

The first of which was the *Black Ink*, which was created in 1969, after the chancellor recognized the BSM as an official campus organization.

In 1963, Edwin Okoroma became the first African-American athlete to represent UNC-CH. Originally from Nigeria, this soccer player obtained an A.B. in chemistry and continued on to graduate from medical school. Almost eight years after this feat, Mickey Hickerson became the first African American to play on the baseball team. During this same year, David Belton (captain) and Mary Rudd became the first cheerleaders of color, and not until 1985 did the university have an African-American volleyball player, Andrea Walls.

While these students were making athletic strides, several other students were making political strides. In 1972, Richard Epps (Wilmington) was elected Student Body President. Another African American named Marcus Williams succeeded Epps. Two years later, Andromeda Monroe was selected as the first African-American student Attorney General. In 1976, Sheri Parks was the first



Richard Epps (l.) and Andromeda Monroe (r.) made student government history at UNC-CH in 1972 and 1974, respectively.

African-American Homecoming queen, followed by Cheryl King, Martha Kendrick, and Nina Ford. Gordon Cureton served as the first African American Speaker of the Campus Governing Council from 1977 to 1978. Thirteen years after Epps election, Patricia Wallace was the first African-American female Student Body President.

While the students were finding their places at this predominantly white institution the faculty was working on establishing its own. Hortense McClinton was the first African-American professor hired by the university; she taught in the school of social work for 18 years. The BSM asked all the African-American faculty members to boycott their

jobs until they were given better working conditions and pay. This issue was not resolved until almost eleven months later on March 20, 1969, when the governor met with three strike leaders and gave into their demands. Dr. Blyden Jackson became the first tenured professor at any predominantly white institution in the



Gordon Cureton also helped to shape the students' political history at UNC-CH.

Southeast when he was hired in the English department. Today Jackson Hall is named after Dr. Jackson and Roberta Jackson, a professor from the School of Education. Also in this year, students' protests resulted in the development of an African and Afro-American Studies curriculum. In 1972, Edith M. Elliott was the first African-American woman to be appointed as the director of the Campus Y. All of the struggles for achievement among the faculty culminated in UNC-CH having the most endowed-chaired professorships, with 11 out of 74, of any American university in April of 1993.

One of the most arduous conflicts over the past twenty-five years has been the struggle for the freestanding Sonja Haynes Stone Black Cultural Center. Dr. Stone was a professor at UNC-CH who succeeded in a legal fight for tenure and who worked endlessly for the rights of peers and students. In 1988 a temporary center was established for the SHSBCC to operate and to raise funds for programs and building. This past fall, the remaining amount of money was donated to build the free-standing center which will house classrooms, a theater, the Upward Bound program, the Institute of African- American Research, and other programs.

Throughout its history, the African Americans at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill have accomplished many achievements in the face of adversity. At the height of enrollment and faculty presence, it is increasingly important for knowledge of a complete history to be circulated to everyone, especially African Americans.