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Campus Echo

Back to the Motherland

Student-led project to take young African Americans to Ghana

BY ALEX SAMPSON
ECHO EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

In summer 2012, Randy Person Jr. went on a life-altering excursion.

Person, an N.C. Central University political science and history junior, spent six weeks in the Republic of Ghana with the Duke in Ghana Summer Program.

The annual two-course program allows Duke and non-Duke students an opportunity to immerse themselves in a complex, cultural experience.

Western images of West Africa often depict the region as uncivilized, crime-ridden and corrupt.

During his time overseas, Person – a Centennial Scholar – said the reality was different from what he expected.

“A lot of people say in poverty areas, that’s where crime comes from,” he

said. “I saw the total opposite.”

Instead, Person received a culture shock. What he saw was peace.

Person said that while the Ghanaians they saw were impoverished, the peace among them inspired him to reevaluate the materialism in Western society.

“I went over there with Jordans, Foam Posits, Nikes — and I left them,” Person said. “I went over there with clothes and I left them.”

What Person did bring back, however, was a sense of purpose.

Two years later, Person is on the cusp of recreating his experience.

Person plans to take 16 other young African Americans to the West African country for his Ghana Project 2014. The goal is to find 8 women and

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ARCHIBALD MOTLEY MASTERPIECES AT THE NASHER



Archibald Motley's oil painting, "Black Belt," completed in 1934. Motley's paintings of black urban life are considered hallmarks in black art. Photo courtesy of the Hampton University Museum

STORY BY KENNETH MOORE
ECHO STAFF REPORTER

As Black History Month is wrapping up, one might consider visiting the Nasher Museum of Art at Duke University. There one will find 42 works of art by the African-American jazz modernist Archibald John Motley Jr. Born in 1891 in New Orleans, Motley is considered a master of the black urban landscape of the early 20th century, yet is virtually unknown to the public.

“We are extremely proud to present this dazzling selection of paintings by Archibald Motley, a master colorist and radical interpreter of urban culture,” said Sarah Schroth, director of the Nasher Museum, on the museum’s

web site. “His work is as vibrant today as it was 70 years ago. With this groundbreaking exhibition, we are honored to introduce this important American artist to the general public and help Motley’s name enter the annals of art

history.” Some of Motley’s notable oil paintings include “Blues,” “Black Belt,” “Hot Rhythm,” “The Picnic,” “Barbecue,” and “Tongues (Holy Rollers)” – all of

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NCCU mourns fallen Eagle

BY JAMAR NEGRON
ECHO ASSISTANT EDITOR

When music and mass communication junior Ashlynn Hailey left class on the evening of Monday, Feb. 10, a strange sight greeted her:

On Lawson Street in front of the cafeteria, a group of people huddled around a young man who had collapsed on the sidewalk.

Hailey and her friend walked closer to get a better look.

She was astonished to find that the man who had collapsed was her friend, 20-

year-old theatre sophomore, Devonté Squire.

“It just seems so unreal,” Hailey said.

“Who thinks they’re going to walk out of class to see their friend on the floor dying?”

Hailey said that after 15 minutes, EMS arrived to try to resuscitate Squire.

She said a police officer told her the situation was dire. “If I were you, I would pray,” the officer said.

Hailey said that after about 30 minutes of trying to

bring Squire back, an officer gave her devastating news — Devonté Squire was dead.

Early life

Devonté Squire was born May 29, 1993 in Running Rapids, N.C.

He grew up in Gaston, N.C. with his mother and three siblings: sister Jalisa, 18, and brothers Ramell, 14, and Jamon, 7.

Jalisa Squire said Devonté was a free-spirited and laid-back brother who always went out of his way to make sure she was OK.

“He was the best brother

I could ask for,” she said.

Jalisa Squire said she could be hardheaded at times and that Devonté always supported her and helped her make the right decisions.

“Devonté would pull me to the side and say, ‘Jalisa this is not the way to go.’” she said.

History junior Teresa Powell grew up with Devonté, from elementary to middle school to high school.

Powell said her friend was humble and fun to be around.

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Heddy herry herry herry herry herry herry herry herry herry. Alex Sampson/Echo editor-in-chief

Dan River spill one of largest in US history

BY CRAIG JARVIS
NEWS AND OBSERVER (MCT)

More than two weeks after a massive leak of coal ash from a Duke Energy power plant poured into a river along the North Carolina-Virginia border, the full extent of damage to the environment is still unfolding.

On Tuesday, state regulators said a second stormwater pipe at the company’s plant is spilling elevated levels of arsenic into the Dan River. And federal officials issued their first assessment of the disaster, raising the specter of long-

term harm to aquatic life, reaching as far as Kerr Lake.

The N.C. Department of Environment and Natural Resources on Tuesday afternoon ordered Duke Energy to immediately halt discharges from the second pipe. Tests revealed the water was toxic, and a camera snaked into the pipe showed leaks – ranging from a trickle to gushing – where sections of the pipe joined together.

The state agency had expressed concern about the second leak on Friday, but regulators didn’t know what was in the water that was coming through the pipe and

into the river until Tuesday.

The Feb. 2 spill occurred when a 48-inch reinforced concrete and corrugated steel stormwater runoff pipe beneath the ash pond broke, drawing water and between 30,000 and 39,000 tons of coal ash into the river. The second pipe, 36 inches in diameter and built in 4-foot sections, also ran under the pond. The pond has been emptied of water, but coal ash remains.

In the interest of transparency, DENR on Tuesday posted online the video inspection of the pipe at <http://alturl.com/yx5zq>. The department is having a briefing for reporters on

Wednesday to answer criticism.

Environmentalists and others have complained of a cozy relationship between Gov. Pat McCrory’s administration and Duke Energy, noting McCrory worked for Duke for 28 years. The U.S. attorney’s office has subpoenaed records between DENR and Duke going back to 2010.

Democratic legislative leaders on Tuesday called on McCrory to release his correspondence with Duke Energy since he declared his candidacy for governor in 2011.

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A ruptured stormwater pipe led to thousands of tons of coal ash being dumped into the Dan River, endangering waterways as far as Virginia.

Photo courtesy of Waterkeeper Alliance

