



ENGAGING UNDERREPRESENTED GROUPS THROUGH ARCHIVAL APPRAISAL

Jessica Ballard & Cara S. Bertram
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
ICA/SUV 2019 Annual Conference, Dundee, Scotland, July 1, 2019

Underrepresented Student Organization Records

- Source of Documentation of Student Life and Campus Diversity
 - Ethnic student clubs; cultural houses/centers; sororities and fraternities
- Understanding of University's demographic, social, and political history
- Form partnerships with advisors and student members
- Fills in the "Gaps" of the Archival Record, Allows History to be Told in Students' Point of View vs. Administration

Literature Review

- Sarah Buchanan & Katie Richardson, "Representation through Documentation: Acquiring Student and Campus Life Records through the Bruin Archives Project"
- Lae'I Hughes-Watkins, "Filling in the Gaps: Using Outreach Efforts to Acquire Documentation on the Black Campus Movement"
- Kathryn M. Neal, "Giving It More Than the Old College Try: Documenting Diverse Populations in College and University Archives"
- Helen Willa Samuels, "*Varsity Letters*"
- Ellen Swain, "College Student as Archives' Consultant? A New Approach to Outreach Programming on Campus"
- Jessica Wagner, "The Student as Subaltern: Reconsidering the Role of the Student Life Material Collections at North American Universities"
- Howard Zinn, "Secrecy, Archives, and the Public Interest"

Literature Review

◦ **Documenting Students**

- Student life programs at the Ohio State University, Iowa State University, and the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
- Engaging students in archival literacy
- Outreach efforts

◦ **Challenges**

- High turnover in officer positions within student organizations
- Students typically only around for about 4 years

◦ **Inclusiveness in Archives**

- 1970s call by Howard Zinn, Gerald Ham, and Gould Colman for archivists to have a more inclusive approach to their work.

◦ **How to apply it to student records?**

- Hughes-Watkins – utilizing Alumni to fill in the gaps of the archival record, example: Alumni donating papers about the Black Campus Movement
- Neal – need to understand adversarial relationship between underrepresented groups and university administration



WESTERN WASHINGTON
UNIVERSITY
ETHNIC STUDENT CENTER

WWU Ethnic Student Center

- Founded April 1, 1991, at Western Washington University, Bellingham, Washington
- Formation result of student activism
 - Sit-in at the President's Office
 - Negotiated for a space for minority students
 - Strong support from allied students, staff, and faculty
- Physical home to numerous ethnic/cultural student clubs
- Mission:
 - *"The ESC is a community that supports historically underrepresented ethnic students and allies by providing a social atmosphere and inclusive environment where we engage in identity exploration and strive for cultural awareness and academic excellence."*



Value of ESC Records



- Gap in University Archives on minority students
- Provide Administrative history of the ESC
 - Documenting resources and administrative support of minority students
- Access to Ethnic/Cultural Student Club records
 - Documenting activities and activism of minority students
- Access to Club Records Predating the ESC
 - Native American Student Union, Black Student Union, and Movimiento Estudiantil Chicano/a Aztlan (MEChA) predate the formation of the ESC

Project

- Spring 2010 – Discussions with ESC Staff
- Creation of an Inventory of ESC administrative and club files
- Used Inventory and Notes for Appraisal and Recommendations
- Archives Graduate Intern – Link to Community
 - Graduate student of WWU Archives and Records Management program
 - Former ESC undergraduate student staff member
 - Longtime member and officer of ESC club – Mixed Identity Student Organization
 - Familiar with ESC history – Completed a project on the Center's history and oral history with its then Director, Michael Vendiola

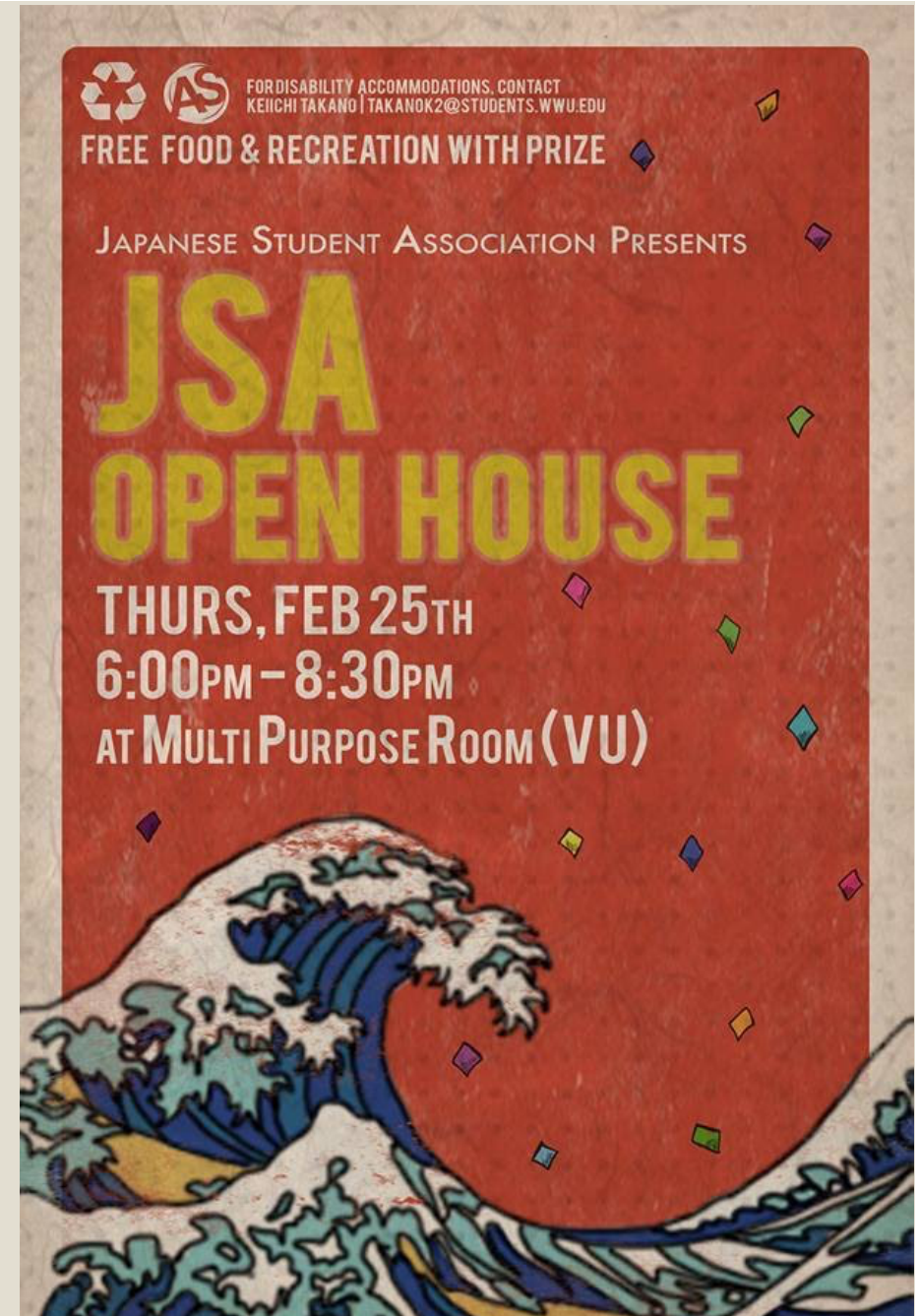


Appraisal Methods

- Records Retention Schedule
 - Included Administrative Office records and Student Club Records
 - Able to identify Admin and Club archival records in broad categories
 - History File; Policies and Procedures; Special Projects and Activities; Conferences; Meeting Minutes and Agenda; Organizational and Function Records; Course Content/Information File; Annual and Internal Reports
- Community Knowledge
 - Intern able to provide context to records
 - Could readily identify records on event, conference, and club

Challenges - Ownership

- Do Club Records Belong to Students or the University?
 - Records Retention Schedule: Club Records = University Records
 - Perception Almost as Important as Actual Ownership
 - Physical Custody of Records – Stored in University Space
 - Abandoned Club Records
 - Records created by students on personal devices



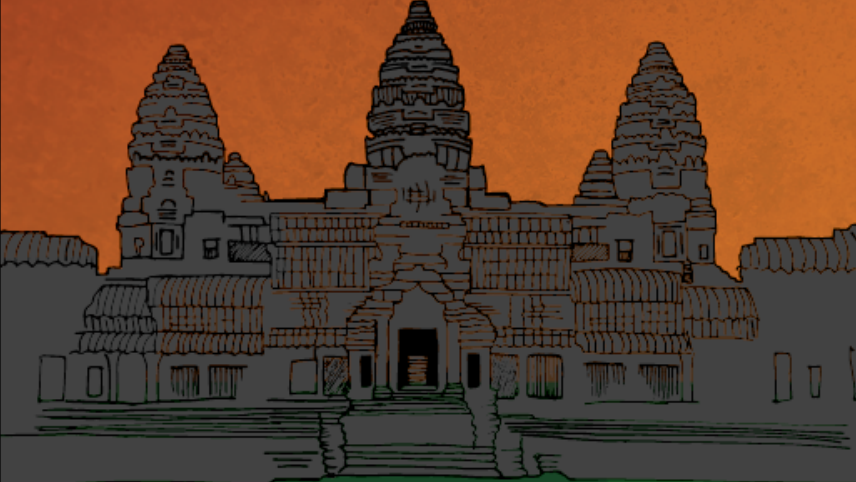
Challenges - Trust

- Seeking Permission from the Clubs
 - Attended ESC Steering Committee to Announce and Explain the Archives Project
 - Sought Permission to Enter Club Offices
 - Almost unanimous support for Archives Project
 - Concern from the Associated Students Vice President for Diversity
 - Fears of having an inventory of club records
 - Concern about an “audit” from the University Administration
- Trust Cannot Be Taken for Granted

THE KHMER STUDENT ASSOCIATION PRESENTS



JOURNEY THROUGH SROK KHMER

ការធ្វើដំណើរតាមរយៈការស្រុកខ្មែរ




Saturday April 18 | **\$10/ Students**
VU MPR 6:00 PM | **\$15/ General**

Come join us in the VU MPR on April 18, 2015 for our Annual Heritage Dinner starting at 6:30 PM. There will be singing, dancing, food and much more! This event is semi-formal.

For disability accommodations please call (xxx) xxx - xxxx
Western is an equal opportunity institution





Outcomes

- Building a Relationship Between Archives and ESC
- Creation of File Management Plan Recommendations for both ESC Staff and Clubs
 - To be passed down to clubs and utilized in Fall Quarter training of new Club officers
- Subsequent transfers in 2014 and 2017
 - Around 24 cubic feet
 - Hundred of photographs digitized
 - Representation of minority students in Archives, history told through their point of view/records



UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS
BRUCE D. NESBITT AFRICAN
AMERICAN CULTURAL CENTER

Before September 1968

- ❖ With an estimated population of 30,000 students less than 300 were Black Americans
- ❖ Dr. Martin Luther King Jr's assassination motivated many universities to actively recruit African American students.
- ❖ The Black Student Association at the U of I was instrumental in recruiting efforts.

September 1968

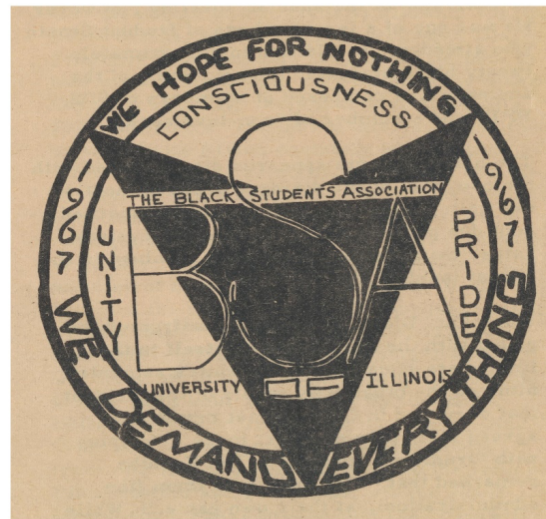
- ❖ Over 500 Black American students were enrolled at the University of Illinois
- ❖ Many students were not given the housing and financial aid that recruiters promised
- ❖ This resulted in student organizing

WE DEMAND

1. That the administration drop all charges against all Black people who were arrested September 10, 1968.
2. That the university drop all charges against Blacks who have been arrested since September 10th.
3. That the university remove all reprimands of record of Blacks resulting from the September 10th arrest.
4. That the administration immediately recognize BSA by allocating the budget which was requested in September, 1968.
5. That the university immediately begin hiring 50% Blacks in the non-academics job vacancies.
6. That the university waive civil service tests as a requirement for non-academic employment for Blacks or implement a job training program with 75% of regular pay before taking the test.
7. That the university immediately grant a minimum 20% wage increase to all persons working in the janitorial and food service capacities, (Black and white).
8. The immediate establishment of a Black Cultural Center large enough to accommodate all Black people which will be run by the Black Student's Association.
9. The immediate establishment of an autonomous Black Studies Department with major emphasis on Afro-American Studies and African Studies.
10. The hiring of 50 Black dormitory counselors for September-1969.
11. That all Black graduate students who have been recruited by the Black Student's Association be admitted to graduate school in September-1969.
12. That the Graduate College publically state its commitment to admitting 15% Black students into the 1969-1972 entering classes.
13. That the university hire 500 Black faculty members over a four-year period beginning by hiring 150 Black faculty members for September 1969.
14. That the Illini Union be autonomously run by a board consisting of students, faculty and Blacks from the community.
15. That the University fulfill its financial commitment to all students who are receiving money for SEOP.
16. That the university make a public statement of its commitment to bring 500 students to the university in September.
22. That the University as an institution, or through separate departments, initiate a program designed to increase low-cost housing financed by state or federal funds for Black residents of Champaign.
23. That the University deny any employer in the community access to University buildings which practices discrimination in hiring and promotion.
24. That any information derived from the experimental project at Washington Elementary School, located in Northeast Champaign, or other educationally and economically deprived groups.
25. That the University actively recruit and hire Blacks as firemen and policemen.
26. That the University secure voter registration booths on campus.
27. That the University eliminate the clerical program headed by Loretta Davis or place in immediate employment graduates of the program.
28. Resumption of the Pre-Apprenticeship program operated by the University with a definite commitment from all labor unions who have received or will receive construction contracts on the Urbana campus.
- 28A. Elimination of the high school diploma as a requirement for employment with such unions.
29. Formation of a committee to assist the non-academic employment department in the administration of said department with the immediate aim of increasing employment of Black residents.
30. That the University provide funds for the establishment and implementation of Black Cultural Program for residents of Northeast Champaign and to provide bus service for said residents who wish to use the facilities of the proposed Black Cultural Center.
31. The University through B.G.S.A. (Black Graduate Student Association) recruit and enroll 200 Black law students by 1972 and that the Black student enrollment be increased by 500 pursuant to the proposed expansion of the Law School.
32. That the University place in supervisory positions Black persons who are employed in the areas of janitorial, maid, food, and custodial services.
33. That the University exert all pressure necessary on the campus business community to actively recruit and employ Black residents and students. And that additional pressure be exerted from the various departments of the University to

Black Student Association Slogan

WE HOPE FOR NOTHING



WE DEMAND EVERYTHING

DRUMS

The Newsletter of the
Black Students Association

No. 5

CA 9/68

"We hope for nothing; we demand everything."

Price - 10¢

Special Edition:

The "Riot"?

BSA DISPUTES THE MEDIA

If one was to view the scene at the south entrance of the Illini Union at 3:30 A. M. on the morning of September 10, 1968, one would immediately assume that he was witnessing the aftermath of a holocaust which was similar to the incident at Columbia last spring. However, if you were fortunate enough to find one of the few black students who had not been arrested, you might be apprised of the true state of facts. But, since this was not probable, we are going to spend the next few minutes retracing the





The African American Cultural Center was constructed in 1969

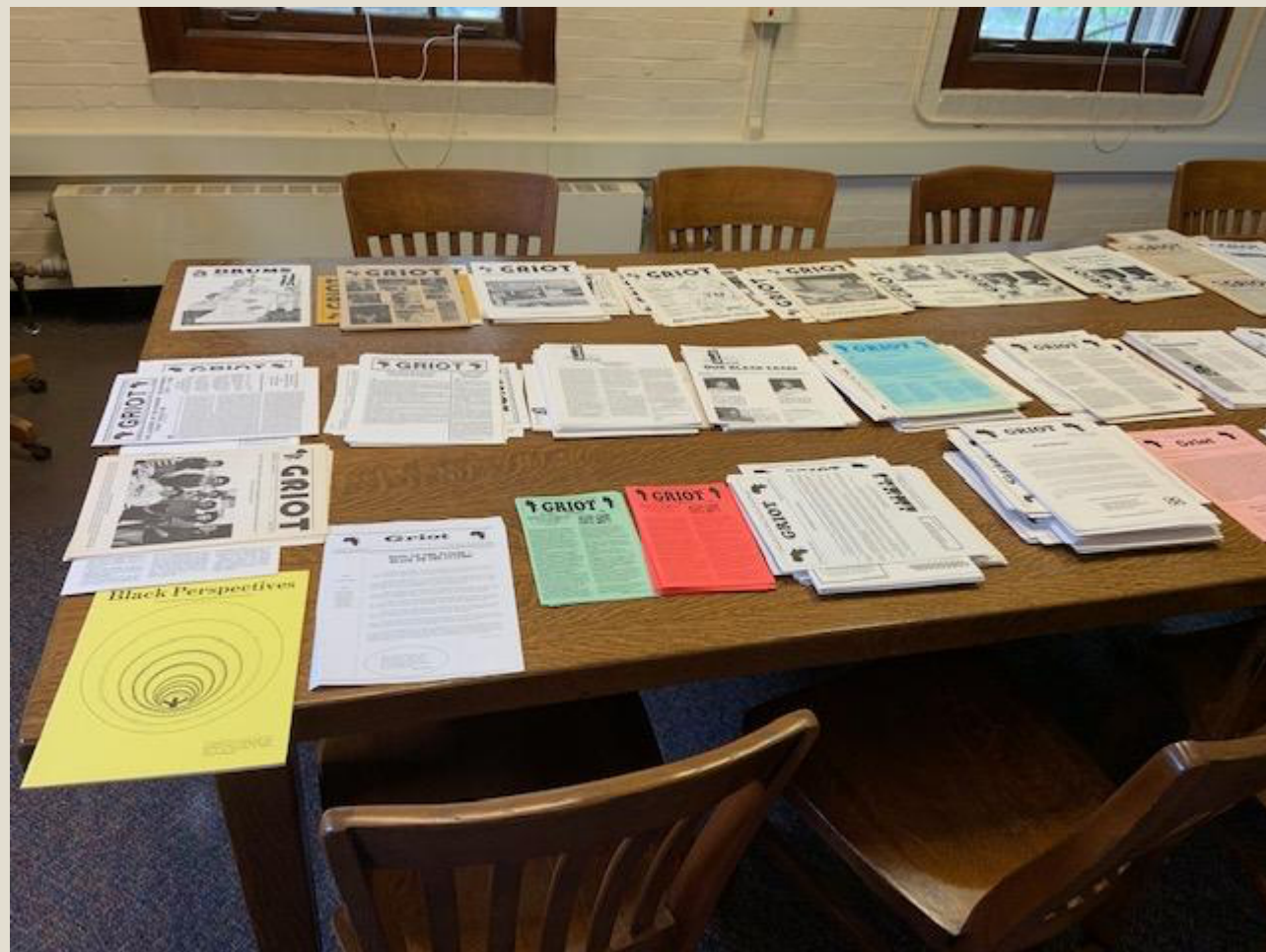


- ❖ Lecture Series
- ❖ Study Sessions
- ❖ Student organizations meeting
- ❖ Safe space



❖ Unexpected Appraisal
Decisions and Engagement
With a Sorority

- ❖ Copies of the *Griot* The African American Cultural Center Newspaper 1978-2008
- ❖ Griot is a West African term for storyteller



❖ Copies of the Black Student Association Newspapers
Drums and *Black Rap* 1968-
1972



❖ The newly constructed Bruce D. Nesbitt African American Cultural Center opened its doors April 2019





CONCLUSION

Conclusion

- Establish Clear Lines of Communication
- Understand the History of the Group
- Leverage Community Connections Whenever Possible
- Do Not Take Trust for Granted



JESSICA BALLARD
VISITING ASSISTANT PROFESSOR &
ARCHIVES RESIDENT
BALLARD9@ILLINOIS.EDU

CARA BERTRAM
ARCHIVES PROGRAM OFFICER
CBERTRA@ILLINOIS.EDU