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HILTON

Off-Campus Study: Extending the Academic Curriculum



KEITH O. HILTON

More and more career savvy students are strengthening their resumes and skills levels via off-campus internships and study abroad programs.

These students realize that grades do help get a job, but people who don't have experience or outside interests don't develop many management skills.

HILTON: HIGHER EDUCATION has maximum expectations for U.S. African undergraduates enrolling in off-campus internships and study abroad programs. These expectations are based on extracurricular participation, interpersonal growth and outstanding academic track records that many students bring to college.

With planning, the rewards of off-campus study will be long lasting.

A key and growing part of

the undergraduate educational experience is this opportunity to study off-campus for a semester, summer or year.

Study beyond the campus is designed to extend the academic curriculum of the college and allow students to experience different life styles, viewpoints and organizational processes.

The opportunity to study abroad, especially in Africa or in Latin American countries, positions students on the cutting edge of local, national and world affairs, just as student participants of summer internships are correctly viewed by corporations as being hot commodities.

As more students of color participate in study abroad programs in such countries as Senegal, Ghana, Nigeria, the Cameroon, Kenya, Zimbabwe and Egypt, they see

UNLV Black Student Association Presents Unique African - American Oratorical Experience

By Marsha Allen

UNLV's Black Student Association in conjunction with CSUN recently presented "Yesterday...Today...and Tomorrow," a unique "African-American oratorical experience." The event took place on February 17 at

first hand the similarities and dissimilarities that they/we have with Africa.

Just as there are differences and similarities between folks from the Sudan and the Ivory Coast (in Africa), Trinidadians and Jamaicans (in the Caribbean), Afro British (in England) and the Aborigines (in Australia), Afro Cubans and Afro Nicaraguans (in the Latin Americas), there are differences between U.S. Africans and Africans throughout Africa.

However, in each of these cases, all of these people are African, culturally and increasingly, politically. Learning this is usually one of the highlights that many students report upon returning.

The cultural bonds that students of color have with these first world nations (third world is a misnomer), will also likely strengthen their fields and lengthen their careers.

"The world is my country," spoke Thomas Paine during this nation's push for independence.

Minister Malcolm X would later tell students and all Africans in America to think in terms of being internationalists (as opposed to integrationists). Keep in mind that he was eluding to the global village -- twenty five years ago.

As the decade of the 1990s begins, students are truly witnessing an exact appreciation of both of these statements via the present global village.

Educators need to continue to recommend that students heed these points and continue to remain active as humanitarians - particularly with regards to campus and world affairs.

HILTON: HIGHER EDUCATION is designed to dialogue with college and world readers. Education is ongoing and not limited to classroom study. Let's talk. (714)899-0650.

UNLV's Moyer Student Union in the form of a debate between actor Giancarlo Esposito (Do the Right Thing and School Daze) and Nation of Islam youth minister Conrad Muhammad from the Harlem Mosque #7. The debate topic centered on the role of the African-American in modern society and was the second in a two-part Black History Month celebration; the first half featured poet Nikki Giovanni during the previous week. The debate was moderated by Dr. Henry Melton, Professor of UNLV's department of Hotel Administration. The discussion explored the areas of business, education, leadership, religion, social dynamics, heroes and drugs as they relate to director Spike Lee's portrayals in the controversial film Do the Right Thing, and to the African-American community as a whole.

The first question posed to the debaters dealt with the film's portrayal of Sweet-Dick Willie, a sharp-tongued, unemployed joker, who, along with his friends, has no particular aim in life other than frequenting their street corner in Brooklyn's Bedford-Stuyvesant on a daily basis. In one scene, Willie's friends express their disdain for a newly-opened neighborhood fruitstand. The business is owned by a Korean immigrant who, insists Willie's friends, doesn't belong in their neighborhood. Dr. Melton asked if the depiction was an accurate one, and if so, what does it say about us? Minister Muhammad responded that unfortunately, that particular representation was "all too close to accurate," -- one of "street-corner men playing the fool." Muhammad insisted that that type of "frivolous behavior" must end, and added that when, in the film, one of the group expressed a dream to open his own business similar to the Korean's, he was immediately ridiculed by his companions. This self-negation, according to Muhammad, is all too common among us and is counter-productive. In his rebuttal, Mr. Esposito agreed, and pointed out that when con-

versing with a thirteen-year-old girl after a previous debate about how she felt the characters were portrayed in the movie, the girl admitted and recognized the fact that she didn't want to be like some of the characters in the film. On the subject of education, Dr. Melton posed the question: Was the film's portrayal of Radio Rahim as a young man with limited vocabulary skills an insult to American's educational system? Minister Muhammad emphatically agreed that it's "an indictment against the educational system," adding that "we must speak English correctly, and our actions must be in correspondence with the times." Esposito echoed in agreement that there are problems with the educational system, but insisted that "family values must be healed" as well. He cited as examples the fact that "the Black man hasn't always been there in the past," along with the unwillingness of some Blacks "to go back and help out in their communities after achieving college educations." In a follow-up question, Dr. Melton asked, "What does it say about parents, that we allow the Radio Rahims in our communities to exist uneducated?" Esposito offered that teachers have a problem motivating our youth; Muhammad agreed, reasoning that America's Euro-centric educational system excludes Blacks, thus giving our youth little to identify with.

The role of leadership and religion brought some interesting discussion and food for thought. Dr. Melton cited the film's character Buggin' Out (played by Esposito) in his fervent demand to gain recognition for Black leaders by displaying their pictures on the "Wall of Fame" of Sal's Pizzeria, a long-standing, popular, Italian-owned business in the heart of the primarily Black neighborhood. Owner, Sal, insisted that that honor was reserved for Italians only and refused to place any non-Italian photos on the wall, prompting an attempted boycott of the pizzeria which ended with its total destruction. Esposito responded to

Re-Read, Inc. Provides Subsidized Child Care

Re-Read Educational and Informative Center is a non-profit corporation, educating the public on illiteracy, youth counseling and health awareness since 1987.

Re-Read is now bringing to Las Vegas subsidized child care/day camp. The educational firm will pay up to 50 percent of child care costs for parents of children 2-5 years of age. This is an effort to boost the ability of children to score well on tests, by conditioning the student to learn at an early age. The goal is to reach children of low income families, that cannot afford to pay the standard rate for child care.

At this time Re-Read Educational and Informative Center has 200 openings for the subsidized child care/day camp.

Registration for the above named program will be held at the West Las Vegas library located at 951 W. Lake Mead Blvd. during the hours of 3:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. February 28, 1990. Remember, as a parent you have unlimited benefits with the type of program that Re-Read, Inc. has to offer.

For enrollment information call (702)649-7212. Arleata Griffin is the Director of the Child Care Division.

Dr. Melton's question on the status and effectiveness of current African-American leadership that, "We're almost blind - insensitive to share the wealth," and he alluded to the downfall of Washington Mayor Marion Barry. Muhammad replied, "We must be defenders of our people." He referred to Barry's problem as an "apparent" one, noting that, as with the situation in Boston when Charles Stuart claimed a Black man killed his wife, everyone was quick to believe the story until the truth came to light. In response to the question, "Is the only way we can find leadership through religion?" the minister emphasized that, "Historically, leadership has always been rooted in religion. If we're going to be successful, it's through God." Esposito agreed, saying, "The only

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