

1-16-1997

## 01/16/1997 - American Drummer Launch African American Heritage Celebration.pdf

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### Recommended Citation

University Marketing and Communications, "01/16/1997 - American Drummer Launch African American Heritage Celebration.pdf" (1997). 1997. 21.

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97-17

January 16, 1997

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

CANDLELIGHT VIGIL, CONFERENCE, AFRICAN DRUMMER LAUNCH AFRICAN AMERICAN HERITAGE CELEBRATION

CHARLESTON -- Six weeks of activities marking Eastern Illinois University's 1997 African American Heritage Celebration will get formally underway Monday, Jan. 20, when the university community holds its annual **Martin Luther King Jr. Candlelight Vigil**.

Scheduled in commemoration of King's birthday, the event will include song selections from the Unity Gospel Choir, special speakers, and the annual march through campus. Alpha Phi Alpha, sponsor of the vigil, invites the general public to join with students and university staff at 6:30 p.m. at Thomas Hall, located on Seventh Street immediately south of Klehm Hall.

From 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 23, the university's Office of Civil Rights, Affirmative Action and Diversity will present its **second annual "Opening Doors: Diversity at Eastern" conference**. Admission to conference sessions is free; however, a fee of \$5 (\$3 for full-time students) will be charged for the conference luncheon.

All activities will take place in Eastern's Martin Luther King, Jr., University Union and are open to the public.

Registration will begin at 8 a.m., followed by opening remarks from EIU President David Jorns at 8:45. Two presentations will be offered at 9 a.m. -- "White Privilege: How Do We Get It, What

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HERITAGE CELEBRATION

Do We Do With It, and How Do People of Color Cope With It?" by J.Q. Adams, professor in the educational foundations department and director of the College of Education's Office of Educational Opportunity at Western Illinois University, and "Sexual Harassment and Gender Discrimination" by Cynthia Nichols, Eastern's director of Civil Rights. The 11:30 a.m. luncheon/Adams' keynote address -- "Diversity: The Challenge for the Future, Working Together" -- will be held in the University Union Grand Ballroom.

At 1 p.m., Jeanne Simpson, assistant vice president for academic affairs, will speak on "Coalition Building: Skills for Resolving Interpersonal and Group Conflicts." Annette Samuels, an Eastern faculty member and former press secretary for Mayor Marion Barry, will present both "Student Experiences at Eastern: Solutions to Campus Climate" at 2 and the conference's closing remarks at 3:30 p.m.

Pre-registration (by calling (217) 581-5020) is required for both the luncheon and the 9 a.m. session, "Sexual Harassment and Gender Discrimination."

To conclude the African American Heritage Celebration's first week of activities, **Midawo Gideon Foli Alorwoyie, traditional master drummer from Ghana, West Africa**, will perform at 7 p.m. Friday, Jan. 24, in Dvorak Concert Hall in Eastern's Doudna Fine Arts Building. Admission is \$3 for the general public, \$1 for students with ID.

Alorwoyie's presentation will feature traditional music and dance dating back many centuries. The performer's ancestors took great pride in their *Habobo*, or drum and dance societies -- a tradition which continues today. Each *Habobo* has a master drummer, and Alorwoyie has filled that spot for many different groups.

Alorwoyie is currently an assistant professor of music at the University of North Texas in Denton where he teaches world music in the instrument studies department.