Lunar New Year 2012

The Office of Ethnic Programs and Services in collaboration with Asian American Association, Program Activities Council, Society of Asian Scientists and Engineers, Student Government, Delta Phi Lambda Sorority Incorporated, and Vietnamese Student Association, celebrated Lunar New Year 2012 with over 400 guests. On Sunday, February 19, Vice President of Student Affairs and Services and Chief Diversity Officer, Dr. Mitchell Livingston, opened the Year of the Dragon with warm and welcoming words. Performances included the traditional Lion Dance, Japanese Taiko Drumming, traditional East Asian fashion show, Blue Ash Shaolin Do martial arts demonstration, Chinese traditional dances, and a tasty banquet catered by Asiana, Song Long, New Krishnas, and China Foods. The Lunar New Year holiday is the most important celebration of most East Asian nations. During this 15 day holiday, people get together with family for important reunion dinners, hang red couplets with lucky sayings on doors, set fireworks on the streets to chase away evil spirits, and clean the house to wash away the bad luck and invite good luck for the New Year into the home. Money saved throughout the year is used for a fresh start, decorate the house or place of business with the word Fu, and make donations to Buddhist temples or pray at home altars for good fortune and offer food as tribute to ancestors or ancient local gods or goddesses. An onlooker of Lunar New Year celebrations comes to understand that the holiday and its traditions are deeply rooted in Confucian and Taoist principles of family as the most important unit of a stable society. In our celebration this year, not only were there students but also families who brought their children to enjoy the festivities.
Lunar New Year 2012 Banquet!
The 2012 Kuamka Week was a huge success. Beginning the week with a “Meet Mr. and Ms. Kuamka” program in which the UC student body is able to meet UC’s 2012 candidates for Mr. and Ms. Kuamka in a public forum. In the event, the candidates answer questions on a myriad of topics from a panel of judges and will be critiqued on poise and the clarity of their responses. Following this successful event, Kuamka Week continued with the annual “Kuamka Talent Show” which showcases the Mr. and Ms. Kuamka candidates’ artistic abilities through song, dramatic interpretation, dance and more. The “Kuamka Talent Show” was filled with roaring laughter and energy from the audience as Mr. Kuamka Candidate #3, Dawone Holloway, performed an original rap which left the audience in laughter and cheering for more. In addition to the social events, the 2012 Mr. and Ms. Kuamka took part in community service events and a trip to the Profiles of Courage exhibit during the week. The following are the 2012 Ms. Kuamka Candidates: Ms. Paulette Burks (Candidate #1), Ms. Nia Hunt (Candidate #2), Ms. Kayla Iheukwu (Candidate #3), Ms. Erin Isaac (Candidate #4), Ms. Darienne Jordan (Candidate #5), Ms. Alicia Montgomery (Candidate #6), Ms. Kyanna Perry (Candidate #7), and Ms. Ra’Nia Wade (Candidate #8). The following are Turner Scholars, Brandon Reynolds, Darienne Jordan, and Kyanna Perry. The following are the 2012 Mr. Kuamka Candidates: Mr. Antwone Cameron (Candidate #1), Mr. Justin Christopher (Candidate #2), Mr. Dawone Holloway (Candidate #3), Mr. Mike Jones (Candidate #4), and Mr. Brandon Reynolds (Candidate #5).
On Saturday, February 4, 2012, the African American Cultural & Resource Center (AACRC) in collaboration with the Office of Ethnic Programs & Services (EPS) celebrated the “Kuamka Red, Black, Green and Gold Ball.” The event is dedicated to celebrating the newly crowned 2012 Mr. and Ms. Kuamka while acknowledging the achievements of students with the Rites of Passage program, specifically for AACRC Transitions students, and the Kujifunza academic ceremony for all students. The night was filled with the audience dressed to impress in attire as diverse as semi-formal to traditional African-themed attire with a special appearance by the reigning Miss Black Ohio, Ms. Kayla Hardimon (as seen in the picture below). As the night began, 2011 Mr. and Ms. Kuamka, Mr. Keenen R. Maull and Ms. Sophia Calloway, welcomed the audience graciously and invited them to partake in the delicious cuisine served by staff. After dinner, Transitions freshmen celebrated their graduation from the program with a special group dance followed by the lighting of candles to signify the passage of responsibilities. In addition, students, parents, staff, and honored guests celebrated the academic achievements of Base and Transitions students through the Rites of Passage program and the Kujifunza academic ceremony while energetically cheering for the students. The students were given medals for excelling academically with scores ranging from 2.5GPA through 4.0GPA. After the ceremony, the coronation of the 2012 Mr. and Ms. Kuamka was made by Mrs. Ewaniki Moore-Hawkins as she announced the winners of each category. With excitement and anticipation, Mrs. Moore-Hawkins announced that Mr. Brandon Reynolds, Candidate #5, and Ms. Darienne Jordan, Candidate #5, are the 2012 Mr. and Ms. Kuamka.
Congratulations to the 2012 Mr. & Ms. Kuamka, Mr. Brandon Reynolds and Ms. Darienne Jordan!
American Spiritual Ensemble

On Tuesday, February 14th, the University of Cincinnati and the Greater Cincinnati community received a treat from the American Spiritual Ensemble as they returned to Cincinnati for a second year in a row to perform for audiences. The American Spiritual Ensemble, one of America’s most celebrated choral groups, is comprised of 20 – 26 members from around the country and world. The group, consisting of professional musicians and singers, firstly performed on Monday, February 13th at a public gathering at the Cathedral of Saint Peter in Chains. The following day, the group performed in the University of Cincinnati’s Mainstreet Cinemas for their second annual performance with another resounding presentation.

The event began with a brief historical perspective shared by founder of the American Spiritual Ensemble, Dr. Everett McCorvey. Dr. McCorvey, is a native of Montgomery, Alabama and is a Professor of Voice. He holds the Lexington Opera Society Endowed Chair in Opera Studies position at the University of Kentucky in Lexington, Kentucky. He is also on the artist faculty of the American Institute of Musical Study (AIMS) in Graz, Austria. After Dr. McCorvey’s introduction, the audience enjoyed a moving and informative film presentation on the history of the American Spiritual Ensemble and the preservation of the American Negro spirituals. The presentation captured the attention of the audience but it was the musical performance following the film that captivated the hearts of the audience. The American Spiritual Ensemble group thrilled the audience by opening the singing portion of their performance by entering the stage from the audience seats. Their unique presentation was one that filled the audience with educational, artistic, and cultural enjoyment. In closing, the American Spiritual Ensemble finished their melodic performance with a special performance by featured College-Conservatory of Music (C.C.M.) graduate, tenor Mr. John Wesley Wright. For information on the American Spiritual Ensemble, please go to http://americanspiritualensemble.com.
Matthew 25 Ministries

Matthew 25 Ministries is an organization which strives to provide aid to those in need: nutritional food to the hungry, clean water to the thirsty, clothing to the naked, shelter to the homeless, medical care to the ill, and humanitarian supplies to prisoners. Based out of Blue Ash, Ohio, they act as a beacon to the community and to those around the world as a helpline. On the Darwin T. Turner community service excursion to Matthew 25 Ministries, the scholars helped unpackaged around 150 boxes of clothing and organize, based on category, into smaller components for them to be shipped out to those in need. We worked together as a family to represent the Turner morals of being a family and standing as one. For three hours, the University of Cincinnati’s Darwin T. Turner Scholars proudly worked together to represent the values of service, scholarship, and success. As seen in the pictures, the scholars participated enthusiastically to represent the university and Turner. For future service opportunities, please contact CCE. Go Turner!

Darwin T. Turner Induction Ceremony

On Thursday, January 26th, the Darwin T. Turner Scholars Program inducted the 2012 Turner Freshmen class at the Annual Induction Ceremony at the Russell C. Myers Alumni Center. The night was a memorable occasion for all in attendance, especially family and friends of the 2012 Turner Freshmen class. The program began with Vice President of Student Affairs and Services and Chief Diversity Officer, Dr. Mitchell Livingston, welcomed the attendees with a heart-warming speech on the legacy of Dr. Darwin T. Turner, his dearly beloved friend. The night continued with a delicious cuisine catered by Funky’s Catering. As seen below, the 2012 Turner Freshmen class were inducted to the Darwin T. Turner Scholarship Program by Dr. P. Eric Abercrumbie and Dr. Brandi Elliott, Turner Director and Program Director. After the Induction Ceremony, a Turner sophomore, Mr. Christopher Mantz gave a charismatic and light-hearted speech about his personal experience while Ms. Bethel Kidane, Turner Senior, left the audience with inspiring words of wisdom. As a grand finale, Dr. Abercrumbie led the Turner Creed and Pledge which left the audience cheering, “I AM TURNER!” The night ended with students feeling inspired and proud to be a part of the energy and life that is the Darwin T. Turner Scholars Program.
Celebrating Success!

Congratulations to Ms. Kyanna Gordon (third from the right) for becoming the second recipient of the Linda Bates Parker Scholarship!

Congratulations to the newly inducted Lambda Society members: N’Deye Ba, Ashley Childs, Tahlisha Daniels, Cheyenne Harden, Bethel Kidane, Stacey Randall, Clorena Simmons, Diana Welch, and Janelle Wichman

Congratulations Mr. Randall King and Ms. Julia Chapman on their acceptances to UC’s College of Pharmacy