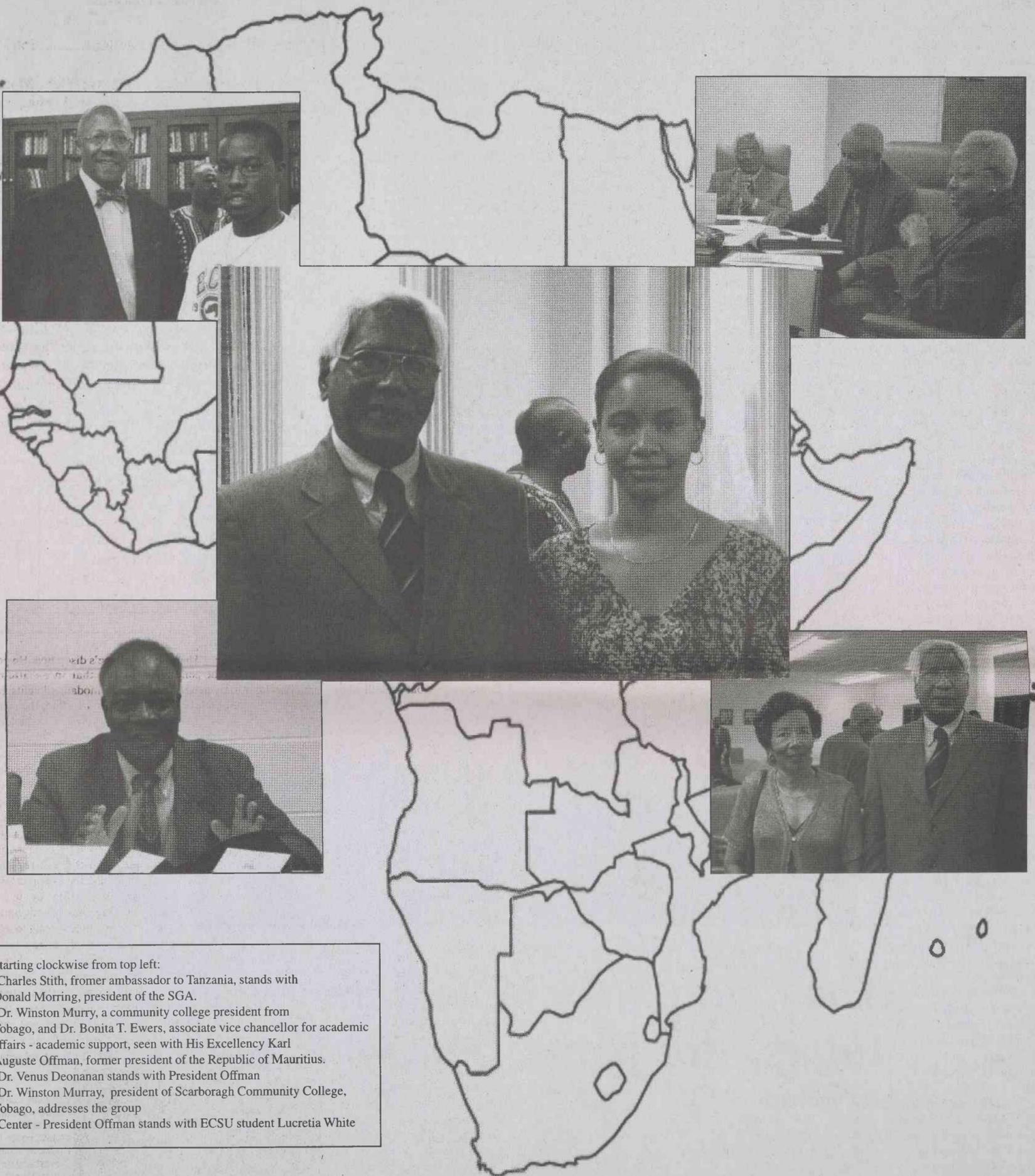


African Introspection Week: The Roundtable



Starting clockwise from top left:
 -Charles Stith, former ambassador to Tanzania, stands with Donald Moring, president of the SGA.
 -Dr. Winston Murry, a community college president from Tobago, and Dr. Bonita T. Ewers, associate vice chancellor for academic affairs - academic support, seen with His Excellency Karl Auguste Offman, former president of the Republic of Mauritius.
 -Dr. Venus Deonanan stands with President Offman
 -Dr. Winston Murray, president of Scarborough Community College, Tobago, addresses the group
 -Center - President Offman stands with ECSU student Lucretia White

New goals will make Africa the continent of the future

By Chris Chinaka
 Staff Writer

During African Introspection week, I had the privilege on September 27 to meet His Excellency Karl Auguste Offmann, former president of an East African Country, the Republic of Mauritius. Dr. Winston Murray, who is the president and founder of Tabago's first institution of higher education, Scarborough community college, was also present at the roundtable. Dr. Murray spoke of the nature of improving the quality of Education in Tabago. Tobagoan students are usually overlooked with funds and scholarships

while most European students that don't need the money are likely to receive them, Murray said.

I was impressed to see some of the professors and other ECSU faculty members present at this event. President Karl Offman is currently the Lloyd G. Balfour president in residence at the African Presidential Archives and Research Center at Boston University. It was an honor and a motivational experience to hear and understand some valuable facts and statistics about the continent of Africa that I never knew. As an African student, this event helped me to refocus and bring closure toward my mission statement. It was inspiring to sit at the roundtable with the

president and visualize the direction our nations need to be heading.

The main objective for the Global Leadership Academy is to collect and generate ideas for the improvement of the African economy. "New partnerships for Africa's Economic Development have outlined strategies for the next few years", President Offman said in response to a question. "Production levels are low, while African resources are high."

In President Offman's presentation, he made everyone very aware of the living conditions and situation most African youths are face. Africa is the only continent to have grown poorer in the past 25 years

and that needs to change. For example, Africa produces 70 percent of the world's cotton, but only two percent of the cotton produced in Africa stays home. "Oil should not be the only focus of production as there are many other profitable revenues," President Offman said.

For a while, I felt like a lost sheep in America, but I realized that the key is to stay balanced, and focused. When I succeed, I can reinvest in my country. It has been about three year since I've been to Nigeria, but conventions like the African Introspection will help keep me determined until I go home.

With some of our new goals, we can make Africa the continent of the future.

