

Finding Aid for the College of Liberal Arts and Social
Sciences, Africana Studies, 1994-2007



Collection Number: RG 13/04

Archives & Special Collections

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Descriptive Summary

Title:	College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences, Africana Studies, 1994-2007
Record No.:	RG 13/04
Accession No.:	UA 2005.40
Creator:	Africana Studies Program
Extent:	1 box, .3 cubic feet
Abstract:	The Africana Studies Program provides students with an understanding of the historical, social, and cultural impact of people of African descent.

Administrative Information

Provenance:	Debra Beronja
Preferred Citation:	College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences, Africana Studies, 1994-2007, RG 13/04, Archives & Special Collections, William F. Maag, Jr. Library, Youngstown State University, Youngstown, Ohio.
Restrictions:	None
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Historical Sketch

The Africana Studies Program (previously called Black Studies) was established in the fall of 1970. In the 1971-1972 academic year, the first Africana Studies classes were offered to YSU students after having been approved by the University Senate.¹ The Africana Studies Program intends to provide the student with “an understanding of the historical, social, and cultural impact of people of African descent²” as well as a broad prospective of the problems the multicultural world faces and possible solutions to these problems. The focus of the courses is an Afrocentric theory which helps introduce students to the understanding of the African and African American world-view and civilizations, and help realize the major contributions made to the western civilization by

¹ “Black Studies.” *Youngstown State University Bulletin, 1971-1972*. Youngstown State University. Youngstown, Ohio. pg. 65.

² “African Studies.” Online Posting. Retrieved 16 Jan. 2008. <<http://www.yzu.edu/majors/africana.pdf>>

people of African descent. The program also publishes a student run magazine (overseen by Dr. Victor Wan-Tatah) which is released each semester, called Ogele. Ogele “seeks to promote the appreciation of diversity in YSU community through featured ideas and experiences of students, faculty and staff.” The articles feature a variety of topics that have direct impact on the plight of Africans and African Americans in the YSU community. The magazine also features poetry, reviews, recipes, health issues, essays and commentaries³.

The Africana Studies is also involved in various activities around campus including co-sponsoring various events with other departments and programs (i.e. the Poetry Center, women’s studies, the Center for Working Class Studies and the Center for Student Progress). The program also collaborates with various community organizations to host a yearly Open House called, “Jabali” (Swahili for rock). The Africana Studies Programs also coordinates African American History Month in February. The program invites black scholars, business people, entertainers, and other notables to come to campus and participate in various events such as performances, plays, exhibits, and lectures⁴.

Scope and Content Note

The provenance of some of the materials in the records was Debra Beronja, at the time an Access Librarian at Maag Library, who transferred the 2 copies of the first edition of Ogele, to the YSU Archives and Special Collections in 2004. The rest of the materials were collected after being sent to the YSU Archives and Special Collections through the campus mail. The records contain two series arranged chronologically. Series I involves the student publication of the Ogele (2000-2001, and 2007) and the second series contains African American History Month Calendars from the years 1994, 1998, 2003, and 2007.

Series Description

Series I: Ogele
Series II: African American History Month Calendars

Related Materials

None

Index Terms

Ogele
African American History Month
Diversity
Youngstown State University
Victor Wan-Tatah
Alpha Kappa Mu
STARS (Student Achievement in Research and Scholarship)
Stereotypes

³ “Ogele Spring 2002” Online Posting. Retrieved 16 Jan. 2008. <<http://www.as.ysu.edu/%7Eafirst/OgeleSpg02.html>>

⁴ “African Studies.” Online Posting. Retrieved 16 Jan. 2008. <<http://www.ysu.edu/majors/africana.pdf>>

BOX 1

SERIES I: OGELE

Folder	Content
1	2000, 2001, and 2007

SERIES II: AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY MONTH CALENDARS

Folder	Content
2	1994, 1998, 2003, 2007