On behalf of the faculty, staff and students of Boingga, welcome to the 2013-2014 academic year. It is difficult to believe that for over 43 years, the Boingga Center has been a conduit for the success of African and African American students. We have a proud tradition of supporting students and educating the community on the experiences of people from the Pan-African Diaspora.

This year we have initiated the Ujima Mentoring Community to help first year students to transition from high school under the watchful eye of a faculty or staff mentor. This innovative program has attracted the attention of Deans and Program Directors across campus and is intended to provide academic and cultural enrichment for the entire academic year.

"...we have initiated the Ujima Mentoring Community to help first year students to transition from high school..."

Programming continues to be a part of how Boingga adds to the vibrant student experience at WSU. Kwanzaa, MLK, Black History Month and the Boingga Awards Night will be events that bring awareness, understanding and celebration of a cultural history that makes us proud.

The emphasis this year is focused squarely on student retention. The entire University has mobilized to help erase the achievement gap that currently reports African American students as least likely to succeed. We believe that by setting high standards, providing additional support and meeting students “where they are” are the best practices for African American student success.

As we begin the year, we hope that you will take the time to visit the Boingga Center and have your voice heard. I have an open door policy and welcome students, faculty, and staff who have ideas on the retention and success of African and African American students to submit their thoughts in writing or in person. I look forward to greeting you personally.

In Service,
Dr. Dana Murray Patterson

BOLINGA RESOURCES CENTER
Wright State University
140 Millett Hall
Dayton, Ohio
(937) 775-5645

Facebook Keywords: BolingaBlack Cultural Resource Center

Visit us online @ http://www.wright.edu/bolinga-black-cultural-resources-center
Mission Statement

The Bolinga Center’s focus is to service the Wright State community through promoting an understanding of culture and heritage of Black Americans. We mentor our students in such a way that aids in their academic as well as personal cultivation. The Bolinga Black Resources Center takes pride in sharing their wisdom and understanding for Pan-Africanism by bringing awareness and appreciation for the African culture.

Here at the Bolinga Center, we believe it is important for students to have access to the black programs offered here at Wright State University, these black programs consists of cultural and educational components, which include:

Educational Film/Video Series:
Through films and videos, the Center focuses on issues confronting black peoples throughout the African Diaspora.

Organizational Collaborations:
- Black Student Union
- Black Women Striving Forward
- National Pan Hellenic Society
- The McLin Scholars Association
- Black Men on the Move
- National Society of Black Engineers
- Association of Black Business Students
- National Association of Black Medical Students
- National Association of the Advancement of Colored People
- African Student Union

These groups promote academic achievement, along with personal growth as well as student success among undergraduates. Regularly held group meetings give the participants in the respective groups the opportunity to network with one another and with professionals who serve as lecturers, facilitators and mentors in a diverse and inclusive environment. We are also in support of issues in correlation to ability, age, class, ethnicity, gender identity, immigration status, national origin, race, sexual orientation, religion, as well as privilege, power, and activism for social justice; in short, our doors are open to everyone!
Kente Stole/ Kwanzaa Celebration
Dec. 5th | 6-9pm | Student Union Atrium

MLK Week
Jan. 21st | 11am-1pm | Millett Hall Atrium
Jan. 22nd | 10am-4pm | Apollo Room

Kente Stole/ Black Graduate Celebration
Apr. 15th | 6-9pm | Apollo Room

FILM SERIES DATES
Bolinga Black Cultural Resources Center
Sept. 6th & 20th @ 7pm
Oct. 4th, 11th, 18th, 25th @ 7pm
Nov. 8th & 29th @ 7pm

BOOK DISCUSSION—“The Other Wes Moore”
Bolinga Black Cultural Resources Center
Sept. 18th @ 12:30pm-1:30pm
Oct. 16th @ 12:30pm-1:30pm
Nov. 13th @ 6pm-7pm

BOOKS YOU SHOULD READ
Two kids with the same name, living in the same city. One grew up to be a Rhodes Scholar, decorated combat veteran, White House Fellow, and business leader. The other is serving a life sentence in prison for felony murder. Here is the story of two boys and the journey of a generation.

The nameless narrator of the novel describes growing up in a black community in the South, attending a Negro college from which he is expelled, moving to New York and becoming the chief spokesman of the Harlem Branch of the “Brotherhood”, and retreating amid violence and confusion to the basement lair of the Invisible Man he imagines himself to be.

Bolinga Programs

African-American Studies
A major or minor in African-American Studies will provide an invaluable foundation in critical thinking, research, writing and analysis. These skills, in particular, form the core of a liberal arts education. This program offers a rich and challenging course of inquiry, benefitting students with interests in history, policy, culture, language, law and more!

Some notable Black Studies majors and minors:
- Angela Bassett: BA in African-American Studies from Yale University.

Ujima Mentoring Community Program
Ujima works with first-year African and African American students, assisting them in improving their chances of success, by providing them with an on-campus job, and having their supervisor serve as their mentor.

Tutoring Services (Departmental Sponsors)
Tutoring services are provided to all students in varies departments, including: Athletics, Bureau of Vocational Rehabilitation (BVR), Office of Disability Services (ODS), Military & Dependents, OSSA (Scholarship Program), Veterans Affairs (VA). In particular, the Bolinga Black Cultural Resources Center offers students of color who are attending WSU tutoring services (fees may vary).

For information contact: Bolinga Center Front Desk (ext. 5645) 140 Millett Hall

Bolinga Scholarship Program
This scholarship recognizes and rewards leadership, service and academic performance; applicants should be African American students registering full-time with a 2.5 GPA or above. The deadline date is February 15th prior to the start of the academic year. The award amount varies. All eligible applicants will be considered.
The Silenced Protest: Marching in the memory and honor of Trayvon Martin.

This past summer the Trayvon Martin case came to a conclusion. George Zimmerman, the man who murdered Trayvon was found not guilty on all accounts, due to the “stand your ground law,” which allows a person to seek out conflict and use deadly force. Once I heard the verdict, it affected me tremendously, leaving me with tears in my eyes as I realized how far our country still has to go. Upon further research, I discovered that the “Stand your ground law” is making its way to Ohio. I decided to form a march in honor of Trayvon, and to raise awareness of this bill coming to our home state. We had an attendance of about 30 people, coming together to make a statement. During the march I expected an adverse response from the public, as this case was considered highly controversial, raising racial tensions. Trayvon was an unarmed black 17-year-old boy, gunned down by 28-year-old George Zimmerman, a White-Hispanic man.

“As we marched we were hit with an arsenal of negative comments being yelled at us such as, ‘f**k you niggers,’”

At the conclusion of the march I gathered the protestors in the Millet Hall atrium and spoke to them about what had just taken place. I then told them to remove the tape from their mouths, and use that as a symbol to break the silence that was taking place. Many people felt enraged and sad, but I told them to take that energy and to turn it into positive action. I made the students who attended to agree to a pact that we would make a difference this school year, go out to the community to serve more than ever, and to no longer march in silence.

Submitted By: John Ware

“The verdict]... leaving me with tears in my eyes as I realized how far our country still has to go.”

The day before the walk, myself, along with the help of Wright State students Daniel Cureton, Lewis Crawford Norman III, and Jarrod Williams, made signs to get our message to those driving by. I decided to tape the mouths of everyone in the walk to have a silent march. I wanted people to not be distracted by conversation, really focus on what was taking place around them, and come up with solutions to the issue. As we marched we were hit with an arsenal of negative comments being yelled at us such
Featured
Bolinga Staff

“Where are you from?”
- Columbus, OH.
- Cincinnati, OH

“What brought you to the Bolinga Black Cultural Resource Center?”
- Because I like assisting minority students in achieving their academic and long term life goals.
- Initially, my sense of curiosity lead me here. I really didn’t know what to expect. However, everyone embraced me without hesitation when I did decide to show up. Those who frequent the Bolinga Center knows that everyone apart of this inclusive community is nothing more than a family—a family that keeps discovering more relatives.

“What is your favorite thing about the Bolinga Black Cultural Resource Center?”
- There is no such thing as the “monolithic thought”, it’s always reminded that everyone’s experience about the Black experience is always different.
- I really enjoy the friendly atmosphere that accompanies me every time I come to visit, or come in to work at the Bolinga Center.

“What did you study/are you studying in college?”
- Radio and Ethnic Studies.
- I’m currently studying International Studies with a minor in Chinese Studies at Wright State University.

“Hobbies?”
- Photography, rugby, fencing—I’m a wiz at Connect 4; you have to beat me on a consistent basis. All the students know that although Connect 4 is a simple game, it’s one that takes skill.
- Reading, writing, drawing, photography, kick boxing, cultivating research.

“If you want to go quickly, go alone. If you want to go far, go together”~African proverb
“Where are you from?”
- I was originally born in Toledo, but I grew up in Dayton, OH.

“What brought you to the Bolinga Black Cultural Resource Center?”
- I’ve worked for WSU for 13th years; started in the Department of Psychiatry in 2000. I moved into the Office of Affirmative Action Programs in 2008, and in June 2013 I came to work in the Bolinga Center to get where I really wanted to be which was working with the students and helping them achieve their goals.

“What is your favorite thing about the Bolinga Black Cultural Resource Center?”
- Working with the students.

“What did you study/ are you studying in college?”
- I never went to college. From high school I went straight into the Army and served for 9 years; I worked for the government for a while, and then started working for WSU.

“Hobbies?”
- Writing poetry, writing short stories, exercise, and my family.

“Where are you from?”
- Cincinnati, OH

“What brought you to the Bolinga Black Cultural Resource Center?”
- Because I needed a Graduate Assistantship.

“What is your favorite thing about the Bolinga Black Cultural Resource Center?”
- Interacting with the students.

“What did you study/ are you studying in college?”
- Student Affairs and Higher Education.

“Hobbies?”
- Photography.