



BLACK Alumni Reunion

University of Illinois
Urbana-Champaign

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CLICK FOR BLACK ALUMNI REUNION FEE DESCRIPTIONS

Reunion Schedule

Week of November 2-9, 2008

Monday through Wednesday
Brown Bag Lunch series (BNAACC)
Speaker(s) on campus networking with students

Thursday
6 PM – 8 PM
Prep for Success
Presentations and networking opportunities for Alumni, Students, Faculty and Staff
Alice Campbell Alumni Center

Friday
4 PM – 8 PM
Welcome Reception & Registration
Alice Campbell Alumni Center
Jam Session & Black Chorus Performance
Alice Campbell Alumni Center
Area Businesses dinner and nightlife

9 PM
Comedy Show
Foellinger Auditorium
Hosted by Tony Clements, featuring Tony Sculfield and Alumni Comedian Gene Renfroe

9 PM - Midnight
Hospitality Suites Open @ i-Hotel

Saturday
9 AM – 1 PM
Registration at i-Hotel

9 AM

Book Signing at Foellinger Auditorium - Joy Williamson, author of [Black Power on Campus](#)

Commemoration Lecture Foellinger Auditorium

Keynote Speaker Honorable Judge David Atkins followed by a panel discussion w/
Project 500 alumni and administrators of that era

1 PM

Lunch on your own

2 PM

Colleges & Departments Open Houses & Affinity Reunions (Greeks, Athletes, Principal's Scholars Program, Upward Bound, RAP) at Illini Union and other campus locations

4 PM-6 PM

Registration at I- Hotel

6 PM

Gala Cocktails at I- Hotel

6:30 PM

Dinner and Awards Gala at I- Hotel (Former Black Chorus Directors will lead the Alumni Black Chorus at the Gala celebration)

8:00 PM-Midnight

Dancing at I- Hotel

9:00 PM - Midnight

Hospitality Suites open at I-Hotel

Sunday

9 AM

Book signing with Alumni Authors, including Allen Bryson & James "Cal" McCray at I-Hotel

9 AM

"State of the Yard"...Alumni Where do we go from here?

10 AM

Farewell Brunch & Commemoration Candle lighting ceremony @ I-Hotel

» [Chicago Steering Committee](#)

» [Urbana Planning Committee](#)



Office of Equal Opportunity and Access





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HISTORY OF PROJECT 500

Project 500 was the first major attempt by the Urbana campus to provide equal educational opportunity for all children of families in Illinois.

In 1968, following the assassination of the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr., students and community residents pressed the university to enroll students traditionally underrepresented on campus. Ultimately, 565 newly admitted African American and Latino students began as U. of I. students that year.

Students came from all over the country, but primarily from Chicago, New York, Central Illinois, Philadelphia, East St. Louis, & Mississippi. The history of campus was changed forever as a result of Project 500.

By the spring of 1967, the civil rights movement, the student movement, legal rulings, media coverage, public policy and violence had created a national and local environment amendable to change.

In 1968 there was considerable ferment at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Demands for equality of opportunity came from inside and outside the academy.

The Black Arts movement was accelerating. Blacks began to wear Dashikis, and Afro hairstyles, to express the new found consciousness. The Black Arts Movement intersected nicely with requests and demands for a cultural center.

"Cocooning" by black students and the lack of recreational facilities and programming for black youth became an additional local concern.

The response by University of Illinois administrators and faculty to this ferment was uneven. Some were proactive and some had to be helped along by the urgency of the moment or by political pressure.

The University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign established the Afro-American Cultural Center as a "support" to the special educational opportunities initiative, commonly referred to as "Project 500."

The Special Educational Opportunities Program (SEOP) was established to provide academic, personal and social support for Project 500 participants. The advocacy SEOP and later EOP and Minority Student Affairs (1986) provided assistance to students in locating financial support, employment on campus and after graduation, connecting with the academic mission of the University, preparing for graduate and professional schools, and adjusting to the Champaign/Urbana and campus community.

In 1969, the Afro-American Cultural Program (later renamed the African-American Cultural Program, and known today as the Bruce D. Nesbitt African American Cultural Center) and the African-American Studies Program were established to meet other needs of the students and the University. The La Casa Cultural Latina was established at the University in 1975 to supplement the campus support for Latina/o students and to help educate all students, faculty and staff.

The lessons learned from Project 500 have also helped the Urbana campus in developing the Asian American Culture Center, the Native

American House and several other campus wide diversity initiatives that have augmented the campus community in numerous ways.



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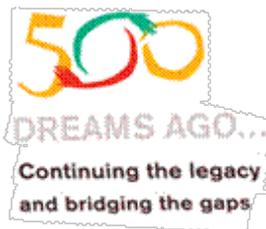


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Dr. Richard Herman, Chancellor
Dr. Renee Romano, Vice Chancellor Student Affairs
Loren Taylor, UIAA
Sara Greenstein, UIAA

Dr. James Anderson
University of Illinois College of Education

Reverend Jacqueline Atkins

The Honorable Judge David Atkins
Cook County Circuit Court

Mr. Ryan Baker
CBS News

Bryson
Author

Trustee Frances Carroll

Mr. Tony Clements
University of Illinois Director of Campus Recreation

Mr. Dan Duster
3D Development

Ms. Kimi Ellen
Benford Brown & Associates, CPA

The Honorable Judge Tim Evans

Ms. Lisa Harrell
VP, Human Capital Development
United Health Group, Inc.

Dr. Gerald Jaynes
Yale University
Director of Graduate Studies

Dean Michael Jeffries
University of Illinois Urbana Champaign

Mrs. Patricia Lewis
University of Illinois Project 500

Dr. James McCray, Professor Emeritus & Author
Michigan State University/ Fulbright Scholar

Kevin McFall
Black Alumni Network, President

Trustee Lester McKeever

Ambassador Carol Mosley-Braun
Ambassador Organics

Dr. Preston "Pat" Ransom
University of Illinois Project 500

Mr. Eugene Renfroe
Comedian
Oak Park, IL

Audwin Rowe
Black Alumni Network, President-Elect

Mr. Tony Sculfield
Riot Entertainment

Mrs. Cheryl Thompson
Washington Post

Mr. Terry Townsend
University of Illinois Project 500

The Honorable Judge Carl Walker

Ms. Erica Watson
Comedian
Brooklyn, NY

Dr. Joy Ann Williamson-Lott
University of Washington College of Education
Educational Leadership and Policy Studies

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University of Washington College of Education

Educational Leadership and Policy Studies

University of Illinois Black Chorus

Dr. Ollie Watts Davis
Conductor
University Scholar

Black Alumni/Project 500 Reunion

Alicia Gilmore-Catching
Chairperson

Office of Equal Opportunity and Access

Dr. Larine Cowan
Director

**Bruce D. Nesbitt
African American Cultural Center**

Nathaniel Banks
Director

University of Illinois Alumni Association

For more information, contact:
Office of Equal Opportunity and Access
100 Swanlund Administration Building
601 East John Street
Champaign, Illinois 61820
217.244.0766

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place like home.*

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place like home.*

*There's no
place like home.*

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University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign



UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS BLACK CHORUS 1968 - 2008

The University of Illinois Black Chorus,
Dr. Ollie Watts Davis, conductor,
cordially invites you to the
Ruby Anniversary Reunion celebration
commemorating 40 years on the
campus of the University of Illinois
at Urbana-Champaign.

The Black Chorus Ruby Anniversary Reunion
will be held **November 6-9, 2008** during the
All Classes Black Alumni Reunion on the
Urbana-Champaign campus.

All former singers, instrumentalists, soloists,
officers, and directors are invited to attend
our special events.

Please register at
<http://www.conferences.uiuc.edu/BlackAlumniReunion/>
or call 217.244.0766 for further information. Indicate the
Black Chorus Ruby Anniversary Reunion events you will
attend. Early replies are encouraged. In order to be eligible
for complimentary gifts, registration must be received
by October 15, 2008.

We look forward to having you
home for the Celebration!

University of Illinois Black Chorus Ruby Anniversary Reunion Events Schedule

Thursday, November 6, 2008

7:00 p.m.

University of Illinois Black
Chorus Alumni Reception
Alice Campbell Alumni Center

8:00 p.m.

University of Illinois Black
Chorus Alumni Choir
Rehearsal
*Choral Rehearsal Room,
Kranert Center for the
Performing Arts*

Friday, November 7, 2008

4:00 p.m.

University of Illinois Black
Chorus Alumni Reception
Alice Campbell Alumni Center

5:30 p.m.

University of Illinois Black
Chorus Alumni Choir
Rehearsal
*Choral Rehearsal Room,
Kranert Center for the
Performing Arts*

7:00 p.m.

2008 University of Illinois
Black Chorus Performance
*Ballroom, Alice Campbell
Alumni Center*

Saturday, November 8, 2008

12 noon

University of Illinois Black
Chorus Ruby Anniversary
Reunion Luncheon
*Lobby, Kranert Center for the
Performing Arts*

2:00 p.m.

University of Illinois Black
Chorus Alumni Choir
Rehearsal
*Choral Rehearsal Room,
Kranert Center for the
Performing Arts*

6:00 p.m.

Black Alumni Reunion Gala
University of Illinois Black
Chorus Alumni Choir
Performance
I-Hotel

Sunday, November 9, 2008

10:00 a.m.

All Classes Black Alumni
Farewell Brunch and
Commemoration Candle
Lighting Ceremony
I-Hotel

R U B Y A N N I V E R S A R Y R E U N I O N