

Biomedical Research Seminar Series: Dr. Kenneth Olden

by Kathleen Barron

On October 26, Biomedical Research Program Seminar Series presented Dr. Kenneth Olden to a standing-room-only audience. His discussion was entitled: "The Potential Importance of Swainsonine in Therapy For Cancers and Immunology." Dr. Juliette Bell, Program Director for the Biomedical Research Seminar, was instrumental in bringing Dr. Olden to Fayetteville State. Mr. Jim Scurry had previously contacted Mr. Olden through The Youth Motivational Task Force, but because of schedule conflicts, he was unable to come.

Dr. Olden, Director of the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS), is the first African-American to become director of one of the National Institutes of Health. He is a cell biologist and biochemist by training and has been active in research into the properties of cell surface molecules and their possible roles in cancer for more than a decade. Before coming to NIEHS, he was director of the Howard University Cancer Center and professor and chairman of the Department of Oncology at Howard University Medical School. Dr. Olden's recent research interest, the anti-cancer drug Swainsonine, was approved June 3, 1991 to be placed on the National Cancer Institute's list of drugs for "high priority development" for possible clinical trials in humans. The drug is proposed as a colony stimulating factor in the treatment of cancer.

Born in poverty in Parrottsville, Tennessee on a farm in the segregated South,

Dr. Olden went on to earn his bachelor's degree in biology from Knoxville College, his master's degree at the University of Michigan, and his doctoral degree from Temple University.

Dr. Olden has served on the editorial boards of cancer and cell biology journals, is a member of a number of professional societies, and was named by President Bush to the National Cancer Advisory Board in January 1991. With his knowledgeable way of explaining technical information for anyone to understand, he is widely sought to be the invited speaker at scientific symposia and seminars. He is a reviewer for programs in his field and has authored and co-authored more than 102 publications. He published two of the "One Hundred Most Cited" papers in 1978-79, and one on the subject of cancer cell biology is now deemed a "Citation Classic."

At a luncheon sponsored in his honor by the Office of Academic Affairs, Dr. Olden explained a little of his philosophy about his work. When being considered for the job, he said, "If you hire me, I will make it relative to the American people." His philosophy is that to serve the people, he cannot sit in his offices in Bethesda, Maryland and the Research Triangle Park. He goes out to communities, colleges, factories, and waste sites as a representative of the National Environmental Research Agency.

He said when he was asked if there were characteristics that made him different from others, he felt it was his "stick-to-itiveness" and a willingness to sacrifice. He feels that those who have gotten ahead

should go back and help others. He takes time to respond to students. His philosophy is to find out what the needs are and what you can do. Pat Williams, a fall 1992 graduate and current research assistant in the Biomed department at FSU, has firsthand experience after spending the summer in an internship program working with Dr. Olden.

Dr. Olden believes that we need to implement programs to get kids turned on and motivated. "We can generate kids who are competitive..." "You've got to involve family, aunt, uncle, church, and public schools." What started out as an article in a scientific journal expanded to the program called K-12 Initiative. This program is a trial one designed to make an impact on education, particularly of "poor farm kids". Most current programs are for college-level intervention. The problem is that many students "wash out in college because they do not have math skills".

Another program is Environmental Equity, which looks into health issues where people live and work. People living in an environment where industry is most polluted are prone to have more diseases. Lead poisoning is 35-40% higher in inner cities. \$28 million has been set aside to spend over a five-year period on programs to educate people about environmental problems. "We are open to any innovative ideas that solve health problems."

When asked about passing more laws, Dr. Olden said, "We have enough laws. We do not have the commitment to follow guidelines."

Home Boy Makes Good:

The Rising Star of Jimmie Green

By Roger A. Harris

It's not often that you get to witness the transformation of a close friend from novice to star. The endless obstacles that life puts in the way to test the spirit and teach his soul the hard work, pain, and tears that really don't matter much at all when he's finally reached his goal. Those feelings hit me full circle as I witnessed the poetic, graceful strength of James K. Green, III's performance as a member of Chuck Davis' African-American Dance Ensemble.

As a young, impressionable boy of eleven years, I looked up to and respected Jimmy, my next door neighbor. He always had an encouraging, kind word and friendly advice for a rather odd brother who liked to write. He would sometimes read my writings and correct them, telling me how to make them better. He was an adopted brother to my family, and we loved him.

In Fayetteville, Jimmy was one of the best dancers in the area, as well as an outstanding basketball player. When he told everyone he wanted to be a dancer, the taunting and jeers that followed were unceasingly cruel. He never really let on about the pain and anguish those taunts caused him, but I could see it in his eye--feel it in my heart as well. He would get really serious when he told me "never give

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So you wanna' be famous? If you are committed to preventing alcohol problems on campus, read on...



The U.S. Center for Substance Abuse Prevention (CSAP) announces the 2nd National College Prevention Materials Competition for college students and student organizations. Winners will receive cash prizes, and winning entries will be published nationwide. The materials must be designed to prevent alcohol problems among college students. Categories include: video production, radio public service announcement, print public service announcement, "special issue" newspaper, poster, prevention booklet or handbook, and specialty item.

Entries will be judged for effectiveness, appropriateness, design and layout, and scientific accuracy. Entries must be received by **February 1, 1994** and must include an official entry/release form. To obtain an entry kit, contact your school's alcohol and drug coordinator, or call **1-800-729-6686**, extension 5992.

FSU Student Accepted to Fellows Program

from news release

In a news release from the Office of Public Relations, it was reported that Jacques Gray, a junior at Fayetteville State University, has been accepted as a fellow in the National Association of Student Personnel Administrators' Minority Undergraduate Fellows Program. Mrs. Olivia Chavis, an Associate Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs at FSU, will serve as his mentor.

Zacques, a native of Rocky Mount, is majoring in social science education. Mr. Gray said "I am very excited and honored to be accepted as a fellow. This program will benefit me later in life because this is something that I want to do."

The program is a two-year professional experience that is offered to high achieving minority undergraduates. The mission of the program is to increase the

number of minorities involved in student affairs and higher education. It was designed to provide participants with knowledge, insight, and understanding of the opportunities available.

As a fellow, Jacques will gain experience under his mentor's guidance by working on campus committees to implement programs and culturally enriching events sponsored by the Office of Student Affairs.

Zacques is currently holding the Office of Program Director for the Student Government Association. He felt he was chosen because of his academic success and his work as an orientation leader and as a resident assistant.

"I would encourage other students to participate in the MUFPP if they are seriously considering working in student affairs as a career. They will receive many benefits by becoming a fellow."