Reviving Haiti:

Turner Scholars Volunteer @ Matthew 25 Ministries

On January 12, 2010, Haiti was struck by a 7.0 magnitude earthquake followed by 52 aftershocks that devastated Port-au-Prince. Over 3 millions Haitian residents have been affected. 230,000 people are deceased and millions more injured. Haiti now faces the hardships of recuperating and rebuilding its infrastructure.

On March 6, 2010, Turner Scholars and other UC students brought not only their helping hands but also clean bottled water to Matthew 25 Ministries to help Haiti relief efforts that have been ongoing since the disaster. Over 90 students sorted clothing, shampoo packets, medicine bottles, sanitizing wipes, etc…all of Saturday morning.

Matthew 25 introduced Scholars to the fact that even though they are performing small tasks, each of them are contributing to the bigger goal and indirectly reaching out a hand to a person that is 1,600 miles away.

For more information on volunteering at M25 Ministries contact Shelly Clos @ (513) 793-6256.

President Williams Keynote Speaker at MLK Tribute

“Why we Can’t Wait” was the theme of this year’s Martin Luther King Jr. tribute. As one of the few Cultural Centers who still hosts an event to honor the legacy of Dr. King, the Director of EPS and the AACRC Dr. Abercrumbie thought it appropriate to ask the University of Cincinnati’s first African American president, Dr. Gregory L. Williams to be the keynote speaker.

Dr. Williams spoke a lot about his upbringing in segregated Muncie, Indiana and recounted the distinct differences between his life as “white boy” and his life after he was told he was Black. Williams, as a result of the efforts of Dr. King, has been able to dream and achieve things one would have deemed impossible given his background and racial identity. Students, faculty, staff and other audience members were reminded that they should not wait to become advocates for social justice and agents for change. The time is now!
Latinos En Accion

On Thursday, February 11, 2010, Ethnic Programs & Services and Latinos En Accion collaborated to present a discussion with CODEDI. CODEDI is an organization of Latin American immigrants and their allies that works to improve the quality of life for immigrants by facilitating their integration into the greater Cincinnati area. The discussion focused on the increasing “Necessity for Spanish-speaking U.S. Census Bureau Workers: A Discussion with CODEDI.”

Latinos En Accion Advisor, Yakaira Ramos, introduced speaker Ms. Sylvia Castellacos to the audience. Ms. Castellacos focused on the opportunity that the U.S. Census Bureau is providing with part-time and full-time jobs for bilingual workers. If you would like more information on job opportunities with the U.S. Census Bureau, please contact Yakaira Ramos at Yakaira.ramos@uc.edu.

The Art of Calligraphy

“The Art of Calligraphy” was an interactive workshop that is part of the new EPS Asian initiative. Collaborating with Professor Lili Zhang and Professor Jade Lin, students learned about the rules of writing calligraphy. Students also received one-on-one instructions from our professors on how to hold a mao bi brush and how to write Chinese characters. While students practiced, making each stroke of the brush perfect, videos of calligraphers played in the background to give encouragement and additional guidance.

Sailee Teredesai tells us about her experience. “I had never done calligraphy before, so when EPS put on this program, I was very intrigued to learn more about the art form. I never realized it would be so difficult to draw a straight line! The paint brush had to be soft and pointed; your breathing had to be controlled when creating each line. I had never before seen a form of writing that contained so much precision and control. I thoroughly enjoyed the program.”

Leaders of Tomorrow

Beginning a new tradition this quarter, Darwin T. Turner Ambassadors, BASE students, and Transitions students, participated in a joint leadership retreat that focused on becoming a better leader by working with others. Students assessed their strengths and weaknesses through the “True Colors Personality Test” and learned traits to work in teams with those of similar and opposite character traits. The retreat was also successful in teaching students about compromise, time management, and the importance of planning ahead.
Red and Black Extravaganza

Great Hall was transformed into a dance hall last Thursday, bedecked with red and black balloons, metallic bits of confetti, and Turner Scholars dressed in their finest attire. It was the annual Red and Black Affair. Scholars and friends got a chance to relax and socialize in the midst of the end-of-quarter chaos that has begun to set in. The evening started out a little slow, but as the DJ started to spin some crowd favourites (side note: Miley Cyrus didn’t go over so well), more and more scholars hit the dance floor to show us some of their funky moves. Even Brandi, Jackie, and Catherine joined us as we formed a soul train. All in all, the Red and Black Affair was a nice break for all of us, and it was nice to see everyone polished up. Now back to studying!

Turner Scholars Compete for Mr. and Ms. Kuamka

After several snow days, the 11th Annual Kuamka Extravaganza took place on Saturday, February 20th. The Kuamka Ball is special because it includes the coronation and crowning of Mr. and Ms. Kuamka and a Rites of Passage Ceremony in which students “pass the light” and “accept the charge” to become leaders of the community.

This year, three Turner Scholars participated in this traditional ceremony as competitors for the titles of Mr. and Ms. Kuamka. Yekaterina Khazanova, Anjylla Foster, and Randall King participated in several contests over the course of a week.

Will the Women of Color Please Stand Up and Take Leadership

At the recent SALD Leadership Conference, Dr. Brandi Hutchins, Yakaira Ramos, and Xiao Yan Huang presented “Leadership and Identity Among African American, Latina, and Asian-American Women at Predominantly White Institutions.” Topics discussed included existing stereotypes, why they exist, how to dissolve stereotypes through the example of strong women of color, scholarly definitions of types of discrimination, and how to self-identify by reconciling American values/culture with ethnic values and cultures. Students spoke out strongly on existing stereotypes and why they exist.

Please join Brandi, Yakaira, and Xiao Yan at the UC Diversity Conference for more on this topic.
Society of Asian Scientists and Engineers Meets Darwin T. Turner Scholars

The Society of Asian Scientists and Engineers (SASE) professional chapter presented on resume writing for Darwin T. Turner scholars on February 1, 2010. SASE is a professional organization that is sponsored by Proctor and Gamble to help in the professional development of Asian students in all science and engineering fields of study. Presenters Andy Chang and Sudarsan Venkatachalam are both P&G engineers/scientists and executive board members of SASE Cincinnati.

Topics of the resume workshop included what companies are looking for in potential candidates; why recruiters (first points of contact with a potential employer) are so important; and how to write the best resume. Many engineering Turner Scholars were able to make new networks through Andy and Sudarsan.

Ethnic Programs & Services and SASE Collaboration

As of February 2010, the Society of Asian Scientists and Engineers officially became a student organization at UC. In the interest of providing all students of color with valuable professional resources such as leadership training, resume writing workshops, mentoring program, networking events, and mini career fairs; EPS has joined hands with SASE Cincinnati Professionals from Proctor & Gamble and SASE UC. On February 25, 2010, Thomas Fernandez, David Pan, Andy Chang, and Sudarsan Venkatachalam introduced 35 students to the benefits of SASE membership and the services of EPS. Special guest speaker Thomas Fernandez, P&G Associate Director and co-founder of SASE, made available his extensive knowledge about Engineering professions and moving up the corporate ladder. Contact Xiao Yan (Catherine) Huang, SASE Advisor for more information @ huangxy@uc.edu

Celebrating the Lunar New Year

On February 11, 2010, the Office of Ethnic Programs & Services hosted Lantern Painting to celebrate the Asian Lunar New Year. The Lunar New Year is a traditional and very important holiday for the Asian community because it symbolizes the renewal of life and a time for families to reunite. Painted lanterns are usually used to decorate the home, store shops, and all public venues. In the spirit of New Year traditions, over 50 students gathered at EPS to paint small paper lanterns. As is custom for New Year celebrations, the office was filled with the sounds of laughter, music, and joy. Many students later donated their lanterns to help decorate EPS.

Look out for the many more exciting events that EPS will be hosting this coming Spring Quarter!
The Office of Ethnic Programs & Services and the African American Cultural and Research Center would like to officially welcome Ms. Xiao Yan Huang to the University of Cincinnati. Xiao Yan, or Catherine as she is often called, is our newest program coordinator. She is a graduate of the University of Pittsburgh receiving her BA in Politics and Philosophy. Xiao Yan also earned certificates in public & professional writing and East Asian Studies.

Xiao Yan is from China and moved to New York City at the age of 9. In college, she was president of Resident Student Association, meeting the needs of over 700 students in residence halls. She also served as vice president and president of the Chinese American Student Association. One of her biggest accomplishments was assisting in the development of a pilot program (Outside of the Classroom Curriculum) at the University of Pittsburgh under the direction of the President’s office. Xiao Yan aspires to pursue a graduate degree in public policy and obtain her law degree in the near future.

### Celebrating Success

#### Name: Robel S Kidane  
Year: Junior  
Award: Top 5 Nationally in the Pricewaterhouse-Coopers Taxation Competition (December 2, 2009)

#### Name: Taiwo Adeoye  
Year: Junior  
Achievement: UN delegate (November 2009)  
Delegate for UN official session in New York City

#### Name: Taylor Birch  
Year: Junior  
Award: Inducted into the Lambda Society & CWEST Honoraries (October 2009)  
Awarded for Exemplifying leadership and scholarship qualities on campus

#### Name: Taiwo Adeoye  
Year: Junior  
Achievement: UN delegate (November 2009)  
Delegate for UN official session in New York City

### Welcome Xiao Yan (Catherine) Huang

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### Turner Steps Out for Operation Warm-Up

Turner Scholars helped the Jewish Federation of Cincinnati in assembling care packages and delivering them to various shelters in Cincinnati this winter. The Hillel Jewish Student Center engages over 200 volunteers to distribute more than 8,000 care packages that include: blankets, clothing, medicine, books, and food.

### Congratulations to Scholars Sailee Teredesai and Rohan Hemani for winning first place in the METRO/CWEST Talent Show.