Leisan Smith, Christina Brown, Sean Walton and Latoya Everett were also joined by current student leaders Mario Shaw and Ajanti George. Mario and Ajanti were fortunate to join this esteemed team of AACRC historians, as they represented the Black student leadership on campus.

20th Anniversary Panel Discussion and Reception

Two of the Center’s exciting anniversary celebrations, the Tafrija (reception) and the Mikutano (discussions), were proven to be welcoming extensions of gratitude from the AACRC staff, the community and the students.

“What good news do you have”? This familiar AACRC slogan, echoed by the reigning Ms. Kuamka Sophia Calloway, commenced the atmosphere for the event. As anticipated, the panel discussion was to become an in-depth and interactive conversation about the Center’s history. Sophia, along with Mr. Kuamka Keenen Muall, presented the official student welcome and served as the program hosts. An outstanding display of homage highlighted an informative discussion, as some of the key leaders of the African American Cultural and Resource Center’s 20 year existence were featured. The aim of the program did not let the audience down, as the guests inspired the current and upcoming student leaders to strive to further their footsteps. The panelists, who forever imprinted Black history on this campus, were comprised of various UC alums. Reggie Brazzile, Cecily Goode, Dr. Nicole Ausmer, Leisan Smith, Christina Brown, Sean Walton and Latoya Everett were also joined by current student leaders Mario Shaw and Ajanti George. Mario and Ajanti were fortunate to join this esteemed team of AACRC historians, as they represented the Black student leadership on campus.

The AACRC honors Dr. Fred Hord

The AACRC staff and a number of UC’s premier Black student leaders traveled to Wright State University to attend the Association of Black Cultural Centers Conference. One of the trip’s highlights was the AACRC presentation to the ABCC founder Dr. Fred Hord. Dr. Hord, who currently serves as the Professor and Chair of Black Studies at Knox College located in Galesburg, Illinois, was acknowledged for his leadership and vision of the ABCC.
“You don’t fear what you’re going through; you fear what’s ahead of you.” – Bol Aweng

The University of Cincinnati highlighted International Education Week with keynote speaker Bol Aweng, one of the 35,000 so-called “Lost Boys” who fled their homes in southern Sudan during the second Sudanese War. The program began with a beautiful introduction delivered by AACRC program coordinator, Patrice N. Barnes, who presented to the diverse audience a background of the speaker. Bol Aweng approached the microphone and was greeted by an African call by fellow African students in the crowd.

“If I were to tell you everything that happened to me, it would take forever” Bol Aweng began as he told his heart-felt story to an attentive audience. His homeland of Sudan has been in war for three decades but other wars in different countries overshadowed this genocide. One day, 6 year old Bol was in his yard with his cattle when he heard gunshots and bombing. His village was under attack and he ran off, leaving behind his family and childhood. He and other boys left the village and started heading towards Ethiopia. On this journey they were approached by lions and other wild animals and would get in groups and make loud noise to fend them off or climb trees to escape possible harm. “The only thing that kept us going was determination and the hope to live”. They had no food and were forced to eat leaves, fruits, and roots around them resulting in the death of many of the boys from eating poisonous food. They arrived to Ethiopia, where they were safe for 4 years until a civil war broke out and they were forced to cross the Gilo River to escape death. Sadly, about 2,000 of them died from being captured, drowning, or being eaten by crocodiles. They began their 3-day walk to Kenya and were so tired they decided to sleep for the night. That night they were awakened to gunshots and an ambush of the Sudan government, many were killed. They fled and finally made it to Kenya, 16,000 of the 35,000 that started the journey from their homes in Sudan. Bol Aweng spent 14 years in refugee camps until he was approved resettlement in the United States by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. He was set to come to America on September 11, 2001; the same day of the terrorist attacks on our country. He eventually made it to America and arrived in Nashville, Tennessee where he worked low-wage jobs while simultaneously earning an associate’s degree in computer technology. He then moved to Columbus, Ohio to attend The Ohio State University and received a degree in fine arts and citizenship in 2007. He returned to his Southern Sudanese village of Piol in December 2007. He said it was a “bittersweet reunion” because although he saw his family after 20 years, he also learned of the ones who didn’t survive the war, the poor living conditions of his people, and the lack of buildings because of the bombings which disheartened him. “The only health care was being provided by a young man with only a 2nd grade education”. In 2010 Bol and others installed the first form of electricity in this small village by solar energy, and opened the Poil PHCU center which gives out clothes and other necessities to the people of the village. Today Bol Aweng is working on The Sudan Health Clinic project which would include the installation of “The Buckeye Building” for maternity and child care purposes to help lower the infant mortality rate of Piol where 1 out of 5 children in don’t live to see the age of 5. So far $80,000 has been raised for this project and Bol Aweng is in search of $30,000 more. If you would like to get involved or donate to this project visit www.sudanclinic.org. The journey and hope continues for the people of Sudan. “If we all come together, we can help the people that have no chance in life”.

By: Jazmyne Jackson
Transitions Joins Bridges Walk for A Just Community

Come visit us at 60 West Charlton Street!
“What’s the first word?”
“UMOJA!” “What does it mean?” “UNITY!”

That is the sound of Dr. Abercrumbie bringing the AACRC in an uproar during the lighting of the candles ceremony.

Traditionally celebrated on December 26th through January 1st, this year, the United Black Student Association’s annual Kwanzaa celebration began on November 10th, 2011. Kwanzaa was created to introduce and reinforce the seven basic principles of African cultures. Kwanzaa’s reason for existence, its length of seven days, its core focus and its foundation are all rooted in its concern for principles. These basic principles contribute to the building and reinforcement of the family, the community, and the cultures of the African American and African people. These values are called Nguzo Saba, which, in Swahili means “The Seven Principles”.

This year’s Kwanzaa theme, “Back to Reality”, was an idea created by the Executive Board of the United Black Student Association. This ceremony was one for the record books and one to remember, as the attendance was record breaking as well. To start off this year’s Kwanzaa celebration, UCASA and Umoja embraced the room with unique traditional African dance performances. Both groups provided the essence of African spirit and unity. In true Abercrumbie fashion, dressed in traditional African garb, he and Paulette Burks performed the notable Kwanzaa libation.

After a brief “thank you” speech from UBSA’s programming coordinator, Ab dine Lewis, it was time to dine. This year’s ceremonial dinner, catered by Ms. Lory’s Catering, was a customary home-style grub that included chicken and fish and delicious options for the side dishes.

After dinner was served, it was then time for additional inspirational performances. Floetic, this year’s poet, delivered three very profound and inspiring original spoken pieces. All in which encompassed the ideal of being of the African descent. Finally, after Floetic graced the stage, it was time for the keynote speaker of the night, Dr. Kenneth Durgans. Throughout his speech, Dr. Durgans focused on higher education as the key to success. With great thanks, Mario Jovan Shaw, current UBSA President, presented both Floetic and Dr. Durgans with plaques of appreciation.

With anticipation, it became the occasion of of the lighting of the candles ceremony. This year, various African American owned businesses were presented with a candle for a certain meaning. Each candle and business coincided adequately together. Untapped Clothing, which is a new clothing line created by Clarence Garrison, Reggie Sanders, and Bryan Hatcher, lit the candle of Nia (purpose). “The union between dreams and reality” and Onyx Collection Media Group created by Ronald Hart-Brown lit the candle of Umoja, representing the idea of “Stacking ourselves against all odds.”

To end all the excitement for the night, Mario Jovan Shaw, delivered his presidential speech of thanks and graciously, which, excitedly ended the evening on a high note.

By: Mica Thompson
ADVANCE Celebrates 25th Anniversary

ADVANCE --- a professional development organization for students of color---celebrated its 25th Anniversary in the Russell C. Myers Alumni Center on October 13th. It was a time for past ADVANCE alum, current members, our advisory board members, corporate sponsors as well as faculty and staff to come together and reminisce about how far the organization has come. It was a great honor to be able to sit in the same room, and talk to the brilliant men and women who were courageous and diligent enough to have founded our organization.

The best part of the night was arguably when Linda Bates Parkers’ family came forward to shed some insight on all that their wife, mother and friend did for the UC community and across the world. They shared with us how much she loved the ADVANCE Organization and how proud she would have been to see everything it has become today. As the president of ADVANCE, hearing Linda’s family talk gave me that much more motivation to continue to make her proud and to always, no matter what, Better our Best in everything that we do!

By: Bethel Kindane, ADVANCE President
In the spirit of celebrating the 20 year anniversary of the African American Cultural and Resource Center, the AACRC choir presented a musical tribute themed “Legacy: Connecting the Campus, the Community, and The Continent.” The concert, held on Sunday November 13th, centered on various selected themes of this historic 20 year era of the AACRC. Highlights included special musical tributes honoring the late Rev. Fred Lee Shuttlesworth, an African American Baptist pastor and the central leader of the civil rights movement in Birmingham, and Dr. Abercrumbie, Director of the AACRC and EPS. As well, there were other notable tributes that thrilled the crowd, such as the acknowledgement of one of the historical “AACRC trailblazers Georgia E. Beasley. While the AACRC awards a Fred Shuttlesworth scholarship each year to an academically achieving student, likewise, the AACRC has named the computer area in the Center after Ms. Beasley.

The concert featured a diverse compilation of artistic expressions. Ranging from favorite spirituals like “The Battle Hymn of the Republic,” to popular pop tunes such as “Wind beneath my Wings” and “I can Fly,” this concert was amongst one of the top ones of all of the AACRC performances! Also, to add to the flavor, there was a spoken word presentation by Josh Egel, a dance interpretation of “Rain on Us” by Benita Cooper of Mt. Zion Missionary Baptist Church, and stirring narrations from Lorin Franklin and Ajanti George. This concert also attracted alumni guest soloist Kevin Williams, as well as Gospel recording artist RaMeeko Lattimore.
Celebrating Success!

The African American Cultural and Resource Center is now accepting applications for the Mr. & Ms. Kuamka Pageant. To apply, each student must have at least a 2.5 Cumulative G.P.A, be a full time student, be at least a 2nd year student, and have at least 36 credit hours completed. Applicants must be in good academic and social standing and must be active in the AACRC.

**Grand Prize:** $200 Book Scholarship & AACRC Spring Break Tour ($400 value)

**Runner-up:** $150 Book Scholarship

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**KUAMKA 2012 IS COMING!**

Mrs. Ewaniki Moore-Hawkins, AACRC Assistant Director, was the first Ms. Kuamka in 1999. Ms. Sophia Calloway & Mr. Keenen Maull Ms. & Mr. Kuamka 2011

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**Ethnic Reception**

The annual Ethnic Student, Staff and Faculty Reception successfully captured the family atmosphere of the Department of Student Affairs and Services (SAS). The purpose of this event is to present an informal program that acknowledges the addition of the new SAS family members to the department. As well, new students of color are also welcomed to the University at this event. This particular reception, which is used by the SAS department to “brag” on new colleagues and students, is a proud way in showing that the University is making sure that we remain one of the best colleges in Ohio.

There were at least one hundred people to attend the reception, keeping the attendance to the maximum each year. The highlights of the reception were the introduction of new staff and students to their new SAS family. Also, President Williams, along with Vice President of Student Affairs/Chief Diversity Office, Dr. Livingston, were amongst the “official” university speakers. Dr. Williams, who spoke about the future plans for the university, highlighted the 5 year Diversity Plan. The diversity plan, which surrounds improving graduation and retention rates, was received as a clear