

Wins Inaugural Richard Van Loon award

Carleton U. law student is humanitarian activist

Fourth year Carleton University Law student Nnaemeka Ekwosimba is the inaugural recipient of the Richard J. Van Loon Scholarship.

The Carleton community established the \$5,000.00 scholarship to honour the former president on the eve of his retirement in 2005. Dr. Van Loon asked that the award be directed to an African student who has demonstrated high academic performance but requires financial aid in order to pursue a course of study at Carleton. Ekwozimba, who will be graduating this year, will use the scholarship to pay tuition fees to pursue either a Masters degree or a joint LLB/MA program.

Ekwosimba, who is from Nigeria, says: "The scholarship is a great way to recognize what international students, especially those from developing countries, go through and what they contribute through their studies to the community."

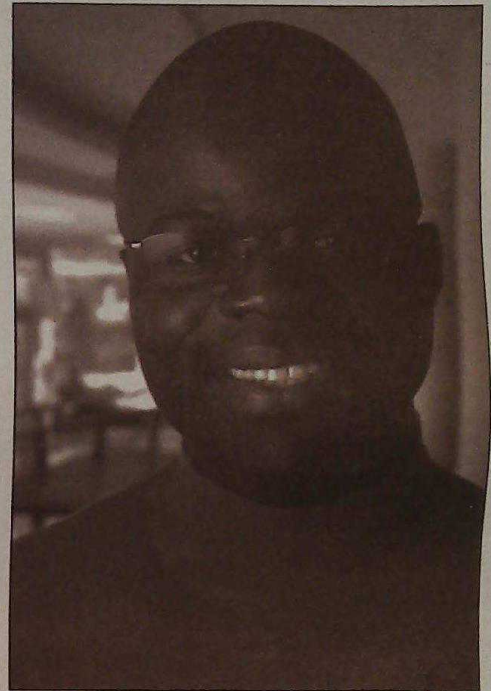
Since his second year, Ekwozimba has been involved in raising awareness of the effect of HIV/AIDS. He is co-founder of the Carleton University AIDS Awareness Society www.carleton.ca/caas and was one of 10 Canadians selected to be involved in a two year United Nations Association in Canada project entitled It's Time to Act: Mobilizing Young Canadians Around HIV/AIDS. The project was completed in October 2006.

Ekwosimba is a Global Citizenship Peer Helper for the First Year Experience Office at Carleton where he helps to organize events that showcase issues of global dimension and he is also the Administrative Coordinator of the Race, Ethnicity and Culture Hall (REC HALL), one of the service centres run by the Carleton University Students' Association.

"Carleton provides you with a wealth of opportunities geared towards development and effecting positive changes in the community," says Ekwozimba. "The programs are structured to equip you with skills which one can apply directly in various daily activities. I recommend Carleton to any student who wishes to acquire the knowledge and skills needed to shape our increasingly complex and interconnected society."

Ekwosimba has been on the Deans' Honours List for both 2004 and 2005. He received the Carleton University Board of Governors Award for Outstanding Community Achievement 2006 and the Marie Odette Gabrielle Clay Memorial Award 2005.

The scholarship winner was originally attracted to Carleton in 2003 as "the programs as well as its proximity to various governmental and international institutions and offices caught my attention. Being located in the capital city was a huge plus."



Nnaemeka Ekwozimba

"Every Child is Sacred"

Black History Month blasts off January 26

Black History Month opens on Friday January 26, at 6:30 p.m., at Library & Archives Canada, 395 Wellington Street with an evening of inspiration and entertainment around the theme "Every Child is Sacred" to honour the community's children and youth, and the parent figures in their lives. The opening event will feature the 2007 Black History Ottawa (BHO) Community Builder Awards, and displays highlighting African and Caribbean organizations.

The month presents several initiatives by groups across the Ottawa Black spectrum, many of them at the Library and Archives Canada. There will be discussions, films, sports competitions, children's stories, a career fair, theatrical production and a debate, among other things.

A highlight of the Month is the all-day Black Youth Conference Day (BYCD) on Friday February 16 with the theme: "Consciously Owning Choice On The Road To Peace," at Woodroffe High School Auditorium, 2410 Georgina Drive.

Another is "Faith of Our Fathers: Tracing our Christian Roots back to Africa" at Christ's Chapel Bible Church, 2285 St. Laurent Boulevard on Sunday February 11 at 10:00 am, featuring Afro-Caribbean music and refreshments.

This is the 5th anniversary of the BYCD, an annual event that gathers Black youth from across the Ottawa school system to engage in conversation leading to active participation in the discovery, articulation and manifestation of their vision for themselves, the Black community and the world. It is co-sponsored by 3Dreads and a Baldhead, and Woodroffe HS Black History Month Club.

Black History Month was launched:

- a) to create and foster an awareness of Black presence and achievement
- b) to sensitize Canadians in the National Capital Region to the contributions Black Canadians have made to Canada
- c) to provide Black youth with role models and to inculcate a sense of dignity regarding their heritage
- d) to involve the wider Canadian majority in the history of the rich heritage of Blacks and to continue to bridge the gap that exists between the majority and those Canadians who are distinct by reason of colour, thereby enhancing multi-racial and multi-cultural integration.

BHO's activities over the years have included such events as a business seminar for Blacks, a thanksgiving service, a dinner featuring the Black History Month Feature Lecture, an essay contest, a rap contest, and the popular Blackmusicfest gala which produced bright stars like gospel diva Cathy Grant-Mahon and jazz artiste Kelly-Lee Evans.

For program details of this year's events go to bhottawa@yahoo.ca or www.blackottawa411.com.

DreamKeepers Award to Orleans group

By Ewart Walters

"Children are our future. It is our hope that by continuing to provide Canadian youth with the opportunity to experience the culture of poverty both in our own and other countries, and by sharing our love, knowledge and wealth with the less fortunate, we are empowering a group of young people both at home and abroad, to become compassionate, caring and willing adults who will continue to fight for the rights of marginalized children and youth worldwide."

So said Jeun'Espoir director Andre Cleroux as he received the DreamKeepers Award at the third annual Martin Luther King birthday celebration at Ottawa City Hall January 15 on behalf of his organisation. Presenting the award was Mr. James Harris. Jeun'Espoir, the Orleans-based grassroots organization that offers Ottawa youth an opportunity to share in cultural and educational experiences, while providing aid

in developing countries, has established tangible relationships between youth in Orleans and needy people in Jamaica, Benin and Ecuador, including building houses for them during a two-week stay.

The first snowstorm of the season failed to dampen the enthusiasm of the 100 or so who turned out to mark the occasion, and who, holding hands and led by Rev. Dr. Anthony Bailey, sang together at the end Dr. King's movement's rallying anthem, "We Shall Overcome."

Mr. Cleroux spoke with passion about Jeun'Espoir which he described as a conduit for hope, love and justice.

"...What is Jeun'Espoir, if not the extended arm and hand, attached to the body consisting of the people of our community and others who help us pursue our ideals to accomplish our projects?"

"Every child is special. As leaders of Jeun'Espoir we are

See MLK DAY on pg. 7

New Apprentice aspirant Muna



Muna Heaven

Making her first appearance this season on The Apprentice on January 7 is Muna Heaven, 28 year-old attorney from Mandeville, Jamaica. Muna earned an academic scholarship to attend Penn State University, where she received a Bachelor of Arts degree in French and a Bachelor of Science in Biology while minoring in International Studies. She has a Canadian context too for she focused on International Trade Law at McGill University Faculty of Law, earning degrees in both common and civil law. With a passion for world travel, Muna has studied abroad in France, Spain and

Belgium, and speaks fluently in English, Spanish and French. An accomplished equestrian, Muna has also competed internationally in equestrian show jumping in Jamaica, Panama, Guatemala, France and Canada. She currently works for a New York agency that litigates family law matters. Muna enjoys dancing, learning how to play the piano and reading in French and Spanish. She says she should be the next Apprentice because her "background in international trade and foreign languages runs in tandem with the Trump Organization's increasingly global integration."

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