

New hall named in honor of woman who inspired African American students to intergrate University of Texas

AUSTIN - Almetris Duren Hall, named in honor of a woman who nurtured and inspired the first Black freshmen students to integrate The University of Texas at Austin, will be dedicated during a campus ceremony at 3 p.m. on October 12, 2007. "A Celebration of Progress, An Affirmation of Promise" is the theme for the ceremony in the spacious courtyard of Almetris Duren Hall, the newest and most modern dormitory on the campus, at the corner of Guadalupe and 27th streets. Dr. Floyd Hoelting, director of the Division of Housing and Food Service, part of the Division of Student Affairs, said the ceremony is expected to draw numerous Black alumni whose lives and careers were influenced by "Mama" Duren. Duren became a housemother, friend, adviser and mentor to Black students when The University of Texas at Austin became integrated in 1956. For a quarter century she motivated them and many other students on campus to strive for success academically and as individuals. She was founder of the first minority recruitment program, Project Info, and the Innervisions Gospel Choir. She retired in 1980 and died in 2000. She was recipient of the Margaret Berry Award for outstanding contributions to student life, the Presidential Citation and the Southwest Association of College and University Housing Officers Distinguished Service Award.

The celebration will be held from 3 p.m. - 5 p.m. and is open to the public, but early registration is urged to help planners prepare for the ceremony and associated weekend events. William Powers Jr., president of the university, is scheduled to provide the welcoming speech. Innervisions Gospel Choir and the **Huston-Tillotson** Concert Choir will perform at the celebration. The online registration sites are <http://www.utexas.edu/gtw/duren/> and <http://www.TexasExes.org/BlackAlumniReunion>, the university's alumni association. "Almetris Duren was one-of-a-kind, once-in-a-lifetime, a natural resource to thousands of University of Texas students," said Hoelting. "She saw a need and filled it, witnessed an opportunity and met it, and withstood the challenges of the time. In her own loving way, she succeeded in spite of all. She found young people in desperate need of a mentor and friend and she became both."

The 588-bed, residence hall opened to its first residents in January 2007. It features double occupancy rooms with private bathrooms, data and cable connections in each room and wireless access throughout. The 175,000-square-foot building has a Terra Cotta Ludowici Spanish tile roof and features "Azteca" Seneca quarry tile flooring in the lobby and first floor common areas. The formal lounge is outfitted with a baby grand piano, native Texas hand hewn mesquite and pecan furnishings and native Texas leather furnishings. A bronze bust of Duren will be in the lounge prior to the dedication-celebration. The spacious courtyard is graced in the center by a 100-year-old live oak tree and is a popular gathering place for many residents. The ventilation system includes a total energy recovery wheel, which is a special green feature that recovers energy from exhaust air, adding to the energy efficiency of the building. The Division of Housing and Food Service, has worked on the celebration project in collaboration with The Texas Exes and Black Alumni Steering Committee, Multicultural Information Center, Division of Diversity and Community Engagement, Center for African and African American Studies, University Residence Hall Association and other campus organizations. The Duren Hall program will be followed by a reception and tours of the hall and a Texas Exes Black Alumni Legacy Dinner later that evening. The October 13 events are to include a campus organizations reunion brunch, campus sites of interest tours and a "Soul Night Revisited" dance at the Crowne Plaza Austin Hotel.

For more information, contact Robert Meckel, University of Texas- Office of Affairs, at (512) 475-7847. ✪



Almetris Duren

Community Calendar of Events

Austin-

A Fall Career Expo/ Spring 2008 Internship Fair will be held at the Career & Graduate Development Center on Wednesday, September 26, 2007 on the campus of Huston-Tillotson University, 900 Chicon Street. The event will be from 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. For more information, please contact Paul Leverington, center director, at (512) 505-3041.

Dallas-

The Dallas Independent School District will host the first District-wide College Fair for all 11th and 12th grade students and their parents, on Thursday, September 20, 2007 at 6 p.m. on the 7th floor of the Informart, 1950 Stemmons Freeway. For more information, please call, (972) 925-3900.

Ultimate Pre-Classic concert with Tom Joyner and Musiq Soulchild will be held at the Black Academy of Arts and Letters, 650 South Griffin Street, on Friday, September 28, 2007 at 8:00 p.m. Tickets may be purchased at all Ticketmaster outlets. For more information, call (214) 743-2440.

Houston-

Get ready...! Wal-Mart is coming to tell small businesses, "How to do Business with Wal-Mart."

The African American Chamber of Commerce of Greater Houston (AACCGH) is holding its first procurement breakfast on Thursday, September 20, 2007 from 9 a.m. -10:30 a.m. at 6112 Wheatley St. Take advantage of this opportunity to meet key Wal-Mart personnel, and other small business owners who may need the expertise you have. If you have a product that needs to be on Wal-Mart's shelves, make sure you are present!

A full breakfast will be served during the meeting, and parking is free. The cost for the procurement breakfast is \$5 for AACCGH members and \$10 for non-members. If you would like to rent a vendor's booth for the breakfast, please call (713) 692-7003 for more details. Also, please RSVP your attendance to the same number no later than **Wednesday, September 19, 2007.** ✪

Civil Rights figures die in New York

MARIO SALAS African-American News & Issues

African American activist James E. Jackson Jr., who lived in Brooklyn, New York, died at 92 years of age recently. He was a civil and human rights fighter, a former official of the Communist Party USA, and a defendant in a case that led the highest court in the land to rule on the constitutionality of the Smith Act of 1940. The Smith Act, which was a notorious anti-constitutional tool used by right wing forces in this country to jail revolutionaries, was used to jail revolutionaries during the height of the McCarthy era.

He was one of six defendants who were convicted of conspiracy. However, in a landmark case, the defendants' guilty verdict was unanimously reversed by a federal appeals court in 1958. Jackson started his revolutionary career in the 1930s. He was a historical observer to the inhumane conditions that many Black workers faced in this country. He became outraged at the poor wages and unjust conditions of Black workers in segregated Richmond, Virginia at the tobacco plants.

Jackson' activities in the Southern Negro Youth Congress (SNYC) would help to spur the organization of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC).

After a stint in the Army, Jackson then became a full-time worker for the Communist Party USA. As a result, he became as a union organizer with help from the Southern Negro Youth Congress (SNYC), which he helped found at Howard University. Using his father's drugstore as a meeting and organizing place, he helped Black workers organize strikes in 1937. Thanks to his commitment to help the downtrodden, the largest tobacco factory in Richmond agreed to recognize the union.

This resulted in wage increases and improved working conditions for all of the workers. This spring-

board effort forced every tobacco factory in Richmond to adjust to the demands of the workers. His actions would result in a major victory for workers across the United States at a time when companies cared little for any worker.

Jackson put his ambition to be a pharmacist on the backburner and became a full-time organizer and political activist on behalf of workers. Jackson was known for his calm demeanor despite being the victim of racism and injustice at the hands of the FBI and southern segregationists. He stood when others said nothing, and sometimes placed his life in danger for the cause to improve the world. Jackson's family bore his spirit, as his sister Alice Jackson Stuart, sued the state of Virginia in 1935 for refusing her entrance into graduate school at the University of Virginia. He was a graduate of Virginia Union and the Howard University College of Pharmacy. In 1940, he became a research assistant to Dr. Ralph Bunche, on a major study of the conditions of Black people in the South.

His contributions became part of sociologist Gunnar Myrdal's groundbreaking work. He met his wife, Estelle Cooper, while working on that study. Jackson was very active in socialist movement through the Communist party and met openly and privately with many world communist leaders, national liberation leaders, and others fighting oppression world wide. Jackson met with Mao Tse Tung, Nikita Khrushchev, Fidel Castro, Che Guevara, Mikhail Gorbachev, and many others that were heads of national liberation movements in the Third World.



James E. Jackson Jr.

Jackson was the last American reporter to interview Ho Chi Minh in Vietnam before his death in 1968. New York University is where his papers are stored from a life of writing for the *Daily Worker*, now the *People's Daily World*. Jackson's survivors include his wife, the couple's two daughters, Kathy Jackson and Harriet Jackson, a grandson and two great-grandsons.

Dr. Carolyn Goodman, who became a prominent civil rights fighter after her son, Andrew Goodman and two other civil rights workers were murdered by the KKK in Mississippi in 1964, died recently at the age of 91, at her home in New York. Dr. Goodman, who was a psychologist, died of natural causes. She was an assistant clinical professor emerita of psychiatry at Albert Einstein College of Medicine. Goodman was a remarkable woman that was politically active up until last year. She recently traveled to Philadelphia, Mississippi to testify at the murder trial of "Preacher" Edgar Ray Killen, a former Klan leader indicted in the killing of her son and the two other civil rights workers. Rev. Killen was found guilty of manslaughter in the deaths of three Goodman, James Chaney, and Michael Schwerner.

In 1964, Goodman, and Schwerner who were White, and James Chaney, a Black man from Mississippi, traveled to Neshoba County, Mississippi. They were there to participate in the "Freedom Summer campaign" to register Blacks to vote. The Freedom Summer Campaign was a SNCC project, also known as Freedom Summer that was organizing Black Mississippians to register to vote, almost always without success, as White racist authorities rejected their applications on any grounds available. Mississippi Summer might not have ever been successful if not for the deaths of the three civil rights workers.

The SNCC campaign was a direct threat to the KKK controlled

political system in Mississippi and Goodman, along with the others, soon disappeared. When it was reported that these civil rights workers were missing, Goodman faced a barrage of media outside her apartment in New York and pleaded to all Americans to help find the three young men. A short time later the bodies of the three men were found buried near Philadelphia, Mississippi. Each of the victims had died from Klan bullets.

The KKK murders would backfire on their intentions as the death of the three young men sparked the historic civil rights marches and eventually legal remedies that overturned Jim Crow laws across the South. Carolyn Goodman remained dedicated to the struggle for civil and human rights by remaining highly active throughout her life. She remained true to her convictions about taking the life of another human being despite their crime. She never sought revenge against the killers of her son and to the end of her life never backed away from her opposition to the death penalty.

According to Margolit Fox, of *The New York Times*, Dr. Goodman and her husband, Robert Goodman, started the Andrew Goodman Foundation in 1966, and she played a strong role in antiwar demonstrations during the Vietnam War. She became involved in police brutality issues, and in 1999 went to jail during protests over the death of an African immigrant shot and killed by New York City police. She was born Carolyn Elizabeth Drucker on October 6, 1915. According to the *Times*, "Carolyn earned a bachelor's degree from Cornell University in 1936, a master's in clinical psychology from the City University of New York in 1953, and a doctorate in education from Columbia University Teachers College in 1968."

In the 1930s, she served on a solidarity committee that aided Spanish freedom fighters exiled during the Spanish Civil War who had fought the fascist dictator Franco. According to the *Times*, "After her marriage to Robert W. Goodman, a civil engineer, in the late

1930s, their home became a haven for progressive artists, and intellectuals." The Goodmans were deeply involved in the fight against the fabricated "Red Scare" and McCarthyism in the 1950s.

In 1967, seven Klansmen were convicted of conspiracy in the deaths of the three civil rights workers. In a travesty of justice the killers would served no more than six years. In 2005, Killen, who in escaped the 1967 trials as a result of a hung jury, was arrested again and charged with murder, this time by the State of Mississippi. "Preacher" Killen was finally convicted and is now serving a 60-year sentence for the killings. The *New York Times* added that, "As a psychologist, Dr. Goodman specialized in creating early intervention programs for families at risk of psychiatric problems. She developed and ran the PACE Family Treatment Center, a program for emotionally dis-



Carolyn Goodman

turbed mothers of young children, at the Bronx Psychiatric Center. Her articles were published widely in prominent professional journals." In a 1965 interview she told the *New York Times* that, "I still feel that I would let Andy go to Mississippi again. . . Even after this terrible thing happened to Andy, I couldn't make a turnabout of everything I believe in." ✪

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