African American Cultural & Resource Center at the University of Cincinnati Celebrates 17th Annual Kuamka Week

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In January 2016, the African American Cultural Resource Center (AACRC) at the University of Cincinnati celebrated its 17th Annual Kuamka Week and culminating Red, Black, Green, and Gold Ball. Kuamka is one of the AACRC’s many signature events. Dating back to 1999, Kuamka (Swahili for “in the beginning”) is a week long series of cultural programs, events, and activities that involve the coronation of the newly crowned Mr. and Miss Kuamka. The 2016 Kuamka pageant week, themed #RespectMyRoots16, was comprised of a poster forum, a tribute to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. program, a question and answer session, talent competition, and skating party—all culminating with the Kuamka Red, Black, Green and Gold Ball, where juniors Josh Williams, a marketing major from Columbus, OH, and Satra Taylor a psychology major from Cincinnati, OH were announced as the new Mr. and Miss. Kuamka also serves as the graduation ceremony for the new-student rites of passage program titled Transitions, which graduated 65 first-year students. Kuamka highlights the academic accomplishments and significant contributions of various students, faculty, and staff. This year’s ball hosted more than 700 guests including student organizations, graduate students, alumni, parents, community members, and a visit from the University of Alabama’s Black Student Association from Huntsville, Alabama. Kuamka 2016 continued the AACRC’s rich legacy of providing a sense of belonging and support for UC’s most accomplished and engaged students.