Tutoring available for minorities

By Shauna McCall
Lantern staff writer

African American Student Services is offering a free math tutoring service for minority students taking math classes during summer quarter, said Joyce Vaughan, director of African American Student Services.

“The academic study group program provides students with academic support, and they have the opportunity to meet other students and become aware of the services and support of the African American Student Services office,” said Tina Sullivan Love, acting director of Student Organization Services.

Vaughan said during the autumn, winter and spring quarters, tutors are also available for math, English and science.

Love said she was the coordinator of African American Student Services when the program was implemented. She said she and a graduate student wrote the initial proposal to get an affirmative action grant for a pilot program during winter quarter of 1983.

Love said the pilot program was a test to determine if the tutor service was meeting some of the academic needs of minority students.

“We measured the successfulness by the huge number of students who signed up and how frequently they came in for tutoring,” Love said.

She said the office also examined grades to determine if there was a significant change of scores on midterms and finals.

Funding for the academic study program, which is provided by the Office of Student Affairs, costs about $22,000 a year. This includes wages for graduate students who administer the service, as well as the tutors themselves, Love said.

Love said she has seen the program grow from 35 participants during its first quarter to 250 participants who took advantage of the service during the 1988-90 school year.

She estimates 75 students will seek math tutoring for summer quarter.

Vaughan said minority students taking math classes up to the 152 level may apply for the service at 345 Ohio Union starting Monday. She said students will find out the schedule of their tutorial sessions within 24 hours.

Vaughan said based on a student’s availability, students may schedule up to three 45-minute sessions a week.
‘Just Say Hi Week’ aim is interaction

By Reggie Anglen

Bringing Ohio State students together is the goal of two African-American student groups, who are co-sponsoring a project they call “Just Say Hi Week” through Sept. 28.

Members of Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity and the African-American Heritage Committee want to encourage students of different backgrounds to speak to each other.

“We want to promote goodwill and we want to interact with the many students at Ohio State who are products of various cultures,” says Mark Harris, president of Delta Omicron chapter of Phi Beta Sigma.

“Initially, we wanted to establish a partnership between Black and white fraternities and sororities at Ohio State, but the idea expanded to include all students,” Harris adds.

Some 50 campus organizations — including those that represent women, the disabled, African-American, Asian and Hispanic students — have helped by distributing “Just Say Hi” buttons and encouraging other students to greet one another.

Sponsors are hopeful the idea will set a pattern for the year.
Call to the drum
From left to right, Tony West, Aunie West, Reuben Israel, Stuart Hule, Jr., and Lenny Cofer of "Tony West and the Imani Dancers," an African inspired dance and drum ensemble from Columbus. They performed at the African-American Student Services Open House Friday evening in the Ohio Union.

Open house kicks off new year

By Bill Rader
Lantern staff writer

Rhythmic drum music filled the air Friday night at the African American Student Services open house.
The open house began with a performance of traditional African dance and drum music by Tony West and The Imani Dancers.
The music performed was from Guinea and Senegal, said Aziza West, wife of Tony West.

THE DANCERS PERFORMED because they like to educate as well as entertain in a historical manner, said Mrs. West.

After the performance, members of many black student organizations addressed the crowd, and shared their groups' mission statements.
The crowd was also addressed by individuals representing different offices at Ohio State.

"THE OPEN HOUSE is an annual event that we sponsor to welcome back students and introduce new students to the services we have," said Joyce Vaughan, director of African American Student Services.

"I came tonight to meet some new people," said Tim Stahr, a junior majoring in business-finance from Hudson.

"I really liked how everyone got into the program," said Art Lard, a senior majoring in business-education, from Columbus. "I think everyone responded well. There was no need to push the people to get them together; everyone was united."

VAUGHAN SAID THE open house serves as the kick-off event for the year.
The open house provides black students with an opportunity to get together, meet new people and introduce themselves to members of the faculty and staff at Ohio State, Vaughan said.

African American Student Services sponsors many events and programs throughout the year, she said.

THE OFFICE PROVIDES black students with an opportunity to keep in touch with their culture, Vaughan said. It can be difficult for black students to keep in touch with their culture at Ohio State where there are fewer than 3,000 black students.

The goals of the office are two-fold: to support the black student, and to educate the majority of the OSU student body about African culture, Vaughan said. The office works with a variety of other organizations on campus.

She said African American Student Services will be a strong voice of advocacy for black students on campus.
Students asked to 'Just Say Hi'

By Bill Rader
Lantern staff writer

Saying hello to someone might seem simple, but it is one idea that is not often practiced at Ohio State.

Members of Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity and the African-American Heritage Committee are co-sponsoring a project called "Just Say Hi" that runs through Sept. 28.

The goal of the project, which began Sept. 20, is to bring OSU students together, said Mark Harris, president of Phi Beta Sigma.

"We want to encourage everyone at Ohio State to participate," said Rafe Lewis, chairman of the African-American Heritage Committee.

He said campus can seem like a very impersonal place, because students of all cultures do not take the time to interact with each other.

Lewis said he hopes the project will allow students of all cultures to meet on common ground and to open the lines of communication.

"If anything like that happens, it will make Ohio State a better place for everyone," Lewis said.

OSU President E. Gordon Gee pledged his support from the first time he had contact with him, Harris said.

"I think it's great what you are doing," Gee said, when he was presented with a "Just Say Hi" button by Harris and Lewis.

Gee said he would support the project by distributing the buttons to people he comes into contact with. He also said he would like to become more involved in the project next year.

Lewis said the project has received wide support from all areas of the campus. He said about 50 organizations representing women, the disabled, Black, Asian and Hispanic students are supporting the project.

"I haven't heard anything about the project," said Dexter Summerlin, a freshman majoring in allied medicine from Dayton.

Scott Madwar, a senior majoring in human nutrition, also said he was not aware of the program.

Harris said a booth will be set up on the west lawn of the Ohio Union Thursday to distribute "Just Say Hi" buttons to students.

Joyce Vaughan, director of African American Student Services said simple ideas such as this project are good because it will be easy for students to get involved. All students need to do to get involved is say "hi" to each other.

Both Harris and Lewis said publicity for the project was not what they expected. They said flyers were going to be distributed around campus Wednesday, and the booth handing out buttons Thursday would make students aware of the project.

They said "Just Say Hi" week concludes with a free picnic for everyone, at 6 p.m. Friday at Drake Union.

Phi Beta Sigma and the African American Heritage Committee present a button to President E. Gordon Gee Tuesday for their "Just Say Hi" campaign. From left, Mark Harris, president of Phi Beta Sigma, Gee and Rafe Lewis, chairman of the African American Heritage Committee.
Open house addresses racial, cultural issues

By Chun-Ju Chen  
Lantern staff writer

UMOJA Convocation, the annual open house reception for the African-American community, will be held on Sept. 25, from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. in the East Ballroom of the Ohio Union.

"Umoja, a Swahili term, means "unity."

"Because of the various happenings around the campus and the university over the last year, we chose to accentuate unity throughout this academic year for the community, not only for the UMOJA convocation," said Joyce A. Vaughan, director of African American-Student Services.

Vaughan said the convocation is to welcome back African-American students, with a program that will give students a chance to meet administrators, faculty and staff.

Major speakers include Russell J. Spillman, vice president for Student Affairs; Dave N. Williams, vice provost for Minority Affairs; and Richard A. Hollingsworth, dean of Student Life.

The programs of the African-American Student Services will be introduced to students, and the convocation will give members of the larger African-American community a chance to meet OSU African-American students, Vaughan said.

The reception will include a presentation by Afrikana Committed to Improving Our Nation.

Tony West and the Imani Dancers will perform "Call to the Drum," a part of the African culture heritage that refers to the need to call people together.

During the second half of the reception, students will have the chance to meet people who work for various student organizations and offices, including the University Mentoring Program.
Black students receive awards

By Randal Oliver
Lantern staff writer

Black students who excel in leadership, academics, community service and personal achievement were honored last night in the Hale Black Cultural Center.

"We are here in celebration of our students of African descent," said Joyce Vaughan, director of African American Student Services, the office that sponsored the event.

The awards were divided into four categories: personal achievement, distinguished academic achievement, campus and community participation and leadership responsibility, Vaughan said.

Each category normally has one undergraduate and one graduate or professional student recipient. But this year a lack of graduate and professional applicants in some categories allowed for two undergraduates to win awards, she said.

The award for outstanding personal achievement had one essential criteria, achieving against the odds, according to the awards application.

Stephanie Stewart and Ernest "Doc" West III, both undergraduates, won personal achievement awards.

During the ceremony, West, a senior from Columbus majoring in education, gave a presentation about personal achievement called "My Life."

West told the story of his life as a student at Ohio State in 1990.

By 1992, his failure to take school seriously resulted in failing grades and a life dealing drugs, West said.

In 1992, he was sentenced to 2½ years in prison, but he was released after 21 days for good behavior, he said.

In 1993, West returned to the university and got a job at the Hale Center, he said.

He will graduate in June and plans to attend graduate school in the College of Education at OSU, West said.

The award for distinguished academic achievement required nominees to be active in extracurricular activities and to excel in academics, according to the application.

This award went to two undergraduates, Silvina Byrd and Laurence Latimer.

The criteria for the campus and community participation award are a demonstrated impact on the black and/or Columbus Community, active participation in a variety of extracurricular activities and assuming primary responsibility for a major program.

This award went to one graduate and one undergraduate student, Leslie Baker and Kim Cocroft respectively.

The outstanding leadership award required nominees to act as a leader regardless of whether they held a major position in an organization, act as a role model and contribute new ideas to the group, according to the application.

The graduate student winner was Mark Mooney and the undergraduate winner was Keir Gumba.
Preschool program celebrates black culture

By Jennie F. Huey
Lantern staff writer

About 40 preschoolers spent Tuesday morning at the Frank W. Hale Jr. Black Cultural Center learning and acting out African stories and principles.

"Kujichagulia! Kujichagulia! Self-determination! It simply means that whatever you set your mind to you can do," said Joyce A. Vaughn, director of African-American Student Services, to children from the Learning Resource Center and Perkins Playhouse and Learning Center. "You can be whatever you want to be."

The program was started 17 years ago, said Tina Love, director of Student Life and creator of the cultural hour.

"The purpose is to teach and celebrate African culture," Love said.

"Part of that celebration is to also invite the community and the children to come learn and celebrate African-American culture and give them exposure to the university."

The cultural center will conduct two more Children's Cultural Hours on Feb. 20 and 27.
Professor fears Affirmative action backlash

Minority program misunderstood, OSU official says

By Michelle A. Artis
Lantern staff writer

A nationwide backlash against affirmative action has
an Ohio State educational leader worried that students everywhere will suffer from
fewer academic opportunities.

Joyce Vaughan, director of African American Student Services at Ohio State, spoke to a
gathering yesterday at the Frank W. Hale Jr. Black Cultural Center. She said that
steps taken at the University of California system to eliminate affirmative action represent a
slippery slope to deny help to minorities.

"By the year 2005, college campuses will be moving back
to the 1950s because by eliminating affirmative action, only
the elite will have educational opportunities," said Joyce
Vaughan.

Vaughn and others gathered to discuss the PBS series,
"Voices From The Village," featuring George Curry, editor of
Emerging Newsmagazine, a national black magazine. The
talk was sponsored by African American Student Services.

The discussion series features prominent black figures
who address issues relevant to the black community.

"White males are 41 percent of the U.S. population, 47 per-
cent of the work force, and represent 75 percent of senior
management positions," Curry said. "We're a long way from
parity in this country. In tough
economic times people look for
scapegoats who have the least
amount of power. The people
who have benefited most from
affirmative action aren't
African Americans, but white
women."

After the video, students discussed affirmative action.

Tylor McGee, a sophomore
majoring in finance manage-
ment, benefits from affirmative
action by receiving an academic
scholarship. Without the
scholarship she wouldn't be
financially able to go to school;
Mcgee said.

"It wasn't handed to me,"
Mcgee said. "I earned my schol-
arship through very hard work
and academic excellence."

Angeline Johnson, a sopho-
more majoring in black studies,
said affirmative action opposi-
tion is because of ignorance.

"People oppose affirmative
action because they don't fully
understand it," Johnson said.
"Generalizations like 'All these
blacks are getting jobs' aren't
the case. Affirmative action is a
result of the past. When people
ask 'Why are blacks dwelling
on the past,' they fail to realize
that the past is affecting blacks
now. We still deal with discrimi-
nation and racism."

Johnson said that in an ideal
country, affirmative action
would not exist.

"But because this society has repeatedly discriminated
against blacks and other
minorities, we need it," John-
son said.
Pre-Kwanzaa to set the holiday spirit

By Jennifer Larrison
Lantern staff writer

Lawrence Williamson, Director of the Frank W. Hale, Jr. Black Cultural Center, said, “Kwanzaa is a collective which people can govern their life by. A set of principles that people can follow 365 days of the year.”

Each day of Kwanzaa represents a principle of the Nguzo Saba (the seven principles). These principles serve to celebrate Pan-African culture and community. These principles are: umoja (unity), kujichagulia (self-determination), ujima (collective work and responsibility), ujamaa (cooperative economics), nia (purpose), kuumba (creativity) and imani (faith).

“I hope people will gain a clear understanding of a holiday that has been designated for people of African decent,” Williamson said.

Kwanzaa is also represented by symbols. The bendera (the national flag), is black, red and green. The color black is for the people, red is for continuing struggle, and green is for future unity.

Mishumaa saba (seven candles) represent the principles of Kwanzaa and are held in a kinara (candle holder) that represents the symbol of ancestry. A mkeka (straw mat) is placed under the kinara as a symbol of tradition (a foundation on which to grow).

“People should come and enjoy the Pre-Kwanzaa celebration, and gain a significance of what the holiday represents,” James said.

The Pre-Kwanzaa celebration includes a program put on by students, refreshments and vendors from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m.

Some students will have an opportunity to celebrate a special holiday with friends before returning home to their families for winter break.

African American Student Services and The Frank W. Hale, Jr. Black Cultural Center will host the tenth annual Pre-Kwanzaa celebration for students and the community on Friday.

“The Pre-Kwanzaa celebration is a recognition celebration for the students and community before they go home for the holidays. People should come so they can get an idea about what Kwanzaa is,” said Brenda James, graduate administrative associate for African American student Services.

Kwanzaa is a seven day celebration of the African culture and spirituality which starts on Dec. 26.

“The celebration represents unity, togetherness, and interdependence,” James said.

Dr. Maulana Karenga began Kwanzaa in 1966 as a celebration specific to African-American life. The word Kwanzaa means “first fruits of the harvest” in Swahili.