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UMOJA

Word Around Camp

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• Freshman Elee Elijah Stewart was elected to the Clark Atlanta University Dean's List for the fall semester. A 1996 graduate of West Charlotte High School, Elee is a biology/premed major. He received a four-year scholarship to the school which is part of the Atlanta University Center that also includes Morehouse College, Spelman College and Morris Brown College.



Stewart

• Calvin Dark, a senior at the North Carolina School of Science and Math, has been awarded a full scholarship to Duke University. Dark, a native of Siler City, also serves as the State Master Knight of the North Carolina Council Order of the Knights of Pythagoras, a service organization for young men. Dark placed second in the General Baptist State Convention's oratorical contest and was a National Achievement Scholar finalist. He hopes to become a lawyer.

• Beverly Nunley, a 21 year old student from UNC Charlotte, has won the Mastercard American Collegiate Talent Search campus competition. Beverly performed a vocal piece, "I Am Changing." She was accompanied by Tori McKay. Beverly will perform in a semifinal competition in February. The finals will be held on Feb. 23.

Items for Word Around Camp should be faxed to (704)342-2160 by 5 p.m. on Monday. Students interested in writing for Umoja should call, (704)376-0496



PHOTO/SUE ANN JOHNSON

West Charlotte's Sherilyn Black takes a break from her busy schedule. The busy senior balances grades and activities.

A touch of class

SPECIAL TO THE POST

Perhaps it is her birth date -- Feb. 14, that has given Clanitra Stewart the desire to do volunteer work in her community. Or maybe it's her gratitude for the blessed life that she has lived.

Whatever the reason, this University of South Carolina student has heart.

A senior in USC's prestigious South Carolina Honors College, Stewart has maintained a 3.6 grade point average as a psychology major and earned an honorable mention spot on the USA Today "All-USA '97 College Academic Team." Her other academic accolades are numerous: Mortar Board, Omicron Delta Kappa, Golden Key, the National Society of Collegiate Scholars, Who's Who Among Students in American Universities and Colleges and Psi Chi, the psychology honor society.

Even so, Stewart has made time to be involved as a volunteer at the Kampus Kiddie Daycare Center at USC and as a mentor for minority students in the honors college.

As a member of Mortar Board, she has been involved in a number of philanthropic activities in Columbia, including fund raising for SisterCare and participating in the Lunch Buddies program at Rosewood Elementary School.

"It's important to do what you can for other people," says Stewart. "I have been blessed to have the life that I have. You never know what effect you can have on someone else's life. Hopefully, you can have a positive impact."

Stewart came to USC at age 16 after graduating from Brookland-Cayce High School. She selected USC because she could be close to home and have the opportunity to study in the honors college.

"The small classes offered by the honors college appealed to me. Even at some of the best Ivy League schools, classes can be large, and students compete for attention. Here at USC, the classes are small, and professors have time to stop and answer your questions," says Stewart, the daughter of Clarence and Gertie Stewart of Cayce.

Another consideration for Stewart was the fact that undergraduate students have the opportunity to conduct research at USC. Stewart was one of only 10 students selected from about 200 applicants from throughout the U.S. to participate in the psychology department's Summer Research Institute in 1995.

Dr. Robin Morris, an associate professor in USC's psychology department, describes Stewart as a "bright student who is self-motivated and self-directed."

Stewart works with Morris to conduct research in the field of cognitive psychology to better understand how the brain processes language. This research interest helped Stewart land an internship last summer at AT&T.

Stewart's leadership skills make her a positive role model for other students. "As president of Psi Chi, Clanitra has helped the membership of the honor society grow more rapidly than at any other time."

Local students attend Hardy conference

By Melody Micere Stewart
FOR THE CHARLOTTE POST

The van marked "Central Piedmont Community College, Student Life" was packed with luggage and students. The destination? Richmond, Virginia to attend The Carroll F. S. Hardy Black Student Leadership Conference. "Developing Our Strengths...Developing Our Strategies: Roles, Responsibilities, Realities" was the theme chosen to help students "gain new knowledge, network, meet new people and enhance leadership skills and capabilities," according to Carroll F. S. Hardy, President and CEO of Stuart Educational Leadership Group, Inc., sponsors of the conference. In its 11th year, the national forum brought hundreds of African American students to participate in a full schedule of sessions and programs featuring professional speakers and facilitators.

Participating colleges and universities included Arizona State, Beaver College and LaSalle University of Pennsylvania, Florida International University, Eastern Michigan University, Ohio State, University of Georgia, University of Delaware and a host of universities from Virginia. North Carolina was represented by Central Piedmont, Johnson C. Smith and UNC Charlotte.

During the three-day conference, participants attended sessions focused on conference's leadership mission. Issues of campus leadership, strategies for increasing influence, building coalitions and locating funding resources were discussed in depth in the various conference sessions.

Steve Birdine, Coordinator of Diversity Programs for Indiana University Bloomington, challenged students to stay focused on acquiring the skills necessary to graduate with excellence in his session, "What Have You Done For Us Lately?"

"Coping Strategies: Being Black on a White Campus," was presented by Doreen Loury, Director of Gateway to Success, Beaver College, while Dr. Mary Churchill of the University of Richmond was the facilitator to a lively session on Black Male/Female Relationships.

Other conference session provided information on financial planning, the entertainment industry, computer technology

and conflict mediation and resolution.

The quality and diversity of conference sessions was not lost upon the African American students attending Central Piedmont Community College. As members of the Black Student Organization, each was eager to meet fellow students, attend programs and have fun.

Accompanied by BSO advisor and Student Life Supervisor, John Toms, it was an adventure in self-development for the entire group.

"This was my first time attending the conference. I have truly learned a lot to assist me in my quest to be a more effective leader," Jewel Leak, 19, said. "This has been a very enriching experience."

Certainly, the conference keynote speakers were a source conference enrichment. Nicole Green, 20, was particularly impressed with one.

"Sister Souljah was deep. She really caught my attention when she spoke about elders...basically, elders should 'say what they mean and mean what they say.' The rapper/activist/author was also popular with BSO president, Talathia McAdams, 23: "Sister Souljah said that the

woman has 360 degrees of power. This is taught in Africa... We are the earth and we are the one's that make things grow and blossom."

Other keynote speakers included Michael Eric Dyson, a professor of Communication Studies at the UNC Chapel Hill. Dyson gave the luncheon address, mixing his own brand of hip-hop intellectualism, in part by decoding rap as commentary on everything from economics to ethnics.

Author and former U.S. Surgeon General, Dr. Jocelyn Elders delivered the banquet address challenging and educating students to the issues and concerns that they will inherit in the next century.

Michele Moore, 18, said the conference gave her "the strength to keep going on and being proud."

Also impressed was, Brother Rock, 23, who said it spoke to "the knowledge of self-respect, love for one another, unity and economic development."

Kareem Allah Pratt, 20, summed up the conference as "definitely one of the most powerful and rewarding experiences that any black student could attend."

Black shines as scholar, activist

By Gena Watkins
FOR THE CHARLOTTE POST

To say that West Charlotte High School senior Sherilyn Black is busy is an understatement.

"Everything I do is a reflection of who I am," she says.

Sherilyn is president of the Student Government, and the National Honor Society. She is finalist for National

Achievement and Pogue scholarships, as well as scholarship from Coca-Cola and UNC Chapel Hill.

And then there's her community service.

Sherilyn's president of the National Conference's Youth Involvement Council, a United Way volunteer and often volunteers at the Metrolina Food Bank. Last year she organized a

seminar for young women that won her the Girl Scout Gold Award.

The 17-year-old also boasts a 4.59 grade point average.

"I prioritize," she says. "I feel that there is time for me in everything I do."

After a stint as an intern at Carolinas Medical Center, Sherilyn pretty much decided on a career in medicine. She

hopes to research that will eradicate AIDS and cancer.

Sherilyn credits her parents, Don and Elda Black, for her success and offer simple advice to other teens.

"Be true to yourself," she said. "Don't shy away from achieving your full potential."

Sherilyn strives for excellence in everything she does.

CAMPUS PROFILE

OAKWOOD COLLEGE

Huntsville, Alabama



Location: Huntsville, Alabama

Founded: 1896

Enrollment: More than 1,300 full-time students and over 250 part-time students

Achievements: Oakwood ranked 12th in the nation in awarding baccalaureate degrees in life sciences to African-Americans and are 4-time winners of the UNCF Tennessee Excellence in Teaching Awards.

Campus: This Seventh Day Adventist institution owns a radio station and a Black history museum and plans Convocations and Art and Lecture series that feature famous alumni like entertainer Clifton Davis, gospel singing group Take 6, and world renowned soprano Shirley Verrett.



Oakwood College students gather to discuss course requirements during registration

For more info contact the
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