

Tyson King-Meadows:

Winner of the Outstanding Graduate Faculty Advisor Award

By Titia Shelton
STAFF WRITER

Tyson King-Meadows, one of the most visible leaders of the Sonja H. Stone Black Cultural Center, was recently given the Chancellor's Committee on Greek Affairs Outstanding Graduate Faculty Advisor Award.

King-Meadows said he felt concerned that often in the fast-paced University community, accomplishments and day to day contributions by many hard-working people in the BCC and African-American community go unnoticed.

As a member and advisor to Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, and a political science teacher, King-Meadows has been a symbol of what the African-American male could aspire to be. King-Meadows has spent his undergraduate as well as his graduate years helping his peers and the community as a whole.

Ever since he attended middle school in Brooklyn, New York, he has had a hard-working and challenging mind. He participated in an accelerated program which allowed him to complete the seventh and eighth grade in one year and also the tenth and eleventh in one year.

King-Meadows graduated from high school with 21 college credits, and at the age of 16, went on to pursue his college career at North Carolina Central University.

His decision to become a member of the Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity in the spring of 1991 was a decision that continues to positively influence his life. He said that he wanted to be a member of a fraternity that knew education was essential to uplifting the African-American community.

When King-Meadows researched this fraternity, he found that many of the great leaders of the 20th century had been members of this organization. Great African-American leaders such as writer and educator W.E.B. Dubois; David Dinkins, the former mayor of New York City; former Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall; prominent lawyer and North Carolina Central University Chancellor Julius Chambers; and civil rights leader Martin Luther King Jr. He said that these influential people especially Dubois inspired him to "...want to be a part of the movement changing African-Americans now—the movement for empowerment."

Being a part of this fraternity was also important to King-Meadows because of his love for politics. Alpha Phi Alpha started the drive to encourage African-Americans to vote with the slogan, "A voteless people are a hopeless people."

He said that this organization puts him, "in the position to do some good, be in touch with powerful people and lend some energies to helping the community." He has tried to lend these

energies in his four years at the University.

Under his leadership, Alpha Phi Alpha has started a scholarship drive collecting money from parties and other fundraising events. Adopt-A-Highway, Morrison Sleep Out, and voter registration drives were other events that this group sponsored.

Two activities that King-Meadows said he thought were very important services to the African-American community were Habitat for Humanity and the Nubian Princess Luncheon. He said, "building houses so that African-Americans have land gives African-Americans a building foundation to pass on [to future generations]."

Another activity that the fraternity sponsored was the Nubian Princess Appreciation Luncheon. King-Meadows said he believed that brothers need to show Black women that men acknowledge that they came from women and that they appreciate women. "We need to reclaim Black women as partners in the struggle," he said.

As well as these significant activities, the UNC Mu Zeta chapter has won many awards during King-Meadows tenure as an advisor. One such award was the N.C. Chapter of The Year. In 1995, Malcolm Logan also won the statewide Brother of the Year Award.

Because of his accomplishments and his service to the community, King-Meadows won the Chancellor's Graduate Faculty Advisor Award. This award was designed to honor a person who helps fraternities add something to life at UNC. It acknowledges that advisors facilitate the fraternity growth process and reflects that fraternities can't accomplish everything on their own without help, he said.

King-Meadows received no money for his advising position. As a first year teacher of "African-Americans and Politics," King-Meadows struggled to balance time and resources. Despite these obstacles, he continues to persevere and he said he feels he adds a "unique aspect" to Alpha Phi Alpha because he is the only advisor who is a member of the group.

"I've been through the same things these guys are going through and I've tried some of these same things," King-Meadows said "So I have the ability to say 'I've done this and it's not going to work.' I am very thankful for this award because I felt my work was appreciated."

Trivia Contest Informs and Entertains

By Star Spencer
STAFF WRITER

Answering questions ranging from issues of pop culture to politics, junior Hugh Davis, sophomore Shanta Morrison, and junior Shani Foy won prizes

in the Black History Month contest held by the Sonja H. Stone Black Cultural Center. Rodney Sanders, a sophomore and chairman of the Black Student Movement Education Committee decided to celebrate Black History Month by organizing a

black history trivia contest.

Davis, Morrison and Foy won first, second and third places, respectively. The first and second place winners received tickets to "Les Ballets Africains", an upcoming musical in Chapel Hill.

The winning contestants said that they entered the contest with basic knowledge of history. Hugh Davis said, "I really enjoyed doing the trivia, it was fun to be able to see how much knowledge

I was able to retain.... It was great finding out what questions I missed to determine my strengths and weaknesses on Black history."

Few people attended the awards ceremony. The lack of supporters led Morrison to say she felt that there was a lack of interest in the contest. She said, "Participation was really needed, especially among the black students."