

Minority Student Affairs

the Black Cultural Center

MINORITY STUDENT AFFAIRS

Minority Student Affairs is housed in the Black Cultural Center, which boasts over 13,700 square feet. The office serves as a link between the University of Tennessee (UT) and its minority student population by providing academic, educational, social, and cultural programming designed to increase the retention of students. Minority Student Affairs offers support through the Academic Support Unit (ASU), special programs, activities, and student organizations. Programming includes mentoring for freshmen and upperclassmen, academic support, leadership opportunities, graduate networking, and workshops.

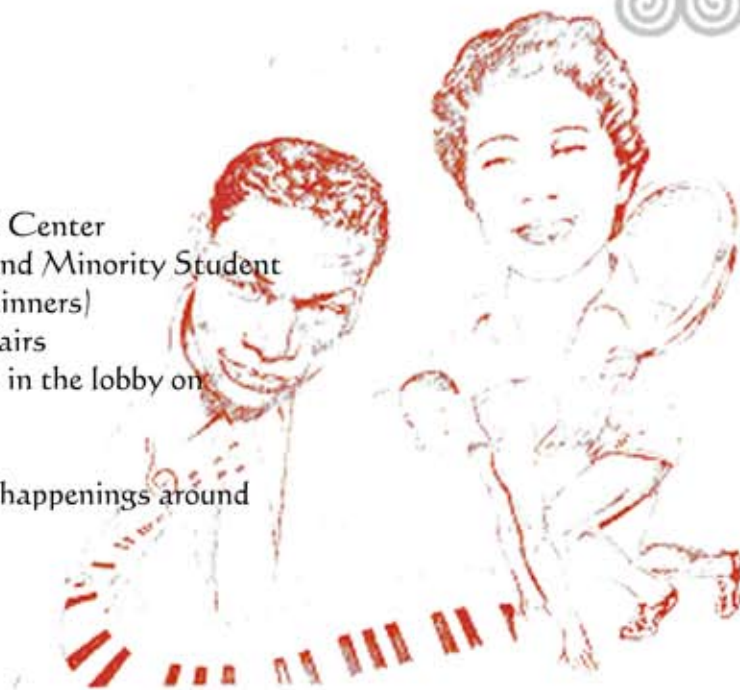
BLACK CULTURAL CENTER

The Black Cultural Center – a unique landmark structure located at 1800 Melrose Avenue – opened in June 2002 and is a testament to the University's commitment to its entire student population. The Black Cultural Center has become critical to the life and academic success of UT students. One of the major features is an original sculptured brick frieze, which features persons of national renown, exquisitely chronicling the journey of African-Americans.

The Center houses a library/reading room, state-of-the-art computer lab, student lounge, multi-purpose rooms, student organization suite, conference room, tutorial suites, and administrative offices. The Center has proven to be an integral part of the University of Tennessee. It is a place to gather, learn, share ideas, and experience a sense of community. **It is a place for ALL students.**

Things A First-Year Student Should Do:

- Connect with a mentor
- Sign-up for tutorial assistance
- Participate in Early Alert
- Borrow a book for free from the Book Loan Program
- Hang out, study, visit with friends at the Black Cultural Center
- Attend cultural and social events sponsored by BCPC and Minority Student Affairs (for example: tailgates, Homecoming, Sunday dinners)
- Meet at least one staff member in Minority Student Affairs
- Stop by "Kernel Convo" – free popcorn and conversation in the lobby on Wednesday afternoons
- Attend the Karibu Tena – welcome back celebration
- Watch for and read "Njama" – weekly e-mail updates on happenings around



ACADEMIC SUPPORT UNIT

The **Academic Support Unit** helps students to matriculate through the University. As the academic support arm of Minority Student Affairs, this unit offers several important programs:

- The **Tutorial Program** provides free tutoring to students in the Black Cultural Center in the following subject areas: math, language arts, chemistry, and biology. Students may complete an application to participate in the tutorial program each semester and can receive a maximum of 2 hours of tutorial assistance per week/per subject.
- The **Book Loan Program** allows students to borrow books free of charge. Students can check the availability of books within the Book Loan Program via an online database on the Minority Student Affairs website. Applications are available at the beginning of each semester and students can request two books which are then due back at the end of the semester.
- The **Early Alert Program** is designed to help students make a successful academic transition into college life. It enables students to monitor their academic progress by providing a mid-term progress report during the semester – in turn allowing time to make adjustments necessary for success.
- The **48-Hour Study Session** is scheduled each semester during the study days period. The Black Cultural Center is opened for extended hours during a 48-hour period of time, providing students with an atmosphere conducive to studying, including drinks and periodic snacks to help them stay refreshed and alert while preparing for final exams.

PROGRAMS AND ORGANIZATIONS

Minority Student Affairs supports the personal and professional enrichment of students through several special programs and organizations.

The **Minority Achievement Program (MAP)** is an organization dedicated to assisting and supporting minority first year students making a successful transition to life on the campus of the University of Tennessee, Knoxville. MAP is an opportunity for upperclassmen undergraduate students to aid in the transitional process by mentoring first-year minority students. MAP provides support, assistance, social guidance, and positive campus survival skills to first-year and transfer minority students by developing activities and interactions with upperclassmen, thus contributing to academic success and enhancing the University of Tennessee's effort in recruiting, retaining, and graduating minority students.

- Two-thirds of all students who participate in MAP move on to their sophomore year.
- Mentors and Mentees meet once a month each semester.
- MAP sponsors monthly Success Skills Workshops which focus on professional development.
- Examples of past MAP activities include: Facebook Etiquette, Organizational Fair, and a Freshman Talent Show.

The **Black Cultural Programming Committee (BCPC)** is a student organization that develops a variety of cultural, recreational, and social activities and programs to enhance awareness of African-American culture and national issues on campus and in the local community.

Some sponsored activities include the Annual Homecoming Comedy and Step Show, and M.L.K. Day Celebrations. Renowned international and national icons who have appeared on campus include, but are not limited to the following:

- Dr. Maya Angelou
- Cornel West
- Alvin Ailey Dance Theatre
- John Singleton

Other student organizations include Love United Gospel Choir, Strange Fruit On Stage Productions, National Society of Black Engineers, Black Graduate Professional Student Association, Diva Opals, Student African American Brotherhood, Circle of Sisters, Native American Student Association, Asian American Association, Lambda Theta Alpha Latina Sorority, and Black Greek Letter Organizations.

We encourage you to visit the facility and take advantage of the opportunities. Visit our web site at <http://omsa.utk.edu> or e-mail us at omsa@utk.edu for more information.

For additional information, contact our office

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