds also do not have some of the best usage practices. That particular demographic usually doesn't pay bills on time or in full, and I can personally attest to the accuracy of that statistic because I am a part of that demographic.

Owning a credit card has its advantages if used correctly. Assistant Director of Ohio State's Student Wellness Center, Kate Trombitas, actually recommends having at least one major credit card throughout your time as an undergraduate student and getting a second prior to graduation. Maintaining two major credit cards throughout one's lifetime is a good money management practice. Trombitas does over 50 presentations on credit throughout the year and also counsels students in debt. She has seen student debt ranging from $10,000-$40,000 in credit card debt alone! Not to mention student loans

"I don't spend what I don't have...I'm a limited credit card user and I only have one to build my credit."

and other forms of arrears.

A credit card can help build your credit history while coming in handy for emergencies along the road to good credit. However, a credit card isn't for impulse buys or for things you cannot afford.

"College is a time to live like a student and a credit card shouldn't be used to bridge that gap between college life and how you'd like to live," said Trombitas. "If you live like a student now, you won't have to later and you can spend your money on things you want to spend money on instead of debt you incurred as a student."

Once you do get a credit card, your every financial move will be tracked and recorded, making up your credit history. (You have the right to obtain a copy of your credit report for free each year.) Your credit history—which includes your payment history (i.e. do you pay your bills on time?), amount of outstanding debt, length of time as a credit user, recent history, types of credit held—determines your credit score, which is a number used by other lenders to see how good of a credit consumer you are.

A credit score has nothing to do with how much money you make. Instead it is a numerical representation of the various contracts you've entered into such as credit cards, student loans, and even utility bills. A good credit score is 620 or higher. According to Experian's website, Ohio's average credit score is 696 while the 43210 zip code that encompasses campus area is 690.

Having a good or bad credit score can dictate how you live your life. Nevertheless you have control of your credit score. There are two types of inquiries that are made on your credit score: a soft inquiry, which is what a company has done to mail you pre-approved credit cards and whenever you obtain your credit report, and a hard, inquiry which is whenever you apply for or open a new credit account. Too many hard inquiries can lower your credit score, so it's important to keep credit card applications to a minimum.

Even a student with a 4.0 GPA who graduates top of the class needs a good credit score. When it comes to applying for a business loan or any loan following college that 4.0 GPA won't mean anything if a low credit score accompanies it.

Making payments on time is key to obtaining a good credit score. A late payment of 30 days will stay on your credit report for seven years! Paying off your debt is also just as important as paying on time. The average undergraduate student has a credit card balance of $ 2,169. Even if you were to pay $50 a month, it would take nearly 6 years to pay off the debt while an extra $1,300 of interest would be added.



A junior majoring in strategic communications and journalism, Carlos Pinkerton, has had bad money management skills for some time now. Despite warnings from his mother, Pinkerton owns three to four major credit cards—all of which have balances on them.

"Now it's not much of a habit but rather a lifestyle," said Pinkerton. "I've been doing this since high school and have done a lot of damage. I'm trying to get out but it's hard."

"College is a time to live like a student and a credit card shouldn't be used to bridge that gap between college life and how you'd like to live."

Bouncing back from debt is realistic but isn't something that occurs overnight. Recognizing what practices led you to this situation in the first place is essential. Little things charged like coffee, bagels, and going out on the weekends over time can add up to some serious debt. Cutting back on credit card usage frees up money that can actually be used to chip away at debt already accumulated. To steer clear of the temptation of opening new accounts, calling 1-888-5-OPTOUT can eliminate those pre-approved mailings from finding their way into your mailbox.

Another helpful tip to avoid outstanding debt is to create a budget and keep track of spending. The first step is to identify where your money is coming from and how much. Next is to determine where your money is going. What do

you spend your money on? Know the difference between needs and wants. You may want those Jordans or latest coach purse and accessories, but your utility bills need to be paid. But hey, if you don't mind being in the cold after your gas is cut off because you just had to have those new Jordan's or purse at least your feet and your arm will be warm. Those other extremities are overrated anyway.

Determining how much and what types of debt you're already accruing is also important. Pay close attention to your checkbook as well as to the wallet that money mysteriously keeps disappearing from.

"Managing my money is easy because I don't have much to begin with," joked Devin Walker, a junior in communications. "I've started to keep up with balancing a checkbook because online banking is not always as reliable as you think."

Student loans may not need to be paid until graduation but credit cards need to be paid monthly and can conflict with those loan repayments in the future. Be smart when it comes to applying for a student loan. One common mistake students make is obtaining private loans that are much more expensive than federal loans, which should be your first stop for any type of student loan. Graduating with $30,000 in private student loans can come out to be nearly $400-$500 monthly payments while a federal loan of the same amount would be cheaper.

Though no one likes debt, it is important to remember student loan debt is much better than credit card debt. Credit cards and student loans simply are not the same kinds of debt. The average student loan interest rate is 6.8 percent compared to the average credit card interest rate of 18 percent.

As a student you're not expected to be an expert on how everything works. But you still are held responsible for your actions. If you find yourself already in money trouble, there are experts in this field that can help. The Student Wellness Center offers free, confidential, one-on-one counseling through the student organization Scarlet & Gray Financial for any current Ohio State student. The university does a good job at keeping its students aware of how to deal with money and credit.

Jennifer Hill, a senior in textiles and clothing has done well handling her money throughout her college career and though she was unaware of these services she doesn't see any harm in using them.

"I know when I can and cannot spend," said Hill. "But I don't see why anyone who needs help wouldn't go to the Wellness Center. You could probably learn something from them."

There are so many resources offered, including courses to help with money management as well as a website, www.financiallife.osu.edu, that students can use to obtain more information. ■

First Generation College Students

Dispelling the myth that all college students come from a long line of family graduates.

By Lisa Scott, 3rd Year-Communication Major



Photo by Herbert Wilborn III

Ohio State is creating opportunities and opening doors for more students by dispelling the myth that all college students come from a long line of family graduates. Of the more than 6,000 who indicated they planned to attend OSU during the fall 2007 quarter, 22.7 percent are first-generation college students. This figure surpasses the national average of 15.9 percent. "In comparison, Ohio State's numbers are fantastic because we know that many of these students come from families that haven't traditionally considered college," said Tally Hart, director of the Economic Access Initiative.

In 2003, the university began asking applicants to indicate whether their parents had



Photo by Herbert Wilborn III

attended college. Soon after, under Hart's guidance, the university implemented the Economic Access Initiative, an outreach program designed to encourage economically disadvantaged high school students to pursue higher education. According to the Ohio State Web site, the creation of the Economic Access Initiative further marks the university's ongoing commitment to ensuring all qualified students, regardless of income, can make the dream of college a reality.

"It's important for me to graduate because I know I can't let my family down."

"I knew I always wanted to go to college, but I also knew finances would be an issue," said Amber Ballard, a first-generation student and senior in human ecology. "Luckily, in sixth grade I was nominated for the Young Scholars Program, so the door was opened for me. Without that, my chance at a college education would have been very slim." Ohio State offers many scholarships and programs for students with financial need and a lack of family college history. One of the most well-known is the Land Grant Opportunity Scholarship.

Despite rising enrollment among first-generation students, graduation rates are still low on a national level. Ongoing studies by the Institute of Higher Education Policy show many first-generation and low-income students who do attend colleges and universities are less likely than counterparts to obtain their bachelor's degree. In 2005, the National Center for Educational Statistics reported that compared with students whose parents attended college, first-generation students consistently remained at a disadvantage after entering post-secondary education - needing remedial assistance, earning lower grades and completing fewer credit hours.

"There is a lot of pressure that comes with being a first-generation student," Ballard said. "Sometimes you get caught up in the odds being against you, and your family can't relate to all the things you're dealing with." Statistics regarding the retention of first-generation students at OSU were not available. However, overall, the university reported a 90 percent retention rate of its freshman class. Despite the national statistics, Ballard said the title of being the first in her family to graduate is enough to motivate her to give it all she has. "It's important for me to graduate because I know I can't let my family down," she said. "I'm starting a new era (of college graduates), and that gives me motivation to succeed." ■

Did You Know?

Ohio State's Office of Minority Affairs (OMA) offers the largest diversity scholarship in the entire country called The Morrill Scholars Program (MSP)?

There are various award levels ranging from full in-state tuition to a full academic scholarship!

For more information, visit us online at: oma.osu.edu/recruitment email: morrillscholars@osu.edu, or call 614.292.8889

I Wanna Get You Bodied

Some things you may not know about health and wellness. Lose weight and have fun in the process.

By Courtney Williams, Graduate Student-Korean Studies



Photo by Ohio State Recreational Sports

In case you didn't know, the real world is a heavy burden, and for the unprepared, your waistline may expand to match it. With college life comes a great deal of freedom, but to paraphrase Spiderman's Uncle Ben, "with great freedom comes great responsibility." In the real world, people expect you to do the right thing without prodding. Your physical health and fitness is no different. If you don't study, you fail. If you don't exercise, you set yourself up for failure. According to the California Department of Health Services, the African American community is disproportionately affected by heart disease, diabetes, cancer, stroke, and obesity. These diseases share a great deal of preventability. You can't control age, race, or (short of medical intervention) gender. Smoking, poor diet and lack of physical activity—all predominant risk factors—are choices you make.

The African American community is disproportionately affected by heart disease, diabetes, cancer, stroke and obesity.

A National Cancer Institute study indicates cigarette smoking causes 87 percent of lung cancer deaths. Lung cancer is the leading cause of cancer death in both men and women. Smoking is also responsible for most cancers of the larynx, oral cavity and pharynx, esophagus, and bladder. In addition, it is a cause of kidney, pancreatic, cervical, and stomach cancers, as well as acute myeloid leukemia. Yawn, right? Okay, if you smoke just one pack of cigarettes a day for a year, you just puffed away $1,635! Potential rent, tuition, or spring break money up in smoke. Is that still not enough to convince you to drop the habit? The Society for Human Resource Management found that 5 percent of employers prefer to hire non-smokers, 1 percent do not hire smokers and 5 percent of companies charge smokers higher health insurance premiums than non-smokers. Expect


Photo by Herbert Wilborn III

Recreation and Physical Activity Center (RPAC)

this number to increase as the current economic crisis continues a trend of cost-cutting and budget trimming in the public and private sectors.

Malnutrition, a preventable health condition, plays a heavy role in the health of African Americans. A calorie deficient or excessive diet causes health problems. If you eat more calories than you physically need, the body stores it in the love handles, saddlebags, and may even bless you with additional chins. The heart strains under the additional burden of those king size sodas, fries, and extra slices of whatever you just had to have. Too blunt for you? Probably not, since the CDC reports more than half of African American women as overweight, with more than 20 percent obese. Obesity leads to heart failure, diabetes, hypertension, increased risk of stroke and other life threatening maladies. To put it simply, "Obesity is an epidemic and it should be taken as seriously as any infectious disease epidemic," said former CDC director Jeffrey P. Koplan.

When it comes to dietary changes, there are three rules. Number 1: Be honest with yourself; Number 2: make small gradual changes towards improvement; Number 3: When doubt or temptation visit, refer to rule 1. (Notice I didn't say, "3 easy rules.") Honesty means defining your goals, planning your work, and measuring how faithful you are to working that plan. When you fall off the plan, (i.e. getting extra bacon, cheese, and mayo on that sub) dust yourself off, and keep going.

"As a young adult, you have the best chance of laying the foundation of a healthy lifestyle here and now."

Going from three extra value meals a day to sensible, healthy fare is difficult. That's why supermarket shelves are all filled with magic, phony pills promising miraculous weight loss. Let's be real people. If you didn't gain the weight overnight, why would losing it be any different? Save your money—it will pile up faster than the handful of wishes Super-Fat-Melter-5000 promises.

Besides being a waste of money, with no nutritional value (like cigarettes and soda) most diet pills have the same cheaply available ingredients: black pepper, green tea extracts, and caffeine. You can get the same stuff from a cup of spiced black tea or a cup of green tea. Both contain nutritional substances found in the tea leaves.

Simply put, if you eat with good health in mind, good health usually follows. As an ACE Certified Personal Trainer, I recommend a minimum of 40 minutes of cardiovascular exercise (the kind that makes talking difficult), 3 to 5 times per week. Include a resistance (or weight) training component twice a week. Clinical studies have proven the law of diminishing returns applies to the muscle and bone strengthening benefits of resistance training.

Like obesity, diabetes has reached epidemic proportions in the African-American community. Diabetes occurs when the pancreas makes little or no insulin. Insulin allows glucose (aka blood sugar, and the body's primary fuel source) to travel into cells. The glucose builds up in the blood. Unchecked, diabetes can lead to eye, heart, kidney, leg and foot problems. It can also weaken the body's immune system, thus making the body more susceptible to infections and premature death.

According to the National Diabetes Health Program, 3.2 million African Americans ages 20 years and older (or 13.3 percent) have diabetes, one-third of whom are undiagnosed. There are 2 types of diabetes: Type I and Type II. Type I diabetes typically develops in childhood or adolescence, but can develop at any age. Those diagnosed with Type I receive daily insulin shots. Type II diabetes occurs when the pancreas doesn't produce enough, or effectively use insulin. Type II diabetes sufferers control the disease with frequent blood glucose monitoring, oral or injected medications, weight management, and proper diet and exercise.

Health Tips

The Basics to Practice Every Day
(excerpt from health-fitness-tips.com)

Stay Active - Find ways to move your body. Anything that moves your arms and legs is not only a fitness tool, it can also alleviate stress as well!

Avoid Fatty Foods - Stay away from fried foods, burgers and other fatty meats. Eat dairy products in low-fat versions.

Don't Smoke - Cigarette smoking causes 87 percent of lung cancer deaths.

Avoid Stress - Think positive thoughts, spend at least 30 minutes a day doing something you enjoy, walk away from potential stressful situations

Avoid Pollution - Stay away from smoke and smog. Plants are always good in the yard as well as the home.

Wear Your Safety Belt - Stats show seat belts add to longevity and help alleviate potential injuries in car crashes.

Floss Your Teeth - Recent studies make a direct connection between longevity and teeth flossing.

Stay Positive - There is a direct correlation between living well and thinking positively.

Type II diabetes accounts for over 90 percent of all diagnosed cases among African Americans. Of all the risk factors of Type II diabetes, the following are most relevant to you, OSUnity reader:
1) Having a family history of Type II diabetes;
2) Being overweight or having a large percentage of body fat in the abdominal area;
3) Being of African American, Hispanic, Asian, Pacific Island, or Native American descent;
4) Having a physically inactive lifestyle;
5) Having high blood pressure (above 140/90).
Three of these risk factors YOU CONTROL. What you put in your mouth, and do (or don't do) to work that body.

A U.S. Department of Health and Human Services reports reads, "Coronary Heart Disease is the single leading cause of premature death in the United States." CHD is the build-up of cholesterol in the blood vessels which impairs blood flow to the heart. "Although African American adults are less likely to be diagnosed with coronary heart disease, they are more likely to die from heart disease." The only uncontrollable risk factors of CHD (and its related diseases) are age, race, and gender. What can you do to prevent CHD? Eat right. Exercise regularly.

Does hypertension run in the family? Eat right. Exercise regularly. Did Big Mama have a stroke that you would like to avoid? Eat right and exercise regularly. Do the bills, surgeries, and down time of a heart attack scare you? Eat right. Exercise regularly. Do we see a pattern?

With a smart eating plan and exercise regimen come other perks, besides walking unassisted. Within 2 weeks of beginning a fitness program, sleep improves. In 3 to 6 weeks, you'll notice improved flexibility, strength, weight loss, lowered stress levels, and improved stamina.

If you need help, the RPAC can help you get out of the treadmill rut with its classes ranging from spinning to yoga. Did you know that you can register for fencing, horseback riding or even boxing every quarter at OSU? If you ever dreamed of being a prima donna, OSU offers ballet classes from beginner to pointe classes. Aspiring idols can take jazz, tap, hip-hop and voice classes. Go to the OSU Physical Activity and Education Services website at http://ehe.osu.edu/paes for more options, like figure skating or tai chi to help keep you fit while having fun.

An excellent resource for maintaining physical, mental, and emotional health is the OSU Student Wellness Center. The staff provides programs to help you manage your checkbook and your little black book (or Blackberry). Whether you want to quit smoking, learn about safer sex practices, or take a Health Risk Appraisal, go to the Student Wellness Center in the RPAC, Room B130.

As a young adult, you have the best chance of laying the foundation of a healthy lifestyle here and now, at Ohio State. During your college years, you have the power to improve your quality of life with your future children, maybe even your grandchildren (should you want a family). It starts with choosing thinner thighs over greasy fries. Choosing the underrated ability to walk and breathe, unassisted, instead of gut expansion in front of the TV. OSU offers many groups and programs to help you improve your health. Improving your health with exercise and smart food choices does not mean becoming the next American Gladiator (although there is nothing like a sexy body working that spandex!), but the healthiest, able-bodied Buckeye possible. ■

YOUR-Space & How to Protect it

Some helpful tips in online social networking etiquette

By Reana Allen, 2nd Year-Communication Major



With the growing interest and popularity of global social networking, online communities like MySpace and Facebook have all become some of Internet users' favorite websites. They can also be a recipe for danger and disaster, but if you are careful, you can have a lot of fun with the features these sites offer. For those individuals who aren't precautious in their online conduct, it may result in hurtful gossip, bruised feelings or even worse. I am sure that the majority of us know what is right and wrong when it comes to Internet conduct and overall Internet usage. But I am going to discuss a couple of do's and don'ts for some of these websites.

It is now being proposed that employers start researching applicants on the web before employment. Meaning, all those pictures you have that you believe no one sees but you and your friends are visible to the entire cyberspace world. Comments and blogs that you leave open may also affect your future goals and career plans. If you do some research, you may hear many stories about the ghastly experiences of some social website users. Some turn out to be harsh rumors and others worse. Either way, they can have a serious impact on your life.

One story consists of a girl taking her own life after being harassed on MySpace. Her harassment came from negative comments left on her page. Not being able to deal with the ridicule and stress of what was being said, she took her own life. This obviously not only affected her but her family and friends as well. As a young adult, it's already a challenge to deal with the everyday events of life. When you mix that with outside influences like online media, it's definitely a recipe for disaster if not handled correctly. This may be an extreme case, but it shows the seriousness and influence that these sites have on today's youth.

We are currently living in the age of technology and it directly affects the way people communicate and gather information. Social networking sites enable us to stay in contact with friends, family and co-workers and also meet new people in the process. So if this is your form of communication with the people you know, can you guess how many other people communicate the same way? For example, say you have about 50 people on your friends list. If those 50 people all have 50 friends then that's 2,500 people that may have access to your personal and private pictures and information if you are in the same network. It's scary to think of all the people linked to those 2,500 people. When you think of it that way, it's easier to understand how things spread like wild fire on the web.

Here are a few helpful social networking tips.

Do:

1. Set your page up as private
2. Allow only your friends to view certain information about you
3. Be courteous to others in your comments
4. Always remember you're not alone on the Internet—EVERYONE has access to it

Don't:

1. Share personal information with strangers
2. Place any sensitive personal information on your page (remember your information is accessible to all)
3. Give your password out
4. Place any explicit photos of yourself on your page (you're not the only person that can view these)

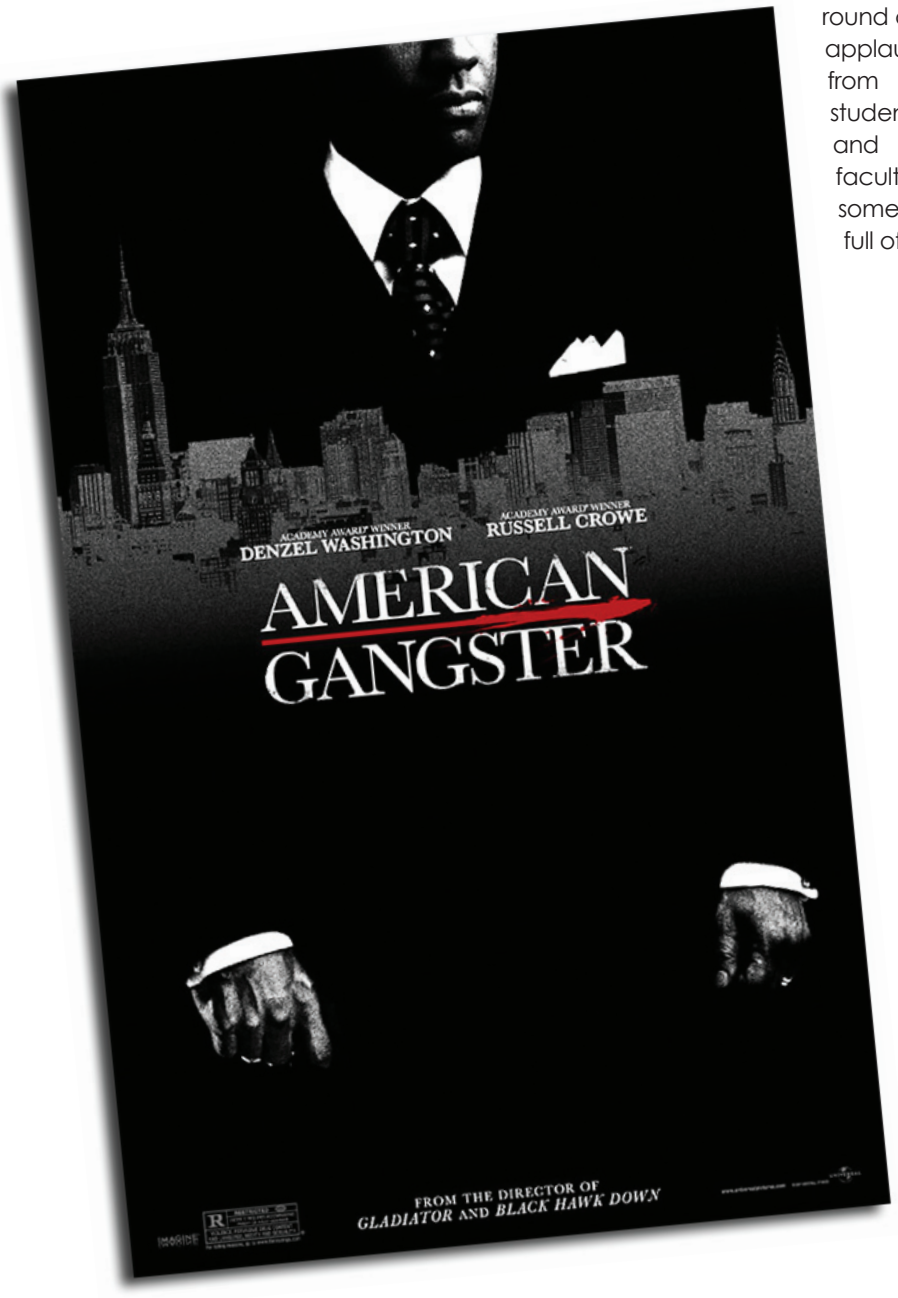
These are just a few things that will help along your social networking journey. Be sure to take precaution in what personal business you share. I'm sure that this seems like common sense, but a little reminder never hurts. ■

An American Gangster at OSU

From pushing drugs to pushing change in our community, Frank Lucas is a man who knows his past and plans to make a positive difference in other people's future.

By Camille Travis, 1st Year-Journalism Major

Frank Lucas slowly makes his way up to the stage of a standing-room-only Campbell Hall auditorium. He's confined to a wheelchair and could very well be mistaken for anyone's grandfather, yet hundreds of eager eyes are watching, awaiting the 77-year-old former drug lord to speak about his actions throughout Harlem in the 1960s. He's greeted with a warm round of applause from students and faculty—some full of admiration, others in awe of a man who obtained so much power and wealth. He's in the spotlight again, only this time, he's doing it the right way.



"Be a big brother, be a big sister. Our children are being killed by children, so we've got to change this..."

Much of the audience came to know Lucas from the Oscar nominated film "American Gangster," in which Denzel Washington brilliantly portrayed his rise and fall of power. In the movie, Lucas comes to conquer Harlem after his mentor, Bumpy Johnson, dies and he feels compelled to fill the void that was left.

Lucas took over and strayed from the flashy lifestyle so as not to attract attention to himself and as a result, at his peak, he was pocketing an estimated $1 million a day. Inevitably, he was tracked by detective Richard Roberts, played by Russell Crowe, because of his suspicious actions.

"The film was 85 percent correct," commented Lucas when asked of the movie's accuracy. "I was with Steven Zaillian, the writer, everyday for nine months, then three months, then one month—I was getting sick of him!" Jokingly, Lucas spoke of the extensive time spent to

learn his story, but he believes that the film turned out to be pretty close to the life he actually led. He shared that at the height of his power, his sharp knowledge of the business allowed him to have a net worth of $1 billion at one time. "That was the highest point of my life…of course the lowest was when they took it all away." His witty repertoire with the MC of the night, Matt Stegman, kept the crowd lingering on his every word. "He's a very spontaneous guy," admits Stegman. His attitude allows for his listeners to see him as a down-to-earth guy while learning from his mistakes.

The atmosphere turned somewhat more serious when the time came for Lucas to share the answers to the questions that were swirling around in the minds of just about everyone sitting in the auditorium. What went wrong in your past to put you at that point to sell drugs? What would you change? What are your regrets? The shell of the humorous, street-seasoned man is shed and the real human who is conscious of his past and how it has affected him emerges.

"My biggest regret is selling drugs. I should have never done that. For you [students], please don't do that; that life is dead," said Lucas. After he got into trouble with the law in his hometown, Lucas' mother suggested he move to New York to start a new life. Things did not turn out how she had hoped. "I started robbing and stealing the night I got there," Lucas said, and as they say, the rest was history.

Acknowledging his past, Lucas made it a point throughout the interview to ask this generation to change the lifestyle that is so glamorized on the outside, yet is still as corrupt and dirty as the day he started down the path. Many students reached out to him with heavy hearts during the question and answer session. The main issue they wanted advice on was helping those individuals close to them who had already strayed down the wrong path. Wise words came from the man who once lived the destructive lifestyle. "Be a big brother, be a big sister. Our children are being killed by children, so we've got to change this. I'm not worried about you guys, it's the ones on the street with no guidance I'm worried about," stated Lucas. It's clear to see his message starts at home. His son, Ray Lucas, was also in attendance and when asked the most important thing he learned from his father, he responded saying, "Don't go into this business. You'll end up dead or in prison."

"Take the ones who weren't blessed with the advantages you [college students] have under your wing. Teach them the right way to do things."

As far as the glamorized life of Lucas in the hip-hip world, he doesn't even give it a second thought. "I don't listen to… (pauses to think of the word)…rap." He doesn't promote the themes of hip-hop because he doesn't believe that the lifestyle is healthy for our community. Any association with him a song's lyrics is the artist's perpsective and not because Lucas associates with the message.

From the eyes of one who hasn't heard Frank Lucas speak, it can seem like he is still the individual who ran the streets, handing drugs to the inhabitants of Harlem and dwelling in a lifestyle that only seems fit to be seen on the silver screen. Yet, that was his past. Lucas has been all around the country—different states, different schools— explaining his story and the consequences to thousands of students, yet the message remains the same: get your education and be successful. Sitting back in his wheelchair and looking over his rose-colored glasses, literally, he encourages, "Take the ones who weren't blessed with the advantages you have under your wing. Teach them the right way to do things." My man. ■



Photo by Herbert Wilborn III

Yaves Ellis

A Conversation with a Street Pastor On a Mission

By Yentil Rawlinson, 1st Year-Communication Major



Photo by Jamaar Threat

As a senior at The Ohio State University, Yaves Ellis, better known as the Street Pastor, has the drive that most would envy. With an extraordinary list of accomplishments at the tender age of 22, he could put most 50-year-olds to shame. Rapping since the age of nine and starting his own business before even enrolling in college, his story is amazing. Growing up in inner city Columbus, Ohio, he has had his share of challenges but never was his dream deferred.

What makes you different from any other student at OSU?

I feel that everyone is unique in their own way. The biggest thing that sets me apart is ambition. I really look forward to changing the world. Some people believe they're here to do a certain job or make a certain amount of money, but I truly believe that I'm here to make history. It may sound conceited but that's just my belief. I believe that I'm here to change the course of history, somehow, someway.

Could you tell me a little bit about your background?

I grew up in the inner city and dealt with the same struggles as everyone else around me. I had a mother and step father that dealt with drug addiction. My background is the kid from the inner city that felt like this was not for me. I found myself trying to figure out how I could get out of the situation. I got involved with music very early in life. I got a chance to be around people that knew God and that introduced me to Christianity. It turned my life around, as well as my family's. My mother is now a drug and alcohol counselor that travels around the United States. When I travel around, my father travels with me.

I've heard about so many of the amazing things that you've done. Could you tell me about some of them?

I am a motivational speaker who has traveled the nation talking to youth and young adults about any topic they give to me, whether it's drugs and alcohol or HIV and AIDS. I started off rapping at the age of 9 with the group ROAR and we got a major record deal. By the time I turned 14, I started focusing on my solo career.

I currently own my own publishing company and I've worked with a lot of different major artists. We also do ghostwriting and production for artists, which is always fun. I got the chance to work on a few small films and a few commercials. I am also the youngest person to ever hold the position as a director at Radio One. I am the Director of Public Affairs and we own over 80 stations throughout the nation. All of that on top of school and running my own media company.

How do you do it?

Its mostly because I've been doing it for so long. I've been busy my whole life, so I feel like when I'm not busy, I'm doing something wrong. Some people may think that it's overwhelming but I get

overwhelmed when I'm not doing enough. I've always had those ideas and that "get up and get it" type of attitude because there were times in my life where I had to fend for myself and you never grow out of that.

What is the main force that has driven you to succeed?

My main force would have to be my faith in God, just understanding that I'm here for a bigger reason than for my own selfish goals. There are millions of kids just like me who grew up in the inner city who feel like they can't make it out. I believe that God took me out of the situation so that I can go back and bring them out as well.

Since you call yourself the "Street Pastor", how do you identify with the street life and how do you feel about those who choose the street life?

The way I identify with it is because it hits so close to home, you know? Growing up I had six friends, only two of us are left. I'm in college and he's in prison doing life. I've had the opportunity to see what happens when you take the fast money road, whether it's fast money, fast cars, whether it's selling drugs or robbing people, I've seen it first account. Even if I didn't rob somebody my friend did, or may have gotten robbed or seen that kind of lifestyle.

My connections to the streets are the young kids that I mentor and my cousins that maybe aren't in college doing what I'm trying to do. I try to keep that balance because I'm always around it because it's so close to me. I'm in school full time where there's no one here that's on that drama that you would think they would be on. I stay connected to it on a positive light as opposed to me being a part of the drama. I'm there trying to be the voice of reason.

Considering that you're a Christian rapper, how do you feel about mainstream hip hop today and its affect on society?

I'm a fan of hip hop and it's really hard when you love music. I love to listen to all kinds of music. I've worked with all kinds of artists from everywhere. I listen to everything and I've worked with so many types of artists.

As far as the influence I understand that when you see something and hear something so much, you know it even if you don't like the song. I think about the Folgers commercial with "The best part of waking up" everybody knows that song but nobody sat there and learned that song, It was just played so much. It's really scientific. They've done studies to show that music is the only thing that surpasses both hemispheres of the brain and some people say " It's just music it's not hurting anyone" but hiphop culture and rap in general is the driving force of everything. It sells cars, jewelry, clothes; it sells everything and it has major influence and that's why I use my influence to promote something more positive.

What made you decide to come to OSU?

I got a high score on my ACT and due to a few circumstances and a few of the little things that I got into outside of school life, I felt it was the best place for me to be. I got a full ride and it's close to home so that I can take care of my family. I also just started my business so it wouldn't have been smart for me to leave something that I just started. I actually got here on campus and I noticed that there were people from everywhere. I met people from everywhere like Iran, Pakistan, Africa that went to school here. I want to change the course of the world and I need to be around these type of people so the diversity brought me here.

What advice would you give to incoming freshman?

When you get here, hit the ground running. A lot of people get here and they're shy and afraid. Get out there and talk to people. Just understand that it is going to go fast. I still remember coming in as a freshman and there are certain things that I wish I would have done more of, like meeting people and networking. When you get here just get settled in and get the partying out of the way, so that you can get focused and make it happen. ■



Photo by John Ellis



Photo by Herbert Wilborn III

Black Greeks Speak

Greek life on campus and in the community

By Rachael Walters, 2nd Year-Communication Major

The thought of attending a predominately white university often evokes a tad bit of fear and/or hesitation for prospective minority students. Many students wonder: Will I fit in? Will I be around other students that have my common interests? Though Ohio State is a predominately white institution, it is still a place of great diversity. One of the many exciting ways Ohio State continues to promote diversity and unity among its African American student population is through black Greek-letter organizations. These organizations help give a collective voice to the African American student population and the issues that affect the community today.

Black Greek-letter organizations are a part of the Pan-Hellenic Council, the umbrella organization for all of the chapters and members of black Greek organizations regardless of university affiliation. The council consists of nine historically African American Greek organizations. These organizations are Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity Inc., Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Inc., Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity Inc., Omega Psi Phi Fraternity Inc., Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Inc., Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity Inc., Zeta Phi Beta Sorority Inc., Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority Inc., and Iota Phi Theta Fraternity Inc. The primary purpose and focus of the member organizations are community awareness and action through educational, economic, and cultural service activities. Though there is often talk of the many stereotypes surrounding these organizations, it is more important to focus on the numerous benefits these organizations have on members and the African American community on campus.

"In order to achieve academic success, it is vital that there is balance between social and academic activities."

According to Tyrone Waller II, president of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity Inc. Iota Psi Chapter and native of Charlotte, North Carolina, "Anytime there is in issue within the community, black Greeks are typically the ones who try to act upon the situation, along with administrators." Besides being an outlet in terms of student advocacy,

black Greek-letter organizations also strengthen academic achievement and foster leadership and life skills that can be used upon graduation.

In order to achieve academic success, it is vital that there is balance between social and academic activities. Joining a sorority or fraternity offers numerous social opportunities, while providing a support group of like minded motivated individuals who support one another through thick and thin. Pierre M. Durant, President of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity Inc. Zeta Chapter and native of Dayton, Ohio, shares how his affiliation with his organization has benefited him academically. "We push each other to have the best grades possible because we represent Kappa Alpha Psi, not just ourselves…we want to do well individually but we also want our chapter to do well." He continues, "…Many of my responsibilities as president require me to be well spoken and informed on certain issues so I can help fellow African American students." Zeta Chapter also hosts numerous social events throughout the academic year such as Shoes For Zulus and the Shot of Love Charity Date Auction. The Shoes For Zulus program collects shoe donations, regardless of size or style, and donates the collected footwear to South Africans who are without shoes. The Shot Of Love Charity Date Auction is a date auction where students have the chance to bid on fellow students who volunteer for the event. This is a fun and exciting way to meet new people and help the community. All proceeds from the auction are donated to St. Jude Children's Hospital.

Being involved in a Greek-letter organization not only allows you to meet people who will become lifelong friends, but these same people will in a sense be your home away from home. Karen Williams, treasurer of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Inc. Epsilon Chapter, a fourth year middle childhood education major from Cleveland, Ohio, emotionally shares that her fellow sisters are truly her family. "I can truly count on them when I need them. They are my sisters, my support group; and though we are not blood sisters, no one can tell me otherwise…I love my 'sands,'" which is a word used to acknowledge members who have joined the sorority during the same semester.

Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Inc. Epsilon Chapter also hosts numerous events throughout the year that benefit, educate, and uplift the community at Ohio State.

"My community involvement makes me feel complete."

Some of these programs include their Thanksgiving canned food drive and annual penny drive. These two annual programs hosted by Epsilon Chapter collect food and monetary donations with the purpose of providing 22 local families in need with a full-course Thanksgiving dinner. Epsilon Chapter also hosts the highly anticipated "Crimson and Cream" scholarship ball, a formal social event in which the proceeds are awarded to a deserving student in the form of a scholarship. When asked about the importance of being able to serve her community Karen Williams enthusiastically says, "My community involvement makes me feel complete. Knowing that there are needy people and being able to help and truly make a difference is amazing."

Tyrone Waller II, president of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity Inc. Iota Psi Chapter, speaks candidly about how his involvement with Omega Psi Phi Fraternity Inc. has influenced him throughout his college career. "Omega Psi Phi Fraternity Inc. is the greatest fraternity in the world. It's not an opinion, it's a fact. The Fraternity has helped me by giving me an outlet to go to whenever I need something. They do simple things such as notify me of various tutoring programs, important dates, how not to get distracted at a campus of 60,000 people, and also by giving me an avenue to meet many different people from various walks of life." It is easy to see that the bonds members share transcend going to parties and go above and beyond wearing Greek letters. The bonds are about the growth and development of individuals and being positive assets to both the campus and Columbus communities in the process. ■



Photo by Herbert Wilborn III

Confessions in a Bathroom Stall

A creative commentary about secrets and self-worth

By Camille Travis, 1st Year-Journalism Major



So I'm on my way to my last class of the day, the dreaded French. With a few minutes to spare, I realize my bladder is about to explode, so I quickly make a detour to the bathroom. I sit down and handle business, when upon reaching for the toilet paper, I notice the writing on the stall. Weirdly, I've always found the bathroom manuscript entertaining and mildly amusing to pass the couple of minutes you spend in the stall. Interestingly, in this stall there seemed to be some kind of forum going on between the women who passed through this particular toilet. Someone originally wrote: TELL A SECRET THAT YOU WANT TO GET OFF YOUR CHEST. As you can imagine, I'm sitting there thinking, "JACKPOT!"

All over the wall are confessions from anonymous women who felt compelled to tell secrets, which they were hiding from their best friends, to a bathroom stall. Some were amusing like the one about how they never wrote on a bathroom wall. Some were straight weird about how they LOVED guys calves. Yet the confessions that stuck out the most were those brimming with pain.

"I'm bulimic."

"I'm a lesbian, but I'm too scared to tell anyone."

"My boyfriend is overseas fighting, and I really miss him."

"I get really jealous if a girl is prettier than me."

"I have no real friends... anywhere."

I feel pain for these girls before I snap back to reality and realize I've been in the stall for nearly 5 minutes. Ewwwww!!! I exit.

So now I sit at my computer, urged to spill out my thoughts on what I saw. Most people wouldn't care, but me being a women's studies minor, I can't help but think about the pressures and secrets of women and young girls. I think of my own struggles. I think about women just like my mother, sisters, aunts, cousins or friends. I think about all the times I have to hear of their problems–problems, that for some, lead to constant anxiety, depression, even suicide. We're constantly told we're not strong enough, smart enough, pretty enough, thin enough.....the list continues. Frankly, its all a bunch of bull.

The beauty myths and socially constructed ideals for women continue to plague our minds. If I hear one more "I'm too fat," "He did this/He did that," "I wish I was more..." I think I might scream. God made you for a purpose and to ever doubt yourself is to doubt his flawless work. There are always going to be insecurities. Imagine the one thing you wish you could have or eliminate, then imagine it actually happening. Would you then be instantly satisfied? Chances are no, because there is always going to be something. Plainly said: we all want what we can't have, but the key to true self-acceptance and happiness is take what you have and make the best of it.

If you're dealing with the stress of others, know that you're not alone. Not to mention there are those out there doing way worse than you. Keep your head up because things will get better and the pain will only be a distant memory.

Clearly, I can't change the self-esteem of every girl or woman, (or person for matter) but I hope this uplifted at least one person.

You're strong.
You're smart.
You're beautiful. ■

Russell Simmons Visits Ohio State

A Hip-Hop mogul shares a few valuable words with OSU students

By Heather Hope, 3rd Year-Journalism Major

People who wanted to know about how to break into the music industry were in good company when hip-hop pioneer and entrepreneur Russell Simmons spoke at Ohio State's Mershon Auditorium. The event drew a significant crowd to hear Simmons speak of his experience in the entertainment business. Lee Shadle, an OSU graduate, moderated the event.

Simmons said he got the inspiration for all his ideas by seeing a void in the community. "I noticed that there was not enough representation of groups like Run-DMC and the Beastie Boys," Simmons said. "When I saw that gap musically, I seized the opportunity to make something happen and create a new thing."

Simmons spoke of his challenges growing up in a drug-infested neighborhood in Queens, N.Y. He co-founded Def Jam Recordings in 1984 and signed acts such as LL Cool J, Kurtis Blow, and his brother's group Run-DMC. He started the Phat Farm clothing company, produced television shows such as Def Comedy Jam and has recently released the RushCard, a pre-paid debit card aimed to help low-income individuals with their credit. Simmons said he has been able to stay in the music business for so long because of his vision. "I saw no limitations with hip-hop and am thankful that I have been able to grow up with it and not out of it," he said.

Some students were excited that Simmons shared his business insight and struggles. "I was honored that the busy Russell Simmons was able to come to Ohio State and talk about his life and contributions," said Paul Douglas, a sophomore in criminology. Simmons said although his schedule is different each day, he makes an effort to meditate for an hour in the morning. "I think everyone should try to have some quiet time before their day begins because that peace can help minimize the stress of the day," he said.



Photo by Getty Images

In regard to the Don Imus controversy and the blame that was placed on hip-hop, Simmons said people should not try to change rap but strive to change society. "The lyrics in hip-hop a lot of times are a reflection of the world these rappers live in so their words are real for them," he said. Simmons said many artists are depressed because they come into the business with a get-rich-quick mentality.

"I have a nice gas-guzzler but a modest apartment now because you find that no matter how many chairs you have you can only sit your butt down in one at a time, and the bigger the house, the more confusing," he said. He encouraged students to study what they love because only that passion can give them true happiness in life. Simmons said he is focusing on his new jewelry line called Diamond Empowerment Fund, which raises money for schools in Africa.

Simmons told entertainment aspirants they have to work hard enough to become indispensable so that a company cannot do without them. "To get noticed you have to make whatever you do so hot that one opportunity leads to another, and your career takes off," he said. ■

HIGHLIGHTED GRAD

Carla Jackson

Getting up close & personal

By Jonathan Hall, 3rd Year Ph.D.-Ecology Program

As I unpack my notepad at a back table at the Barnes & Noble Bookstore in the Lennox shopping plaza, a strange bit of anxiety settles in my stomach. I try to relax by thumbing through a car magazine, but before I know it she's pulling her chair out from under the table and it's time to begin. Why am I nervous? I've know Carla for three years now, I see her at least once every other week. As she begins to answer the first of my many questions the answer hit's me square in the brain; this is a smart and thoughtful woman. She has a lot of good ideas and opinions that people ought to hear. "Don't screw this up" is the thought that echoes in my head as I write Ms. Jackson's responses on paper.

Carla Jackson is a fourth year Ph.D. student in political science here at The Ohio State University. She hails from Memphis, Tenn. and is a graduate of Washington University in St. Louis, "Wash U" as she often refers to it. As is often the case with first time conversations among graduate students I asked Carla what attracted her to Ohio State. "The program" she immediately replies. "The political science program here at OSU is one of the best in the country" she informs me. It is actually the fourth best political science program in the world. I told you she was smart, but Carla is quick to add that



Photo by Jonathan Hall

"the people in the program" were also a big part of her deciding to attend OSU. When choosing a graduate school, the people on the faculty are as important as the department's academic reputation. My next question, how was your transition from undergrad to graduate school, sheds light on the difficulties many graduate students face. With serious eyes and a warm smile Carla says, "it was harder than the undergrad transition. I had been through the culture shock of going to a majority white institution already," she adds; "it was the transition from semesters to quarters that was difficult."

Carla goes on to describe that after working for AmeriCorps for a year before graduate school it was "difficult to get back into the academic mind set." She describes her first few months in class as trying to understand a "foreign language" and that while the material wasn't above her head, it took time to understand the academic rhythm of her department. I find Carla's assessment very poignant, as many fellow black graduate students I've spoken with have an adjustment period where they are getting acclimated to a new academic environment, an environment usually devoid of others who share their same cultural background. If their counterparts don't appear to

have to make this adjustment, some students succumb to the pressure and, sadly, drop out. Carla is not one of those people as she will be graduating this summer.

Curious about her thoughts on diversity on OSU's campus, I ask her about the issue. Carla explains that there are two kinds of diversity, "tolerance and appreciation." She explains that tolerance diversity does not encourage or support individual minority groups to grow and thrive. Tolerance leads to "minority groups being lumped together as one big group representing diversity." Carla emphasizes that each minority group must have its own space and agenda in order to fully represent the diversity OSU claims to encourage. She further expresses her dislike for the idea that Ohio State is a "melting pot," a scenario where all elements in the pot eventually become one with no distinction between the ingredients.

But Ms. Jackson's criticism isn't without optimism. She describes OSU as having all the tools in place to be a great university for diversity. "The people are here… but it is important that the head of administration take a firm stance on diversity…to set the standard for others to follow."

So how do blacks and other minorities contribute to this effort? How do they do their part to make their presence felt on campus? Carla emphasizes that organizations must make sure to establish a "home-base or a safe space" for themselves; a place of strength where their ideas and agendas can manifest themselves. As president of the Black Graduate and Professional Student Caucus, Carla has worked for the past year at doing just that. Under her administration the caucus has seen its membership double and general enthusiasm for the various community programs sponsored by the caucus increase.

Carla plans to use her education to further research policy-making in the fields of healthcare, housing and economic development, and foreign relations. Armed with the self confidence and assertiveness earned through her education and with the support of friends she's made during her time here, Carla plans to eventually return to academia with a unique and well rounded perspective on the politics that influence blacks in this country. I feel very confident that Carla Jackson will be an extremely successful person in life. Should you happen to see her on campus you might want to take the time to pick her brain as she has many interesting ideas to share. Be prepared to be challenged, be prepared to think, but most of all, be prepared to enjoy the conversation. ■

"The Political Science program here at OSU is one of the best in the country."



Did You Know?

Ohio State is ranked in the top 20 among public universities, according to *U.S. News & World Report's* 2007 "America's Best Colleges."

Ohio State was chosen as one of the country's 50 best colleges for African Americans by *Black Enterprise* magazine (2005).

Ohio State is a top 10 research university based on research expenditures, according to the National Science Foundation.

Black Enterprise magazine named Columbus as one of the top 10 cities for African Americans (2005).

The Journal of Blacks in Higher Education ranked Ohio State second in the percentage of African Americans in the MBA program (2005).

Students come from all 88 counties in Ohio and from 126 countries around the world.

The Importance of Minorities in the College Recruitment Process

Changing trends and how you can contribute

By Erin Thomas, Graduate Student-Higher Education & Student Affairs Program



Office of Minority Affairs Overnight Visit Participants

In the publication "Minorities in Higher Education: Twenty-Second Annual Status Report," the American Council on Education found that in the ten-year period between 1993 and 2003, higher education experienced a 51 percent increase in minority student enrollment. This compared to Caucasian students, whose enrollment rates rose 3.4 percent. In spite of this dramatic increase, the rates for minorities in higher education still remain low relative to the overall U.S. population. However, it is projected that by 2013, students of color will be the majority on college and university campuses nationwide.

What does this dramatic shift in minority enrollment mean?

Campus climate changes will eventually lead to adjustments in areas ranging from diversifying the curriculum to expanding more inclusive student support services. First however, the change in campus climate will lead to greater representation of previously marginalized groups on campus. Such representation will transcend enrollment numbers, taking the form of student organizations, events, forums, and publications. For minorities in particular, both current and prospective students can benefit from these opportunities.

As it relates to current students, formal outlets of representation can foster an increased sense of connectivity, a collective voice, and a community of shared experience. For example, African American students at Ohio State find solidarity in their voices through organizations such as the Afrikan Student Union, Black Student Association, and Black Graduate and Professional Student Caucus, to name a few. A popular community spot is the Frank W. Hale Black Cultural Center, and the Multicultural Center's African American Student Services works to celebrate culture through various events, retreats, and forums. Most recently, the Office of Minority Affairs' publication OSUnity has fostered yet another outlet for African American students. While direct recruitment techniques, such as high school visits and campus tours allow for the interaction between current and prospective students, often first impressions and initial connections are made through university publications.

"...I feel I can give back with the knowledge I have attained."

When asked about her interest in OSUnity, sophomore Rachel Walters remarked, "I feel that it is important to have a magazine like OSUnity because it gives a voice to the African American community as well as tips and other information that may be overlooked or underrepresented in other university publications."

Prospective students listen for these voices. Several studies indicate that the involvement of minority representatives from higher

education institutions—particularly current students—is most important in the admissions process. Prospective students seek a snapshot of college life and other information that extends beyond the brief profiles provided in viewbooks and video brochures.

"As a high school senior, I wondered how the college experience was as a black student at a [predominantly] white college," said first-year student Brandon Smith. "[This magazine helps] students like myself to understand the life of minority students. I want to share my experiences to help [the] next group of incoming freshman, specifically on topics outside of academics…I feel like I can give back with the knowledge that I have attained."

As a current student who was once a prospect—both at the undergraduate and graduate levels—I echo the importance of making connections. As minorities in higher education, we owe this to each other, and these connections make all the difference in overall satisfaction, retention and graduation rates. It is important for current students to have a voice representative of their experiences on campus and for prospective students to have access to these candid voices.

To my peers who are current students, involve yourself in the recruitment process. Fill the void that you felt was missing during your own recruitment process or replicate the great experience that you had. Attend student panels, apply to work at summer orientation, contribute to minority student publications like OSUnity—make yourself an available mentor in some way for prospective students.

If you are a high school student, or even if you are considering to transfer, it is important to ask questions of current minority students concerning their college experiences. Ask about dorm life, academics, student activities, community involvement. Most importantly, ask the direct question about what it's like being a minority on campus. (We are always waiting for that question.) You will find that current students have a variety of experiences and share a desire to help you find the best fit for your college experience. ■

Getting to Know Ohio State

Some interesting facts that you may not know about OSU

By Jefferson R. Blackburn-Smith, Senior Associate Director-UAFYE

As students move through the process of searching for the best university to meet their needs for post secondary education (and beyond), some students might wonder why they would even consider applying to The Ohio State University, a predominantly white, research extensive institution and the largest single campus school in the United States. Students worry that they might find themselves just a number rather than a member of a community, at risk to falling through the cracks of a giant bureaucracy.

What could be the benefit of attending such a place?

Ohio State is big (52,000 students), urban (Columbus is the 15th largest city in the nation), public, diverse, research-oriented, land grant, complex, challenging and worth it. Ohio State isn't a microcosm of the world, it is the world, with all of the opportunities and complexities of the world in which we live. For the right students, that means unlimited opportunity to achieve your dreams. For any student, that means Ohio State is likely to be much more diverse than anywhere else you might have lived. Ohio State students come from every county in Ohio and all 50 states, as well as over 100 countries around the world. For Autumn Quarter, 2007, Ohio State enrolled over 11,000 students of color and more than 3,600 international students.

For students attending Ohio State, it is the intersection of the University's excellent academics (Ohio State is ranked as both one of the top 10 Public research institutions and one of the top 20 Public Universities* in the United States) with the student experience (over 800 student organizations, more than 100 study abroad programs in 40 countries, an Office of Undergraduate Research, Co-ops and internships) that makes our graduates competitive for life after college, whether they are going into the workforce or on to graduate or professional school.

Now does any of that translate into anything meaningful for African American students? You be the judge. Last autumn, OSU enrolled more than 3,430 African American students. Almost nine out of 10 (89.3 percent) of the African American students that began in the fall of 2006 returned for their sophomore year. Ohio State awarded more undergraduate degrees to African American students (567) than any other school in Ohio or the Big Ten in 2007. September 2008 will mark the 120th anniversary of the first African American undergraduate to enroll at Ohio State. Sherman Hamlin Guss enrolled in 1888 and earned his bachelor's degree in 1892.

Ohio State University is big, public, diverse, research-oriented, land grant, complex, challenging and worth it. You owe it to yourself to take a closer look and find out whether or not Ohio State is the right fit for you. ■

AUTUMN '07- SPRING '08

African American GRADUATES

BACHELORS DEGREES

Autumn 2007

ABRAHAM	ABAY	Gondar, Ethiopia
FARHIYO	ABDULSALAM	Columbus, OH
ROBERT	ACREE	Cleveland, OH
MAJEEDA	AL-AMIN	Cleveland, OH
LENI	ANDERSON	Columbus, OH
MARCUS	ATKINSON	Lorain, OH
CHELSEA	BAILEY SUMLIN	Alexandria, VA
ERICA	BAKER	Cleveland, OH
MARGARET	BAKO	Abejukolo, Nigeria
BRIAN	BARTON	Columbus, OH
JANIKA	BATCHMAN	Columbus, OH
CANDACE	BISHOP	Charlotte, NC
RACHEL	BOOKER	Grove City, OH
EMMA	BREW	Columbus, OH
MCKENNA	BROWN	Chillicothe, OH
SELENA	BRYANT	Columbus, OH
JOSHUA	BYRD	Delaware, OH
JAMES	CANADY	Toledo, OH
PAUL	CARTER	Chicago, IL
LYDELL	CARTER	Cincinnati, OH
DELONNA	COLBERT	Toledo, OH
SHARI	COLLINS	Southfield, MI
BRANDY	COMMODORE	Cincinnati, OH
ADAM	CROMPTON	Irvington, NJ
MARSHA	CUVEILJE	Jamaica
AARON	DAVIS	Cleveland, OH
ALAN	DEWITT	Columbus, OH
ROBERT	DILLARD	Columbus, OH
TIANA	DIXON	Columbus, OH
FAYRUS	DUALE	Columbus, OH
CHARLES	DUPIGNY	Cincinnati, OH
MOHAMED	FARAH	Somalia
MICHELLE	FLEMING	Youngstown, OH
MONICA	FLOWERS	Columbus, OH
ERICA	FRANKENBERY	Newark, OH
MARCUS	FREEMAN	Huber Hts, OH
ELWOOD	GANT	Steubenville, OH
FEBEN	GEBREMESKEL	Columbus, OH
TASHA	GRADDIC	Columbus, OH
MARY	HALL	Lakewood, OH
CHRISTINA	HAMPSHIRE	Lima, OH
ALYSS	HARDIN	University Heights, OH
IVORY	HATCHER	Mansfield, OH
WARREN	HAYES	Newark, OH
BRANDIE	HOSKINS	Dayton, OH
DION	HUEY	Columbus, OH
JAZMIN	JACKSON	Cleveland, OH
B	JENKINS	Columbus, OH
KHALILA	JOHNSON	Dayton, OH
DOMINIQUE	JOHNSON	Westerville, OH
OUSMANE	KEBE	Columbus, OH
DEZMON	LANDERS	Columbus, OH
PAT	LEATHERMAN	Columbus, OH
TAMARA	LEE	Columbus, OH
AARON	LENARD	Cincinnati, OH
BRANDON	LOWE	Canton, OH
ASHLEY	MCGILL	Detroit, MI
APRIL	MCGILL	Gainesville, FL
INDIA	MEEKS	Athens, OH
SHARIFA	MILLS	Dix Hills, NY
ANDRE	MOSS	Columbus, OH
JOVITHA	MUDACUMURA	Hummelstown, PA
ALINE	MUKASHYAKA	Westerville, OH
RUQIYO	MUSA	Columbus, OH
CAROLINE	NZONGI	Nairobi, Kenya
HERBERT	OBENG	Sayreville, NJ
JUDITH	OBIOFUMA	Decatur, GA
KEYANNA	OWENS	Cleveland, OH
SPARKLE	PARKS	Columbus, OH
LATISE	PARSON	East Liverpool, OH
VERONICA	PAYNE	Cincinnati, OH
RONANDA	PERKINS	Cleveland, OH
JOHN	POLLETT	Columbus, OH
MEREDITH	PRICE	Columbus, OH
MICHELLE	PRITCHETT	Trotwood, OH
NICHOLE	PULLEY	Cleveland, OH
COURTNEY	QUEEN	Orange Village, OH
ASHLEY	REID	Steubenville, OH
MARY	ROBERTS	Columbus, OH
MYKL	ROBINSON	Reynoldsburg, OH
SHAUN	RUSSELL	Cincinnati, OH
CATHERINE	SAM	Spring, TX
CELESTE	SHELBY	Los Angeles, CA
JENNIFER	SMITH	Columbus, OH
HERBERT	SMITH	Columbus, OH
JACQUELINE	SMITH	Cleveland, OH
KEENAN	SOURELIS	Columbus, OH
LALIET	UMARA	Columbus, OH
GODSON	VORVORNATOR	Groveport, OH
AKILAH	WEST	Columbus, OH
MARQUITA	WILLIAMS	Columbus, OH
JAQUALIA	WILLIAMS	Youngstown, OH
STEPHANIE	WILSON	Delaware, OH
TRACY	WOODS	University Heights, OH
HARVEY	WORTHAM	Dayton, OH

Winter 2008

YOHANES	ABERRA	Gondar, Ethiopia
ERIN	ADAMS	Columbus, OH
ADERONKE	ADEDAPO	Columbus, OH
BESRAT	AMARE	Columbus, OH
DJEYNABA	BA	Nouakchott, Mauritania
STACIE	BAKER	Columbus, OH
AMBER	BALLARD	Dayton, OH
MICHAEL	BARNHART	Columbus, OH
AUBREY	BATEMAN	Cincinnati, OH
JUSTIN	BELLAMY	Forestville, MD
AUSTIN	BLACK	Columbus, OH
KENNETTA	BRIDGES	Columbus, OH
JESSICA	BROOKINS	Reynoldsburg, OH
OLIVIA	BROWN	Cleveland Heights, OH
RODNEY	CHAMBERS	Cleveland Heights, OH
KYLE	COLEMAN	Dayton, OH
KEITH	COLEMAN	Medina, OH
REGINA	COUNCIL	Dublin, OH
CHELSEA	CRAWFORD	Wyoming, OH
DANIELLE	CULVER	Youngstown, OH
BRIAN	DAVIS	Westerville, OH
MONITA	DEWALT	Columbus, OH
ERIK	DEWEAVER	Trotwood, OH
CAMERON	DITTY	Dublin, OH
ROBERT	DIXON	Columbus, OH
DAVID	DIXON	Washington, DC
ANGELA	DOMINGO	North Canton, OH

Spring 2008

ANGELA	EDWARDS	Bexley, OH
SETOIYO	EKPO	Columbus, OH
IKENNA	EZEH	Cincinnati, OH
JONAS	FIELDS	Columbus, OH
TIFFANY	FISHER	Cincinnati, OH
PHYLISS	FLANAGAN	North College Hill, OH
LAWRENCE	FORTE	Cleveland, OH
WILLIAM	FRIMPONG	Kumasi, Ghana
KAREN	GLOVER	Cleveland, OH
KRISTY	GORDON	Canton, OH
SHANELLE	GRAVES	Columbus, OH
MARCUS	GREEN	Louisville, KY
MICAEL	HABTE	Eritrea
CARLA	HALL	St. Louis, MO
BRANDON	HALLIBURTON	Columbus, OH
MIKEEA	HANCOCK	Columbus, OH
REGINALD	HARPER	Columbus, OH
TY	HARRIS	Gahanna, OH
SARAH	HAWKINS	Pataskala, OH
BRADLEY	HENDERSON	Twinsburg, OH
GRACE	HILL	Newark, DE
AKIL	HOLMES	Springdale, OH
MICHELL	IVORY	Columbus, OH
RYAUNA	JELKS	Joliet, IL
ADRIANNA	JOHNSON	Plano, TX
EDWIN	JONES	Columbus, OH
ERICA	JORDAN-THOMAS	Columbus, OH
TABITHA	KAGAI	Columbus, OH
UWIMANA	KAMIYA	Columbus, OH
WORKITU	KASSA	Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
AREGA	KEBEDE	Blacklick, OH
CALVIN	KEUCHLER	Marion, OH
ANDRE	KING	Cleveland, OH
SHARINA	KING	Marion, OH
DUNSINANE	KNOX	Toledo, OH
SETH	LEWIS	Cleveland, OH
ANITA	LOMAX	Akron, OH
STEVE	MARBURY	Pataskala, OH
SUMYA	MCELROY	Youngstown, OH
RACHEL	MCINTYRE	Canton, OH
YELAKE	MESERETU	Silver Spring, MD
CEAIRA	MITCHELL	Akron, OH
RAESHAUN	MOORE	Blacklick, OH
ROMIQUE	MOTTON	Solon, OH
ERIN	MURDOCK	Cincinnati, OH
MARLIN	NORTH	Mission Viejo, CA
OLABODE	ODUBOLA	Cincinnati, OH
TOSIN	OGUNMUSANMI	Columbus, OH
RODNEY	PEDERSEN	St. Croix, VI
SHEILA	ROBINSON	Cincinnati, OH
WHITNEY	RUTHERFORD	Columbus, OH
KIA	SESSIONS	Chicago Heights, IL
ALLYN	SHERMAN	Houston, TX
ASHLEY	SIMPSON	Columbus, OH
CYNTHIA	SMITH	Youngstown, OH
CEBORAH	SMITH	Mount Gilead, OH
JEREMY	STOKES	Columbus, OH
DEBORAH	STRAHORN	Trotwood, OH
IESHA	TATE	Matteson, IL
ARMIKA	TATUM	Cincinnati, OH
SHAREE	THIGPEN	Columbus, OH
RUTH	THOMPSON	Columbus, OH
EBONY	WALLACE	Columbus, OH
ANDREA	WATTS	Northville, MI
ANTWUAN	WELLS	Cleveland, OH
MICHAEL	WILEY	San Diego, CA
KIA	WILLIAMS	Columbus, OH
PRINCE	WILLIAMS	Cleveland Heights, OH
ZACHRIS	WILLIS	Youngstown, OH
ANAB	ABDI	Garoowe, Somalia
KOOSHIN	ABDI	Gahanna, OH
ABDULKADIR	ABDI	Columbus, OH
DAHIR	ABDI	Mogadishu, Somalia
FARHIYA	ABDULLAHI	Columbus, OH
CHANTEL	ADAMS	Up Marlboro, MD
MAVIS	ADUSEI-APPIAH	Columbus, OH
USIOSEFE	AIMIUWU	Benin City, Nigeria
BINAEBI	AKAH	Upper Arlington, OH
OLUSEUN	AKERELE	Dayton, OH
UCHECHI	AMADI-IHEBUZOR	Reynoldsburg, OH
CORY	ANDERSON	Cleveland, OH
GEORGE	ANNOR	Kumasi, Ghana
BABATUNDE	AREMU	Stratford, CT
EDWIN	ATEM	Columbus, OH
JAQUELIN	BABCOCK	Ramstein, Germany
KATRICE	BACKIE	Canton, OH
SASHA-MARIE	BARKER	Fairfield, OH
DAVID	BARNES	Akron, OH
ALEXANDER	BARROW	Dublin, OH
DAMICKA	BATES	Columbus, OH
ZAINEB	BAYAHY	Columbus, OH
TONY	BEALER	Cleveland, OH
CHRISTINA	BELCHER	Hilliard, OH
TSION	BERHE	Columbus, OH
TENILE	BERNARD	Valley Stream, NY
MARTINA	BLACK	Cincinnati, OH
CIARA	BLACK	Columbus, OH
BRITTANY	BLANCHARD	Akron, OH
RYAN	BLAND	Pasadena, CA
JERRON	BOAKYE	Columbus, OH
LEISA	BOAKYE-DANKWAH	Dublin, OH
DESMOND	BODY	Morristown, NJ
SHAMAR	BORDERS	Cincinnati, OH
LESLIE	BOYD	Toledo, OH
STACEY	BOYER	Akron, OH
KENDRA	BRADLEY	Gahanna, OH
FAITH	BREW	Columbus, OH
ROSHANNA	BROADUS	Columbus, OH
LAUREN	BROOKS	Girard, OH
RACHEL	BROWN	Mason, OH
KACY	BULLARD	West Chester, OH
CASSIOPIA	BYRD	Columbus, OH
ARIEL	CALLION	Columbus, OH
THEODORE	CARROLL	Akron, OH
SHAVONNE	CARTER	Hilliard, OH
LAURA	CARTER	Holland, OH
CHAKOWIA	CARTER	Columbus, OH
MICHAELA	CHAROO	Dayton, OH
TYRELL	CHILDS	Westlake, OH
ALEXANDER	CHISLEY	Columbus, OH
ELLIOT	CHONG	North Andover, MA
ALETA	CHURCHILL	Columbus, OH
JOSEPH	CLARK	Youngstown, OH
JUEVONNA	CLARK	Columbus, OH
JESSICA	CLARK	Columbus, OH
HOLLY	COATS	Belpre, OH
JENNIFER	COLLIER	Columbus, OH
AYNSLEY	COLLIER	Piqua, OH
CYDNEY	COLLINS	Bedford Hts, OH
WESLEY	COMER	Portage, MI
MAYA	COOPER	Shaker Height, OH
TAI	CORNUTE	Columbus, OH
DWAN	DALTON	Washington, DC
LEAH	DAMERON	Wintersville, OH
JEROME	DARLING	Lyndhurst, OH
DE'ASIA	DAVIS	Cleveland, OH
PETER	DAVIS	Columbus, OH
LOUIS	DAVIS	Dayton, OH
KENNETH	DAVIS	Warren, OH
ADUGNA	DEMISSE	Columbus, OH

African American GRADUATES

BACHELOR'S DEGREES Spring 2008 (continued)

ASHLEY	DENT	Akron, OH
ERIK	DIGGS	Delaware, OH
CHRISTINA	DOUGLAS	Mesa, AZ
GARRETT	EBERHARDT	Columbus, OH
NIGEL	EDWARDS	Charlotte, NC
DI'JSON	EVANS	Wooster, OH
FALLON	EVANS	Youngstown, OH
NATASHA	EWING	Galloway, OH
VIVIAN	EZIKE	Kingsport, TN
CHRISTINE	FAITHFUL	Columbus, OH
ALI	FARAH	Columbus, OH
JASMINE	FINCH	Maple Heights, OH
BRANDON	FOSTER	Columbus, OH
TAKEESHA	FOSTER	Groveport, OH
SEIRRA	FOWLER	Akron, OH
CHRISTOPHER	FRANKLIN	Columbus, OH
SHAUNTAE	FURMAN	Jamestown, OH
AZZA	GALLAB	Khartoum, Sudan
JORDAN	GALLOWAY	Van Wert, OH
DONNY	GAMBLE	Eastlake, OH
BENJAMIN	GILLENS	Cincinnati, OH
BRANDEN	GIVAND	Mansfield, OH
DAYLEA	GODFREY	Gahanna, OH
ELSA	GOLLA	Columbus, OH
ANDREW	GOODMAN	Columbus, OH
JAMEL	GORDON	Columbus, OH
MAHLON	GRAHAM	Cleveland, OH
LLOYD	GRAHAM	Warren, OH
DANIELLE	GRANT	Maple Heights, OH
ROMELL	GRAVES	Youngstown, OH
RICKY	HAMMETT	Clinton, MD
ALANA	HARDISON	Worthington, OH
JENNIFER	HARRIS	Cincinnati, OH
AMBER	HARRIS	Warrensville Heights, OH
INDIA	HARRIS-JONES	Toledo, OH
BRYANT	HARRISON	Buford, GA
JIMMY	HARVARD	Chicago, IL
MARK	HASAN	Euclid, OH
REGINALD	HAYES	Jefferson, OH
NASTACHA	HAYWARD	Cleveland, OH
ANTOINEASE	HERRING	Cleveland, OH
LAUREN	HERRING	Massillon, OH
SINGLETON	HICKS	Columbus, OH
ASHLEY	HILL	Cleveland, OH
STEPHANIE	HILL	Gahanna, OH
MICHELLE	HILL	Mason, OH
CHENNEL	HILL	Toledo, OH
INDIA	HOUSTON	Dayton, OH
REGINA	HUGHES	Youngstown, OH
SABA	HUNTER	Canton, OH
SHANNON	HUTCHESON	Sylvania, OH
CHRIS	HYATT	Akron, OH
NAIMA	IBRAHIM	Columbus, OH
JESSICA	INGRAM	Cincinnati, OH
AUSTIN	IRVING	Toledo, OH
HAMIDA	ISMAEL	Columbus, OH
CARLLPHILIP	JABOIN	Reynoldsburg, OH
MONIQUEA	JACKSON	Columbus, OH
BRITTANY	JACKSON	Youngstown, OH
KARLA	JACKSON	Cleveland Hts, OH
TIFFIANY	JACKSON	Columbus, OH
PAULETTE	JACKSON	Columbus, OH
SAMANTHA	JOHNSON	Cleveland, OH
DIONTE	JOHNSON	Columbus, OH
DWAYNE	JOHNSON	Columbus, OH
MARCELUS	JOINER	East Cleveland, OH
MARC	JONES	Powell, OH
CHRISTOPHER	JONES	South Euclid, OH
SHANNON	JONES	Fairlawn, OH
DEVIN	JORDAN	Canton, OH
VALERIE	KADIRI	Nigeria
KISITO	KIKAM	Columbus, OH
MUSTAPHA	KURE	Lewis Center, OH
ROBERT	KYEI	Brooklyn, NY
MICHAEL	KYSER	Toledo, OH
JESSICA	LAWRENCE	Toledo, OH
SHAWN	LEE	Dayton, OH
JEREMY	LEE	Columbus, OH
GERALD	LEWIS	Cleveland, OH
SYDNIE	LIGGETT	Reston, VA
JENEA	LOGAN	Columbus, OH
MONICA	LONGMIRE	Colorado Springs, CO
HILDA	LYATUU	Westerville, OH
BENJAMIN	LYNCH	Enon, OH
DEVON	LYONS	N Braddock, PA
CHARLES	MARTINEZ	Cincinnati, OH
TONIKA	MASON	Columbus, OH
TENIKA	MASON	Cincinnati, OH
KEITH	MASON	Columbus, OH
MELODY	MAYLE	Cincinnati, OH
MARQUETTE	MCBRYDE	Raeford, NC
WESLEY	MCCLOUD	Cincinnati, OH
RYAN	MCCLURE	Southfield, MI
JONATHAN	MCDONALD	Columbus, OH
SPENCER	MCFARLANE	Baton Rouge, LA
LANCE	MCGOWAN	Columbus, OH
JENNIFER	MCKENZIE	Centerville, OH
MIKAELA	MEACHAM	Canton, OH
DANIELLE	MEADOWS	Columbus, OH
TREVOR	MEGOLOFF	Columbus, OH
ANNDREA	MILLER	Columbus, OH
LAURIE	MILLER	Sandusky, OH
AKITA	MILLER-ABBEY	New York, NY
KEIANA	MITCHELL	Cincinnati, OH
NURRA	MOALLIM	Westerville, OH
FATIMA	MOALLIM	Westerville, OH
EBONY	MOBLEY	Columbus, OH
UBAH	MOHAMED	Columbus, OH
BRITTANY	MOORE	Columbus, OH
PATRICK	MUAMBA	Columbus, OH
RASHIDA	MURRELL	Gahanna, OH
ABBAS	MUSTAFA	Khartoum, Sudan
IVY	MUTEITHIA	Nairobi, Kenya
ALDYN	MUTHRA	Toledo, OH
TWYLA	NARED	Akron, OH
FRANCINE	NDARIBAMARE	Westerville, OH
MBABNDAH	NDOBEGANG	Yaounde, Cameroon
CHIAMAKA	NGENE-IGWE	Columbus, OH
DEVON	NORRIS	Zanesville, OH
STANLEY	NWANERI	New Carrollton, MD
GBOLANIYI	ODUMOSU	Columbus, OH
MAAME	OFORI-AWUAH	Columbus, OH
CHINONYE	OGBONNAYA-ODOR	Columbus, OH
CHINAZOR	OGBUEHI	Gahanna, OH



NKIRUKA	OKAFOR	Dallas, TX
DICHE	OKOCHA	Cleveland Heights, OH
PRECIOUS	OKOH	Delta State, Nigeria
CHIDIMA	OKORIE	Nigeria
ADETOKUNBO	OLOWO	Columbus, OH
ELLIS	OPUSUNJU	Benin City, Edo, Nigeria
LANDON	PANNELL	Westerville, OH
TIERRA	POINDEXTER	Youngstown, OH
QUIANA	POLLOCK	Columbus, OH
DAVID	POWELL	Washington, DC
NINEEVA	PRENTISS	Columbus, OH
MONICA	PRESSLEY	Newport News, VA
DAYLON	PRITCHETT	Columbus, OH
KHADIJAH	QADEER	Cleveland, OH
LOREN	RAGLAND-JONES	Youngstown, OH
MARQELA	RANSOM-PEAK	Streetsboro, OH
DEADRA	REED	Mansfield, OH
TRISHA	REID	Columbus, OH
AMANDA	RHODES	Zanesville, OH
KAPRI	RICHARDSON	Akron, OH
LAURA	RIVERA RODRIGUEZ	Pickerington, OH
CARLI	ROBERSON	Cleveland Heights, OH
BRIAN	ROBERTS	New City, NY
MARYAN	ROBLE	Columbus, OH
OROSSICA	RODNEY	Lauderhill, FL
BRANDON	RUSSELL	Indianapolis, IN
JASMINE	SABREE	Columbus, OH
MAHUBO	SAID	Somalia
ERIC	SANDERS	Grayslake, IL
SAMUEL	SAUNDERS	Cleveland, OH
CHANIE	SCOTT	Columbus, OH
THERESA	SERNA	Cleveland, OH
LOUIS	SHARP	Cleveland, TN
DREMA	SHARPE	Columbus, OH
HERBRINA	SHEPHERD	Maple Hts, OH
CHENELL	SHUFF	Blacklick, OH
NATALYN	SIMMONS	Cleveland, OH
KHALIDA	SIMS	Cleveland Heights, OH
ANTWALETTE	SINGER	Toledo, OH
JAWAUNA	SMITH	Dayton, OH
CAELI	SMITH	Columbus, OH
TISHANDA	SPARKS	Garfield Heights, OH
ERICKA	SPEARS	Cincinnati, OH
RAYCHL	SPEIGNER	Cleveland, OH
DION	STANFORD	Akron, OH
NASTASSJA	STANTON	Columbus, OH
GENEVA	STARR	Cleveland, OH
JORDAN	STEPHENS	Trotwood, OH
TERAH	STEWART	Columbus, OH
ROB	STEWART	Dayton, OH
TANISHA	STRONG	Detroit, MI
CHANTAY	SULLIVAN	Delaware, OH
MARCUS	SUTTON	Cleveland, OH
DWAINE	THAMES	Toledo, OH
MARCUS	THOMAS	Dayton, OH
AMY	THOMPSON	Columbus, OH
LATONIA	THOMPSON	Lorton, VA
DARMELA	THORNTON	Bedford, OH
SHARECE	THROWER	Reynoldsburg, OH
JAMIE	TINSLEY	Columbus, OH
CHEVON	TOLER	Cincinnati, OH
YVONNE	TOWNSEND	Youngstown, OH
NEDA	TREADWELL	Obetz, OH
AMANDA	TURNER	Cleveland, OH
MARLAND	TURNER	Columbus, OH
LINDA	UDEANI	Reynoldsburg, OH
JUDE	UMOH	Dayton, OH
RAFEAL	UNDERWOOD	Columbus, OH
RENITA	UPSHUR	Manassas, VA
VERONICA	VANCE	Mason, OH
PATRICIA	VAUGHN	Mansfield, OH
NOEL	VOLTZ	Gallup, NM
KATRINA	WALK	Lanham, MD
SHAMINIQUE	WALKER	Columbus, OH
ROCQUEL	WALLER	Youngstown, OH
DANIEL	WANDREY	Peoria, AZ
JOCYLINE	WANTSALA	Cincinnati, OH
BRETT	WASHINGTON	Inglewood, CA
SONGCERAE	WASHINGTON	Kansas City, MO
DANA	WASHINGTON	Strongsville, OH
TIFFANY	WATKINS	Columbus, OH
PATRICK	WEST	Florissant, MO
LINDSAY	WESTERN	Columbus, OH
SHARONDA	WHATLEY	Cleveland, OH
GAY	WHEELER	Columbus, OH
TIMOTHY	WHIGHAM	Detroit, MI
AMBREA	WHITLOCK	Bowling Green, OH
RONALD	WILDER	Blacklick, OH
MILTON	WILKES	Trotwood, OH
BRITTANY	WILKINSON	Dayton, OH
BRICE	WILLIAMS	Cleveland Heights, OH
MEGAN	WILLIAMS	Cleveland, OH
DOMONIQUE	WILLIAMS	Cleveland, OH
BRITNEY	WILLIAMS	Mansfield, OH
KENTON	WILLIAMS	East St. Louis, IL
ANGELA	WILSON	Cleveland, OH
KRYSTAL	WOODS	Columbus, OH
WHITNEY	WORKS	Dayton, OH
MARKETTA	WRIGHT	Sandusky, OH
SHEILA	WRIGHT	Canton, OH
LUWAM	YEMANE	Columbus, OH

African American GRADUATES

MASTER'S DEGREES

Autumn 2007

RENITA	BURRELL	Madison, WI
ERNEST	EUGENE	Crofton, MD
TIFFANY	HARRISON	Florence, SC
STUART	HEFLIN	Dayton, OH
LENATRIA	HOLLY	Lexington, KY
TYJUAN	IRBY	Gary, IN
ELIZABETH	LOONEY	Akron, OH
ERVIN	MATTHEW	Bronx, NY
CARMEN	MERRITT	Dayton, OH
CHARLES	PATTON	Cleveland, OH
KETRA	RICE	Aliceville, AL
DARLENE	SAPORU	Minneapolis, MN
SAYED	TAGOE	Alexandria, VA
MYKOL	WALTERS	Randallstown, MD
ANDREW	WESLEY	Columbus, OH

Winter 2008

SARAH	BONZA	Akron, OH
ANGELA	CONLEY	Columbus, OH
ELENA	GARCIA	Tuskegee, AL
ANDREA	JONES	Columbus, OH
MICHAEL	MARTIN	Cleveland, OH
CRYSTAL	MCLEAN	Raleigh, NC
DORIS	ROSS	Columbus, OH
GRACE	SHERMAN	San Antonio, TX

Spring 2008

FAWZI	ABDULRAHMAN	Columbus, OH
TAHIRAH	AKBAR-WILLIAMS	Phoenix, AZ
ANTWANISHA	ALAMEEN	San Pablo, CA
SHARIFA	ALCENDOR	Harrisburg, PA
CRYSTAL	AUDRICK	Akron, OH
KARA	BARNES	Upper Marlboro, MD
ANTOINETTE	BATES-BROWN	Columbus, OH
CHAUNCEY	BEATY	Greenville, SC
ALEXIS	BLUNT	Columbus, OH
SALANDRA	BOWMAN	Greenwood, SC
KATRINA	BROWN	Gahanna, OH
TIANA	BROWN	Las Vegas, NV
TIFFANY	CLEMONS	Greenville, NC
VONTIJA	COLEMAN	Toledo, OH
BRANDAN	CRAFT	Columbus, OH
MISTY	CROMWELL	Zanesville, OH
HEATHER	CROSBY	Cleveland, OH
YOLANDA	DAVIS	Fort Worth, TX
ADRIN	DAWKINS	Cheverly, MD
BRIAN	DIAMOND	Pataskala, OH
MELISSA	EDELMAYER	Galloway, OH
THOMAS	FENNER	Copley, OH
COREY	GRAVES	Garrison, TX
KEVIN	HACKSHAW	Trinidad, West Indies
MICHAEL	HAIRSTON	Columbus, OH
RASHEA	HAMILTON	Dallas, TX
GINNY	HARVEY	Sandusky, OH
CHRISTOPHER	HAYES	Hamilton, OH
JAMES	HEREFORD	San Diego, CA
SOLOMON	HILL	New Bern, NC
ERIKA	HORTON-GUNNELL	Bronx, NY
JUSTIN	HUTCHINGS	Columbus, OH
JENNIFER	JONES	Hempstead, NY
LEAH	KOMORA	Warren, OH
SHALUN	LEWIS	East St Louis, IL
NINA	MALLETT	Hope, AZ
EMMANUEL	MANLEY	Pickerington, OH
ABIGAIL	MARTIN	Cleveland Heights, OH
RONEKA	MATHENY	Ladson, SC
JO VON	MCCALESTER	San Diego, CA
TRAVIAN	MITCHELL	Chattanooga, TN
KHADRA	MOHAMED	Columbus, OH
DEBORAH	NEAL	Chillicothe, OH
CHRISTY	NORMAN	Grovetown, GA
SUZAN	OSMAN	Columbus, OH
JASON	PERKINS	Baton Rouge, LA
STEVEN	REEVES	Orange, NJ
ERIC	RUSSELL	Nashville, TN
FRANCHESKA	SANFORD	Cleveland, OH
ELIZABETH	SHIPP	Powell, OH
DAVID	SMART	Columbus, OH
JERRI	SUTTON	Cincinnati, OH
KHALILAH	TATE	Columbus, OH
VORLEY	TAYLOR	Newark, OH
SOPHIA	TOLLIVER	Akron, OH
LAYTON	WALKER	Dayton, OH
BRIDGET	WALKER	St. Louis, MO
ASHLEY	WILLIAMS	South Euclid, OH
BONNIE	WILLIAMS	Milwaukee, WI
BRITNEY	WILLIAMS	Hilliard, OH
SEAN	WILLIAMS	Westerville, OH
BRUCE	WIMBISH	Avon Lake, OH
STEPHENI	WOODS	Jonesboro, GA
DEETRICHA	YOUNGER	Los Angeles, CA

DOCTORATE DEGREES

Autumn 2007

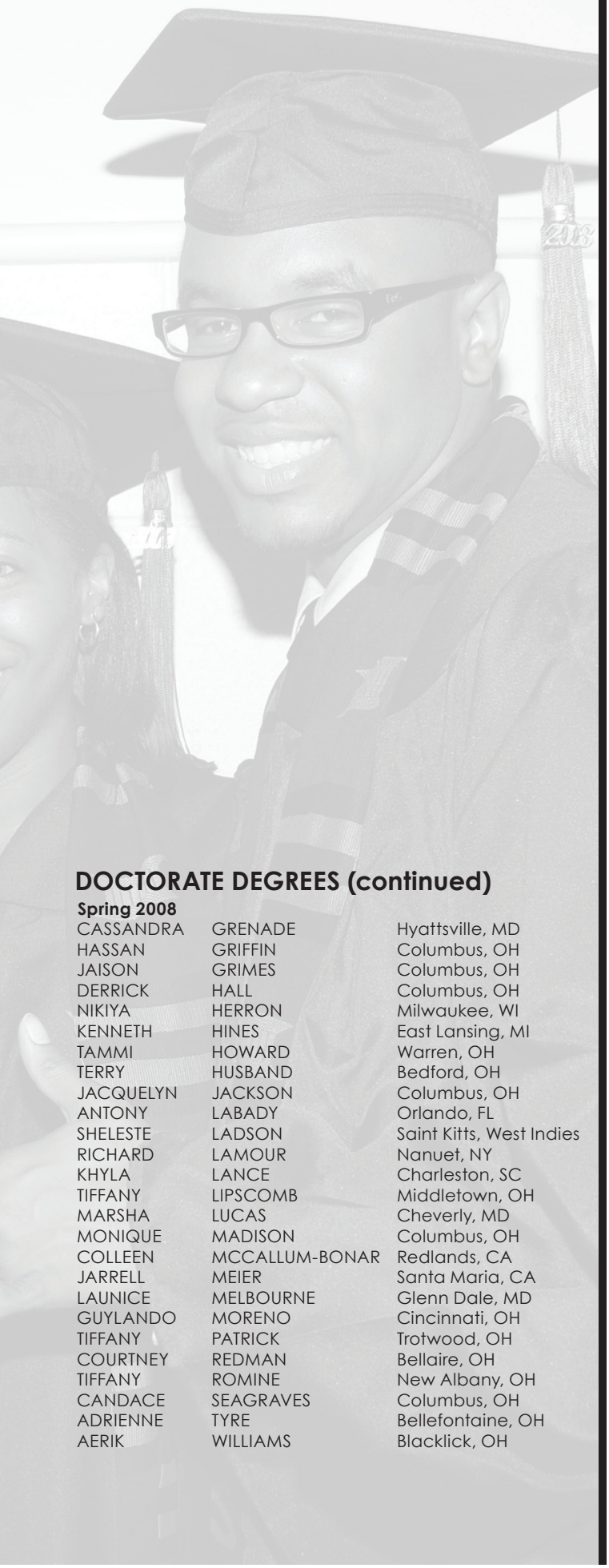
NA TOSHA	GATSON	Fort Wayne, IN
ROBERT	KING	Roseville, MN
KEITH	LEE	Memphis, TN
CAMEON	MCKENZIE	Houston, TX
ONOME	SCOTT-EMUAKPOR	Dublin, OH
LINDA	TRAUTMAN	Gulfport, MS
KYLE	WILLIAMS	Cleveland, OH

Winter 2008

KARIM	PEPPERS	Atlanta, GA
LANA	RUCKS	Huber Heights, OH

Spring 2008

OLUDUROTIMI	ADETUNJI	Columbus, OH
UREJI	AHMED	Columbus, OH
FUNMILAYO	ARANMOLATE	Spartanburg, SC
AYENEW	BIRU	Reynoldsburg, OH
JAMES	BOAKYE-DANKWAH	Dublin, OH
FREDRICK	BOSEMAN	Cleveland, OH
JACQUELINE	BROOKS	Cincinnati, OH
SHANNA	BROWN	Cibolo, TX
AVONTE	CAMPINHA-BACOTE	Cincinnati, OH
JESSICA	CLARKE	Akron, OH
HEATHER	CROCKETT-WASHING	Columbus, OH
JAMES	DABNEY	New Orleans, LA
GREGORY	DENNIS	Toledo, OH
XAVIER	EDWARDS	Tampa, FL
PRINCESS	GAITAWE	Dayton, OH
REBECCA	GRANT	Portsmouth, OH



DOCTORATE DEGREES (continued)

Spring 2008

CASSANDRA	GRENADE	Hyattsville, MD
HASSAN	GRIFFIN	Columbus, OH
JAISON	GRIMES	Columbus, OH
DERRICK	HALL	Columbus, OH
NIKIYA	HERRON	Milwaukee, WI
KENNETH	HINES	East Lansing, MI
TAMMI	HOWARD	Warren, OH
TERRY	HUSBAND	Bedford, OH
JACQUELYN	JACKSON	Columbus, OH
ANTONY	LABADY	Orlando, FL
SHELESTE	LADSON	Saint Kitts, West Indies
RICHARD	LAMOUR	Nanuet, NY
KHYLA	LANCE	Charleston, SC
TIFFANY	LIPSCOMB	Middletown, OH
MARSHA	LUCAS	Cheverly, MD
MONIQUE	MADISON	Columbus, OH
COLLEEN	MCCALLUM-BONAR	Redlands, CA
JARRELL	MEIER	Santa Maria, CA
LAUNICE	MELBOURNE	Glenn Dale, MD
GUYLANDO	MORENO	Cincinnati, OH
TIFFANY	PATRICK	Trotwood, OH
COURTNEY	REDMAN	Bellaire, OH
TIFFANY	ROMINE	New Albany, OH
CANDACE	SEAGRAVES	Columbus, OH
ADRIENNE	TYRE	Bellefontaine, OH
AERIK	WILLIAMS	Blacklick, OH

IMPORTANT RESOURCES

The Office of Minority Affairs (OMA) at Ohio State offers a wide range of programs and services such as mentoring, tutoring and advising to help studetns succeed in their academic careers. For detailed information, contact the following resources.

Resources for minority students

Academic retention counseling
oma.osu.edu/map

Bell Resource Center on the African-American Male
oma.osu.edu/brc

Mentoring
oma.osu.edu/mentoring

Single-parent services
oma.osu.edu/access

Tutoring
oma.osu.edu/tutoring

Young Scholars Program
oma.osu.edu/ysp

University resources

Hale Black Cultural Center
oma.osu.edu/hale

Multicultural Center
multiculturalcenter.osu.edu

University Honors & Scholars
honors-scholars.osu.edu

Younkin Success Center
younkinsuccess.osu.edu

Schedule a Visit
Students are encouraged to schedule an overview and walking tour of campus to learn more about Ohio State. Overviews and tours are offered twice daily most weekdays, at 9 a.m. and 1 p.m., and once on Saturdays at 9 a.m. Reservations are encouraged. Reservations may be made at 614-292-7605 or online at http://undergrad.osu.edu/visit.html

OSUNITY

Office of Minority Affairs
Undergraduate Recruitment & Development
Attn: Herbert Wilborn III
1000 Lincoln Tower
1800 Cannon Drive
Columbus, OH 43210

Want to know more about OSUnity?
Would you like to be involved?
Contact us today at:
OSUnity@osu.edu or
(614) 292.8889

We would like to hear your feedback on this inaugural issue of OSUnity. Please send comments to wilborn.2@osu.edu





