

Computer-based Africana studies curriculum established; Alkalimat is appointed director

by Christine Alexander

"We will initiate a curriculum based in cyberspace."

That is how Dr. Abdul Alkalimat, UT professor of sociology and director of the new Africana studies program, envisions this discipline at The University of Toledo. It is one of the first programs in the country established on 21st century technology, with curriculum tied to the use of computers and the Internet, according to the professor.

Alkalimat, who assumed his position in August, believes computers offer universities opportunities to "serve our public education function" in new ways, offering occasions to build bridges among races.

"No longer do we, sitting in Ohio, have to wait for things to trickle down to us. The new technology offers everyone the same chance. We're on the verge of a new egalitarianism. A person in a rural farming community and one in inner-city Cleveland can engage in a discussion through a list-serve. There are new possibilities for overcoming racial tensions. This is 21st century innovation.

"The technological revolution's impact on society is the greatest force for change in history," he explains. "It can lead to the massive poverty of those left out, or include everybody and lead to a new era of miraculous progress."

Establishing connections throughout Africa and in the Caribbean will place students in Toledo in instant contact with people in many countries. "Such connections will enable our students to be actively engaged in discussions with people all over the world."

Another phase of the Africana studies program is the collection of data on the black experience that is found in thou-



photo by Bill Hartough

Dr. Abdul Alkalimat, shown here flanked by African artifacts, will direct UT's new computer-based Africana studies program. A UT professor of sociology, he assumed the directorship in August. Previously, he headed black studies programs at Fisk University and the University of Illinois. He has studied in Ghana and is a scholar on the life of Malcolm X.

sands of sites on the World Wide Web. "We will organize access so that everyone in the country can use it," Alkalimat predicts.

Compiling such web sites enriches the academic quality of all theory, according to the professor. "If we're talking about 'race,' students can link to a project and look at the DNA of race. They can click over to an archaeological dig and scrutinize the facts. They can re-examine 19th century ideological notions with 21st century cutting-edge research."

The establishment of Africana studies, which includes the black experience in Africa, the Caribbean and the Americas, rather than solely Afro-American studies, commits the University to a more expanded curricular approach, the professor says.

"The only way to be educated today is to have an appreciation for our global orientation. No one can consider himself educated without such an understanding.

"Above all, Africana studies will center around academic excellence and social responsibility," Alkalimat says. "By that I
(continued on page two)

Murray named assistant vice president for academic affairs

UT has named Elisabeth Murray as the new assistant vice president for academic affairs to oversee faculty relations.

In her new position, Murray is responsible for faculty contract negotiation and administration and grievance processing. She also serves as liaison with University legal counsel in proceedings involving academic affairs.

Before Murray accepted the position at UT, she was the vice chancellor for human resources and labor relations of the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities system, based in St Paul. She also served as assistant vice chancellor for academic employee relations at the Board of Governors Universities, based in Springfield, Ill. (1984-94), and labor relations coordinator for the Florida Board of

(continued on page two)

Law secretary's day in court proved memorable experience

Few people are apt to describe their day in court as exciting, but Pam Crabtree is more than willing. The UT law secretary's interview with U.S. Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor and her private tour of the U.S. Supreme Court building this past spring proved to be memorable experiences.

"Justice O'Connor is a gracious and intelligent woman. She understands the responsibilities of her position," Crabtree, a communication major at UT, said.

Although this was the first time Crabtree spoke with O'Connor at length, it wasn't the first time the two met. Crabtree was introduced to the justice in 1991 when O'Connor judged a moot court competition at UT's Law Center.

The opportunity to earn additional credit hours toward her degree motivated her to request the meeting with O'Connor. During the 40-minute interview, they spoke about personal subjects and women's issues in general.

As she toured the the Supreme Court building, Crabtree learned about many of the justices' traditions including the judicial handshake, which signifies that although the judges may oppose one another in the courtroom, they maintain a camaraderie when court is adjourned.

Although Crabtree's primary focus is journalism, her interests in psychology and law have prompted her to incorporate these subjects into her writing.

Crabtree has had work published in *Psychiatric News*, *Mature Living Magazine*, *The Blade* and *TV Guide*.

Adult swim class to be offered at Student Rec Center

Water Magic, an innovative class designed to help adults overcome their fear of water, will be offered beginning Tuesday, Oct. 8, at UT's Student Recreation Center.

Classes are scheduled to meet for one hour, twice a week for a month.

Course instructor Pamela Jackson is a certified recreation therapist with 30 years experience in the field of aquatics. She has trained instructors for the American Red Cross in adapted aquatics, life guarding and water safety.

Jackson received the bachelor of education degree from UT and a master's degree in clinical psychology from the Center for Humanistic Studies in Detroit.

The Water Magic program represents an integration of Jackson's educational, psychological and aquatic skills and training.

Enrollment is open to the University and Toledo communities and is limited to 10 students.

Fees for the course are \$40 for Student Recreation Center members and \$50 for other participants.

For further information, contact the Student Recreation Center's department of aquatics at Ext. 5555.

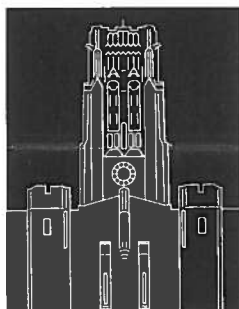
UT invites public to experience the arts

"Experience the Arts at UT," an evening of entertainment, refreshments and information presented by UT's Center for Commuter and Off-Campus Services, will be held on Wednesday, Oct. 2, from 5 to 7 p.m. in the Center for Performing Arts.

The free, public event, part of the "Good Evening, Commuters!" program that informs students about UT services, is jointly sponsored by UT's departments of art, music, and theater, film and dance.

The event will feature a student and faculty art exhibit, live entertainment performed by UT students and faculty, and free refreshments. Attendees will have the opportunity to listen to music, view films, and see theater and dance performances. Information about programs of study and special courses in the arts will also be available.

For further information, contact the Center for Commuter and Off-Campus Services at Ext. 8521.



Campaign progress chart

The Faculty and Staff Campaign for The University of Toledo



Africana studies

(continued from page one)

mean although it has its own particularity, it will fundamentally advance the core values of the University."

Alkalimat has a Ph.D. in sociology from the University of Chicago, has studied in Ghana and devoted 10 years to the study of Malcolm X. He headed black studies programs at Fisk University and the University of Illinois. He has also taught at Spelman College, Northeastern University in Boston, Oxford University, the Free University of Berlin, and was a visiting professor at UT one year ago. He is currently publishing proceedings of three conferences on "Technology, Employment and Community" held at the University of Illinois, M.I.T. and California State University at Los Angeles.

For more information about the Africana studies program, call Alkalimat at Ext. 7252.

New vice president

(continued from page one)

Regents in Tallahassee (1981-84).

Murray received her master of science degree in industrial relations and human resource administration from Rutgers University. She earned postgraduate credit at Rutgers in the areas of public sector law, administration, supervision, evaluation, program planning and development, and communication skills. She also has participated in several programs involving issues of education, collective bargaining, grievance presentation and other areas of employee representation, held at Princeton University and in England and France.

Murray is the president-elect of the Academy of Academic Personnel Administration in Higher Education and a member of the American Arbitration Association, the Society of Professionals in Dispute Resolution, and the College and University Personnel Association.