

Volume 1

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THE ORIGIN OF AFRICAN-AMERICAN HISTORY MONTH By Dr. Brian L. Haynes

In 1926, Carter G. Woodson known as the "Father of Negro History", introduced Negro History Week as a reaction to racism and to highlight the many contributions Blacks had made in the development of civilization. The week originally chosen by Woodson to celebrate Negro History Week fell during the week which included the birthdays of Frederick Douglass, African-American abolitionist and Abraham Lincoln, signer of the Emancipation Proclamation. The question has been raised as to what was the major reason that Woodson decided to establish Negro History Week during this time period. Part of the answer may lie with the social conditions of the time. The 1920s have been characterized as the "Gay Twenties" but for African-Americans this was not the case. America was deeply segregated and there was a tightening of Jim Crow Laws that further segregated a divided country. In an attempt to ease some of the racial tensions Woodson

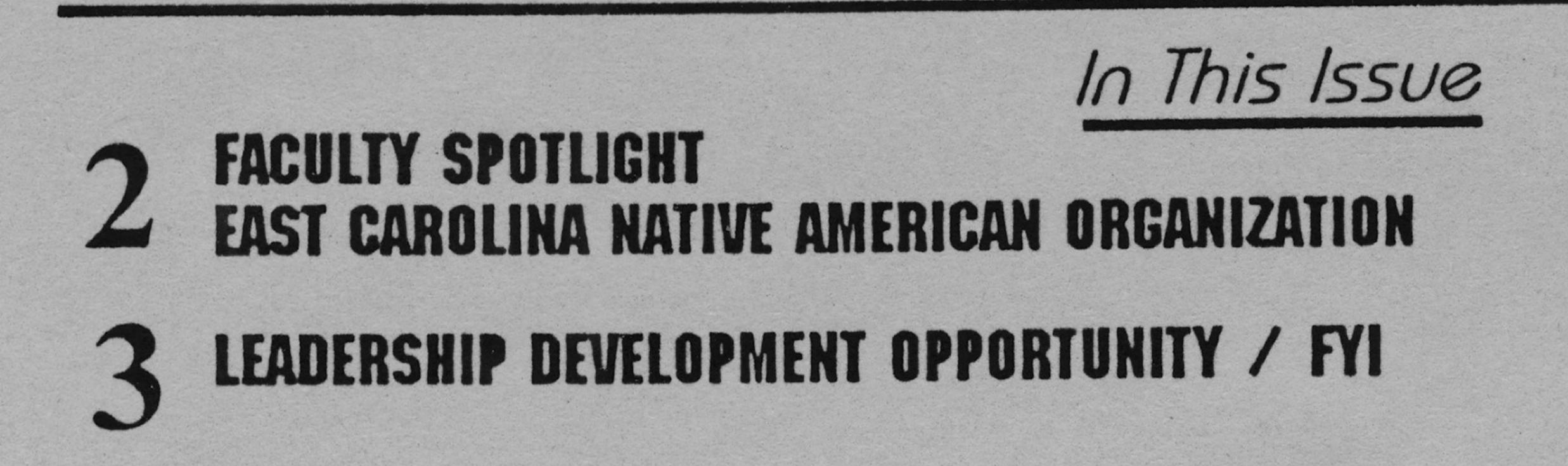
African-Americans.

Over the years, Negro History Week has undergone a number of changes. During the late 1960s, the entire month of February was set aside as African-American History Month. Generally, African-American History Month is observed with speeches, lectures, films, presentations, theatrical performances, exhibits and historical information. Every year a national theme for African-American History Month is selected by the Association for the Study of Afro-American Life and History. This year's theme is: REFLECTIONS ON 1895: DOUGLAS, DuBOIS, WASHINGTON

UPDATE ON THE LEDONIA WRIGHT AFRICAN-AMERICAN CULTURAL CENTER By Dr. Brian L. Haynes

Renovations are scheduled to begin during the early part of Spring Semester 1995 to the Bloxton House which will become the Ledonia Wright African-American Cultural Center. The move to the Bloxton House was precipitated by the need to upgrade and improve the existing African-American Cultural Center on campus. Opened in 1975, in a structure that had previously served as a YMCA and then a print shop, the Ledonia Wright African-American Cultural Center was a popular location for African-American students to gather.

wanted to use Negro History Week to educate all Americans about the rich contributions made by





(Continued on page 4)

• FACULTY SPOTLIGHT With Dr. David Dennard

"The Struggle Continues"

"Segregation," "Jim Crow Laws," "Separate but Equal," these words and others like them are very familiar to us today but they have more of a meaning to those whose lives were directly touched by them.

In Touch takes a closer look at what it meant to live and

What is disturbing, of course, are the devastating developments that have occurred in African-American communities since the nation outlawed segregation after the 1954 Brown v. Board of Education. Owing to the wall of segregation and the important teachings of race etiquette, there developed within the African American community a strong sense of unity, as well as, a tenacious spirit of self-help. This close community allowed someone on the bottom to see and interact with those who had made it to the top. It contained role models for young African-Americans, and also nurtured a spirit of excellence for all. "I went to a segregated elementary school and high school and all my teachers were African American. I could select role models from the group. Some of them were good and some of them were not so good. They were motivators and they cared about their students in various ways," expressed Dr. Dennard. Today many students do not have these resources in their community. For example, many high schools have very few African-American teachers, especially men. And it is extremely difficult for many young African-Americans to have direct contact with positive role models in the larger community. " Most African-Americans believed that with the coming of desegregation came the end of an era and that the struggle was over. But what many now realize is that the

struggle in a time where the legal system in the United States maintained a wall to separate its' people into white and black worlds. Dr. David Dennard provides us with some insight. Dr. Dennard begins our journey with the Black community. The problems that existed during the period of segregation were far more difficult in the fundamental terms than those that confront African Americans today. Segregation was an absolutely terrifying system of nationally sanction white supremacy. We drank water at specified water fountains, entered places marked for "Coloreds, " were never supposed to question what any white person said to do, and knew that a violation of any rule that whites deemed correct and proper for Blacks could result in serious injury or even death. Clearly, these were not "the good ole days"; and there is no remorse for the legal death of "Jim Crow."

(Continue on page 3)



EAST CAROLINA NATIVE AMERICAN ORGANIZATION

The East Carolina Native American Organization was established, " to provide fellowship for Native Americans enrolled at ECU, to involve members in the learning experiences about the culture and the history of Native Americans, and to provide peer support both academic and social when needed."

ECNAO has members from the following tribes: CHEROKEE COHARIE HALIWA-SAPONI LUMBEE WACCAMAW-SIOUAN The organization is looking forward to a great semester with planned activities:

SCHEDULED EVENTS

UNITY CONFERENCE--- MARCH (TBA)

FUNDRAISERS

VISIT TO CHEROKEE RESERVATION — MARCH (TBA) (COMMUNITY SERVICE PROJECT) BAREFOOT ON THE MALL — APRIL (TBA)

The organization would like to grow so that the Native American will be recognized on the ECU campus. By attending meetings Native American students are able to meet others who share their cultural background and those who differ. The organization plans activities and meetings that allow the campus community to become better acquainted with Native Americans. ECNAO seeks to provide ECU and the community with programs and activities that will expose the riches of the Native American contributions to America's history and culture.

BANQUET--- APRIL 21 POW-WOW--- APRIL 22,23

*** MEMBERSHIP IS OPEN TO ALL STUDENTS, ALUMNI, FACULTY OF ECU.***

For further info call: Kim Sampson : 752-2319 Nikkie Epps : 328-7778

LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITY

There is more to being a leader than just baving the title of "being in charge." There are qualities, traits and skills that a leader must possess and exhibit. Learn what it takes to become a Leader.

THURSDAY, MARCH 2 TQR : TOTAL QUALITY RELATIONSHIP 212 MENDENHALL STUDENT CENTER

The Struggle.... From page 2

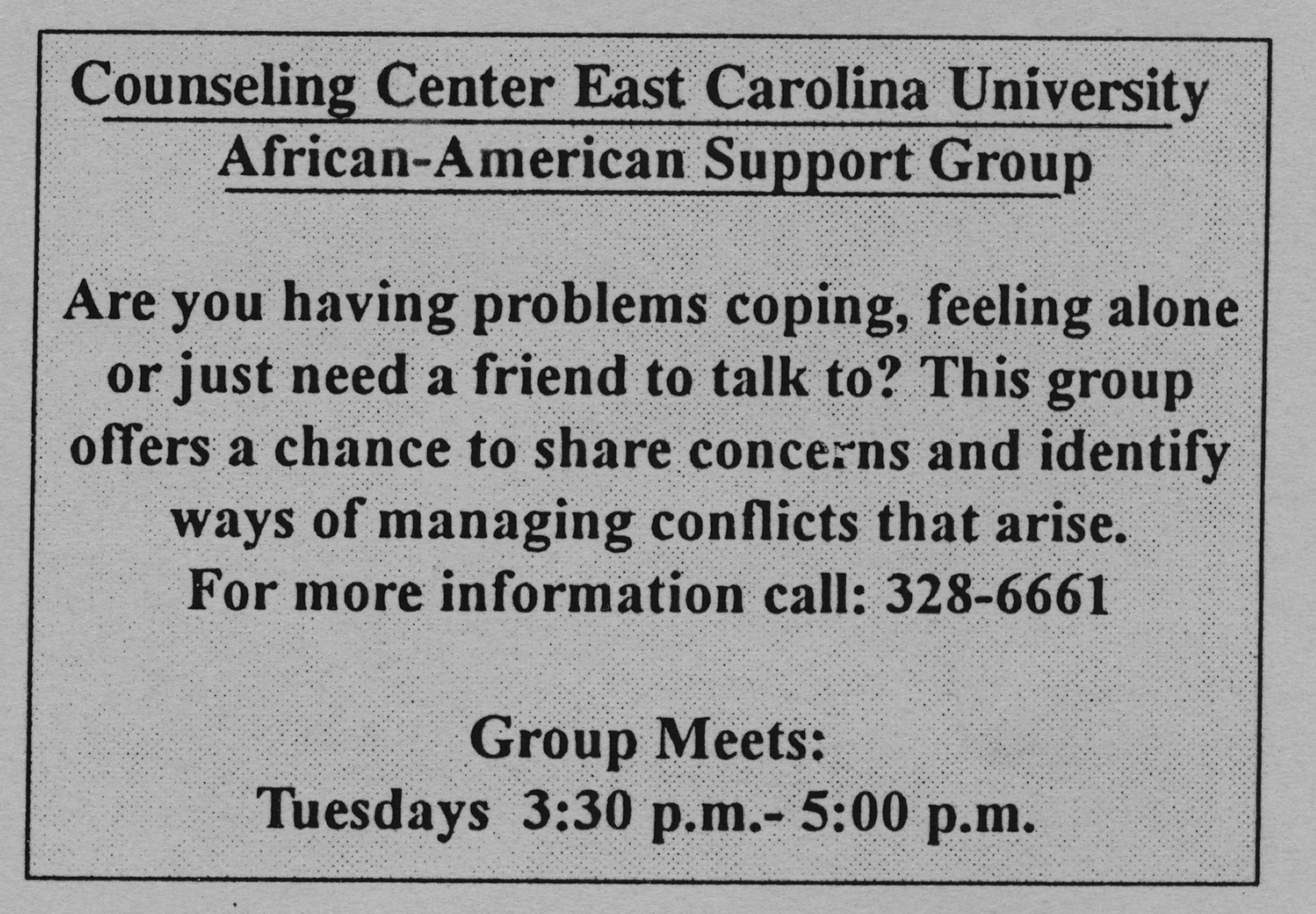
search for a new order was just beginning. The visible walls of segregation had fallen. But the spirit of segregation still existed; even today it is prevalent.

"The establishment of integration will take time and hard work. You will recall, Dr. Dennard explained, that a deliberate struggle was waged to destroy segregation. It started around the 1900s and reached its high point during the Civil Rights Movement of the 1950s and '60s. Now, all I am saying here is that if we Americans really want to create an integrated, multicultural or diverse society, we still have work to do and "miles to go before we sleep." ' Dr. Dennard holds a Ph.D. degree from Northwestern University and is currently an Associate Professor of American History with a concentration in African-American history at East Carolina University. Dr. Dennard practices

THURSDAY, MARCH 23 MOTIVATIONAL LEADERSHIP TECHNIQUES 212 MENDENHALL STUDENT CENTER

TUESDAY, MARCH 28 SERVICE LEADERSHIP 212 MENDENHALL STUDENT CENTER

THURSDAY, MARCH 30 INCREASING YOUR COMMUNICATION SKILLS 212 MENDENHALL STUDENT CENTER (Continue on page 4)



REGISTRATION INFORMATION

REGISTER FOR THE LEADER TALKSHOP(S) BY CALLING 328-4796 OR STOP IN 109 MSC, STUDENT LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS. YOU MUST REGISTER ONE DAY PRIOR TO THE TALKSHOP TO ATTEND. REGISTRATION IS FREE WITH VALID ECU STUDENT ID CARD.

The following opportunities are available through Student Leadership Development Program. Please call 328-4796 for more information.

a. All campus Leadership Conference



The first black Americans were the twenty blacks who arrived at Jamestown, Virginia, "about the later end of August" in 1619. Surviving evidence indicates that the first black settlers were not slaves. It appears from the record that they were assigned the same statusindentured servitude-as most of the first white immigrants. At the time of the first detailed census in 1624-25, the twenty-three blacks in Virginia-eleven males, ten females, and two children-constituted some two per cent of the total population of 1227. Among the blacks identified by name were Angelo, Edward, Antonio, Mary and John Pedro.

b. Co-Curricular Transcript
c. Emerging Leader Course
d. Kaleidoscope
e. Leadership Library
f. Leadership Institute
g. Leader-shop: Steps to Success
h. Minority Student Leadership Conference
i. Omicron Delta Kappa
j. Success at Sunrise

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Office of Minority Student GREEKS... Affairs Staff

Director Dr. Brian L. Haynes

> Secretary JoAnn Wilder

ALPHA KAPPA ALPHA SORORITY, Inc.

DELTA SIGMA THETA SORORITY, Inc.

Update....

from page one

The relocation and renovation will make the African-American Cultural Center both beautiful and highly functional. The center will house an art gallery, a reading room with African-American newspapers from around the country, a computer lab, a newsletter production facility and meeting rooms for the University community. The center staff will consist of a director and support personnel including graduate assistants and student workers.

Graduate Assistant April Brown

Graduate Assistant Sharon Raynor

Newsletter Editor Charles D. Watson Jr.

Student Assistant **Alexis Jacks**

Student Assistant **April Steele**

Student Assistant Lydia Williams

KAPPA ALPHA PSI FRATERNITY, Inc.

PHI BETA SIGMA FRATERNITY, Inc.

SIGMA GAMMA RHO SORORITY, Inc.

Inc.

The main purpose of the "new" African-American Cultural Center will be to assist in educating the campus and the local community about the rich cultural heritage of African-Americans. This will be accomplished through historical and cultural programming, exhibits, classes and workshops focusing on the African-American experience.

ZETA PHI BETA SORORITY, The Struggle... From page 3

what he preaches. He shares his knowledge with his students, and then he allows himself to be open and receptive to the ideas and views of his students. This exchange of ideas and understanding is the beginning of integration.

IN TOUCH is published twice during the Fall semester and twice during the Spring semester. Information, news, schedules and suggestions should be forwarded to Mr. Charles Watson, Office of Minority Student Affairs, 204 Whichard Building, East Carolina University, Greenville, North Carolina 27858. Fax number: (919) 328-4828



Office of Minority Student Affairs East Carolina University 204 Whichard Building Greenville, North Carolina 27858

