



The Legacy

A Title For The Conference

With feedback from you the committee was able to pinpoint a name for the January conference. The Planning & Organizing Committee is happy to announce that the conference will be titled "40 Years Later: The Legacy of Activism & Engaged Scholarship Continues." The title embraces the struggle of the past, present, and future of African American & African Studies at the University of Minnesota. The committee learned from you that it was important for the conference title to be representative of not only the historical significance but also of the ongoing struggles of the African Diaspora. Thanks for your input

2009 and Beyond: The Next Generation

Plans are underway for a youth pre-conference. African American & African Studies Professor Rose Brewer will partner with the Black Student Union to organize a pre-conference that brings together hundreds of high school youth throughout Minnesota. Professor Brewer believes the pre-conference will inspire the next generation of activist.

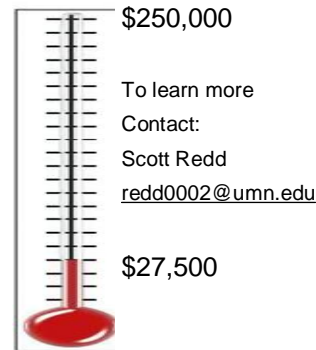
Youth will have an opportunity to participate in an open dialogue with leaders of the Morrill Hall Takeover gaining valuable experience on how to organize and mobilize for social change. For more information please contact Professor Brewer at brewe001@umn.edu.

May 2008



Members of the 2007-2008 Black Student Union

The John S. Wright Scholarship Meter



Where are they now?



Rose Freeman Massey, educator and activist, retired after 34 years as an instructor of African American history at Milwaukee Area Technical College (MATC) and currently serves as the Coordinator of the MATC "Just One" Mentoring Program. She is also the co-founder of, and lead faculty adviser to, the MATC Black Student Union.

Rose was born and raised in Browning, Mississippi; an all black community located about three miles east of Greenwood. She attended Browning School and graduated from Amanda Elzy High School in 1964. Upon graduation, Rose was recruited to work with the Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee's Freedom Summer initiative in Mississippi. As a field worker with SNCC Rose was responsible for recruiting local activist and registering citizens to vote. Rose's civil rights work helped prepare her for a life of activism.

Rose made her way to the University of Minnesota and enrolled in the Humanities program. While a student at the University, Rose and other students became increasingly troubled by the plight of black students on the overwhelmingly white campus. In 1968, Rose and the African-American Action Coalition took over Morrill Hall and demanded the University start a department dedicated to the study of African-American history and culture.

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In 1970, she received a Bachelor's of Arts degree in African American Studies followed by a Master's of Arts degree in American Studies in 1972; both earned from the University of Minnesota. Rose has done additional graduate work in the areas of African and American history at the University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee.

In 1971/72, Ms. Massey, began her career as an Instructor at Milwaukee Area Technical College; teaching African American History. Early in her appointment Ms. Massey realized that, similar to the University of Minnesota, the black students at MATC had a limited voice on campus. She recognized the channels through which blacks could express their heritage and culture were equally limited. In 1972 Ms. Massey, Taft Benson, and two students founded the MATC Black Student Union as a forum for expression and recognition of the contributions of African-Americans and to formally recognize Black History Month. In the years since, the BSU, under Ms. Massey's guidance, strive to persist as the main forum for African-American cultural expression, advocate for the retention and success of students, and assist the college in marketing to the African-American community.

Around 1993, Ms. Massey began working with the Milwaukee Faith Community on educational and youth related initiatives. For ten years she has served as the chief consultant for the Clergy for Educational Options. In 2003, the Clergy for Educational Options launched CEO Academy, a Milwaukee Public Schools Parental Choice Program school. Additionally, Ms. Massey is co-founder of Assata High School and currently on the Board of Directors for the MPS partnership school. As a member of the Black Alliance for Educational Options and the Colored Women Network, she is deeply committed to a "children's agenda" and believes that in order to remedy the pathologies in our community we must get involved.

Most recently, Ms. Massey has been working to chronicle the fruits of her and her compatriot's labors. In 2006 Rose, Dr. Huntley, and Marie Braddock-Williams co-authored the book *Nerve Juice*, which recounted the struggles of the African-American Action Coalition at the University of Minnesota and the events surrounding the Morrill Hall Takeover. The book also reflected on organizing and collective struggle in America. More recently, Ms. Massey authored the introduction to one volume of a book entitled *Foot Soldiers for Democracy: Men, Women and Children of the Movement*, forthcoming by Dr. Horace Huntley, which is based on a three volume oral history project chronicling the participation of the different groups that participated in the Birmingham Civil Rights Struggle. Ms. Massey authored the introduction to the volume on the children.

Currently, Ms. Massey is working with the Morrill Hall Takeover and African-American Studies Department 40th Anniversary Celebration Committee as a Member-At-Large. The 40th Anniversary Celebration will kick off in January 2009. She also is a mother and has one grand-daughter, Arielle.

Next Morrill Hall Planning & Organizing Meeting
May 30, 2008
815 Social Science Building
10:00—12:00