

1981

Bolinga Center 10 Anniversary

Bolinga Cultural Resources Center

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Wright State University

Bolinga Center

Anniversary Activities

January 15 noon—Reception, Bolinga Center
Naming of Bolinga Library
2 pm—Keynote Address:
Ambassador B. Akporode Clark
of Nigeria
101 Fawcett Hall



10th Anniversary

Bolinga Center's 10th Anniversary

The Bolinga Black Cultural Resources Center opened on January 15, 1971. On this, our tenth anniversary celebration, we are taking the time to reflect upon our past: the success, the progress lost and made, the resources gained, and the persons and mentors who have passed this way, leaving a deep impression upon the students with whom they've come in contact.

The Center didn't just happen. It was in fact the result of a summer of hard work by such dedicated students as William Gillispie, Linda Moody, Walter Williams, Larry Crowe, Lela Shepherd, Walt McKinney, Chester Russ, Teresa Dangerfield, Carolyn Wright, and a host of others, for it was their task to research books for the library, set up the physical floor plan, and order furniture and equipment. With the help of black administrators such as Dr. Anne Shearer, Mrs. Betty Thomas, and Larry Abrams, we were able to succeed.

The purposes of the Center are: (a) to promote an understanding of the culture and heritage of black Americans; (b) to make easily accessible, by housing in one central location, a variety of resource materials which could be useful in black studies; (c) to encourage research which would increase knowledge about black people or aid in the resolution of problems which have resulted from racial discrimination, prejudice, and slavery; and (d) to work on the advancement of the black creative arts.

September 1970-Spring 1973

Dr. Yvonne R. Chappelle, our first Director, brought to the university curriculum a course in Negritude, a movement by Black French-speaking authors very similar to the Harlem Renaissance movement in this country; hosted Ambassador Debrah of Ghana; Leon Damas, the "Father of the Negritude Movement;" Dr. Chike Onwachi, noted author and historian; Chancellor Williams; and the now world-renowned Alex Haley.

Spring 1973-June 1973

Mrs. Linda Moody Gillispie served as Acting Director. One of the founding students, Linda was very much in touch with the center's purpose and goals.

June 1973-July 1977

Dr. Arthur E. Thomas added to the curriculum a course in Contemporary Problems in Black America and brought in such national experts as Dr. Rudolph Bromery, geophysicist and Chancellor of the University of Massachusetts at Elmhurst; Tony Brown, Executive Producer and host of *Black Journal*; Dr. Barbara Sizemore, former Superintendent of Schools in Washington DC; Vernon Jordan, Executive Director of the National Urban League; and Dr. Frances Cress, of the Welsing-Cress Theory.

July 1977-Present

Ms. Carolyn E. Wright was appointed Acting Director and became Director of the Center in July of 1978. Ms. Wright has sponsored such groups and activities as the SITES Exhibit on Black Women from the Smithsonian Institute, Val Gray Ward's one-woman show "I a Black Woman," lectures by William Raspberry, syndicated columnist; Haki R. Madhubuti, noted author and poet; Rev. Ndabaningi Sithole, African National Council (Rhodesia); and Dick Gregory, social activist.

Carolyn is leaving Wright State this month for a faculty appointment at Central State. Dawn Jones has been named Acting Director of the Bolinga Center.

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Wright State University
Dayton, Ohio 45435

NEGUZO SABA Seven Principles

