

Letter From the Editor

By: L'Asia Brown



Greetings Broncos!

Welcome back to Fayetteville State University! I hope each and every one of you had a productive, safe, and fun winter break. Normally when we return from vacations, we are encouraged by our parents, administrators, professors, and elders to get our minds “back

into the groove” of academic excellence, positive social involvement, and community philanthropy. However, as a generation of game-changers, we need to begin incorporating these fundamentals into our daily routines. One practice that many students have given up on is reading.

I am an avid reader and writer. Whether it is Eric Jerome Dickey, Kimberla Lawson, and Michael Eric Dyson or Jean Paul Satre, Erica Jong, and Simone de Beauvoir, I am on a continuous mission to investigate the endlessness of intellect, culture, theory and philosophy found in the eternal variety of books. Having engaged in multitudes of conversations with the young and old, I've come to a frightening consensus: young adults are becoming less and less interested in reading. Though sociologists blame a sharp increase in pop culture and social media obsessions for the lack of attentiveness to the most prestigious form of imaginative creation, a book, I cannot help but to believe that the blame falls closer to home. It is our responsibility to ensure we are conditioning our minds even when we do not have a research paper due.

We are quick to run to the movies, rent DVD's, and rush home to see our favorite reality television shows yet many students cannot name five of their favorite books. There are English majors who know nothing of Ernest Hemingway and political science majors who know nothing of Salman Rushdie. There are communications majors who know nothing of John Stewart and history majors who know nothing of Will Durant. We must not let ourselves sink so deep into the ocean of technology and float so far away from the land of traditional expression outlets that we cannot see the shores of passion, creativity, and imagination. We cannot let our era slip beneath our feet without having defined it with literature, as all eras before us.

This semester I challenge you to expand and improve upon your reading ability. Take a journey through the library or bookstore, and discover the worlds to be explored in books. Not only will it increase your appreciation for the art, but it will dramatically improve your vocabulary. In return, I promise to deliver a great newspaper to Fayetteville State University, bi-weekly. The Voice Newspaper will feature various works by students, alumni, faculty, and staff of Fayetteville State University who have worked hard to ensure you are enlightened, entertained, amused and most importantly, informed. Remember, excellence is a behavior, not an assignment.

L'Asia B. Brown

Students Honor King with Day of Service

By: Rodney O'Neal

Fayetteville State University led more than 30 Students into The MLK Challenge, an annual service event held on Dr. Martin Luther King Junior Day, January 18th. Participating students were randomly assigned to groups and given a service project at a local organization that they had to work together to complete by the end of the day. By serving their community, students celebrated the life and teachings of the late civil rights pioneer.

The students joined hundreds of thousands of Americans in making the holiday a day ON, not a day OFF by serving in honor of the slain civil rights leader's legacy of helping others. “By using the King Holiday as a springboard for service throughout the year, we can help realize Dr. King's dream and renew our communities and country,” said Nicola Goren, Acting CEO of the Corporation for National and Community Service. The federal agency oversees the nation's domestic service initiatives. The group led the annual Martin Luther King Day of Service in partnership with the King Center and nonprofits, community groups, schools, and businesses across the country.

One group of students completed a beautification project with The Cumberland County Coordinating Council on Older Adults, Inc. They

improved the image of areas where many retired seniors live in Fayetteville.

Students were sent to CCCCOA and from there were sent to help a senior at their place of residence. The activities ranged from helping replace light bulbs in and around the house to helping clear the yard of leaves and trash. The second group did a community beautification project in a hard hit neighborhood with The Fayetteville Cumberland County Ministerial Council. Students were sent to Heal The Land Outreach Ministries and from there they were given streets that needed to be

covered.

The project was one of thousands that took place nationwide to honor the legacy of Dr. King. Volunteers built homes, delivered meals, refurbished schools and community centers, beautified parks and neighborhoods, and engaged in a number of other civic activities to improve lives and strengthen communities across the country.

The Center for Community Justice and Service Learning at Fayetteville State University fosters community-university-government partnerships to improve the quality of life and the quality of justice in neighborhoods hard hit by high levels of crime, arrest, incarceration and reentry. Fulfilling the UNC Tomorrow vision of the engaged university, the Center for Community Justice and Service Learning connects FSU faculty, staff and students with community and government partners to conduct community-based research, training, public forums, and service learning. The Corporation for National and Community Service is a federal agency that engages more than five million Americans in service each year through its core programs, Senior Corps, AmeriCorps, and Learn and Serve America, and leads President Obama's national call to service initiative, United We Serve.

