



Benjamin Todd Jealous, president and CEO of the NAACP, delivers the keynote speech at the celebration.

Photo by Patrick Xie | The UB Post

UB Hosts NAACP's 100-Year Milestone Celebration

By IBRAHIM DABO
Senior Staff Writer

The University of Baltimore recently played a key role in the National Association of Colored People's centennial celebration. Not only did the university host the event, but several of its own were featured on the agenda.

After many decades of trying to ensure the political, educational, social and economic equality of minority-group citizens, while also attempting to eliminate racial prejudice, the NAACP held its highly anticipated centennial celebration right here on campus. Entitled "New Definitions of Civil Rights: Bridging the Generations," the event featured panel discussions on education, criminal law, economic justice, envi-

ronmental health, and civil rights.

The celebration, which took place on March 10, attracted a wide cross-section of visitors, including the UB community, educators, state administrators, and key figures within the NAACP. During the opening ceremony, which kicked off in the Student Center Performing Arts Theater, President Robert L. Bogomolny gave the welcoming remarks.

Christopher Ifeanyi-Nwanze, MBA, an international student, said it was a privilege for him to have been asked to be an Economic Justice panelist for such a significant event.

"A lot of historical things are going on in our time, and I feel it's important that the future agendas of the NAACP are directed towards educating and equipping today's

youth as they have the potential of breaking more ceilings," Ifeanyi-Nwanze said.

Bamikole Gbangbalasa Jr., a marketing major, said the celebration meant a lot to him, adding that it also showed the growing diversity of events within the UB campus and the wide range of activities the university provides.

"It allows outside organizations and individuals to see what is going on at the University of Baltimore and it shows that UB is a special place because the NAACP held one of their centennial celebrations on our campus," Gbangbalasa said, adding that attending the civil rights panel discussion helped him learn that the NAACP is about not only black civil rights but also rights for any group.

Stacie Harris, MBA and vice presi-

dent of UB's Black Student Union, sang the Black National Anthem and was also a guest panelist for Civil Rights. She said the celebration was an invaluable and awesome experience, adding that hearing NAACP President Benjamin Todd Jealous speak, and to be surrounded by great civil rights activists such as Carl Snowden, has added insight to her life as well as her future.

"I have a deeper appreciation of the struggles of the past and an even deeper passion for the future of human-kind," Harris said.

"Bridging The Generations' is the lapse or gap between civil rights leaders from the earlier movement to present-day civil rights leaders," Harris said. "We must come together as one in order to continue to see civil rights activist Dr. King's dream

come into fruition. We must not forget anyone. Everyone is important to civil rights."

William E. Kirwan, chancellor of the University System of Maryland; Gerald Stansbury, President of Maryland State NAACP; and Douglas F. Gansler, Attorney General of Maryland, all attended the celebration.

"No organization in America has done more to advance equity and opportunity over this past century," Kirwan said, commending the NAACP for its historic century of progress.

Jealous gave the keynote address at a luncheon held at the Lyric Opera House.

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GSS and USS To Merge

By BROOKE CARLTON
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In a classic case of history repeating itself, the University of Baltimore's Graduate Student Senate (GSS) is scheduled to merge tentatively with the Undergraduate Student Senate (USS), beginning next spring.

In 2000, the GSS was formed from

two separate student organizations: the Graduate Business Association and the Graduate Liberal Arts Council. According to Susan Luchey, director of the Rosenberg Center for Student Involvement, before the merger, the two groups were largely ineffective as they merely duplicated each other's efforts.

Even after the launch of the sin-

gle GSS, the maintenance of active membership has been a struggle. This year, GSS members proposed the formation of a single student senate by merging with the USS to become the UB Student Senate.

This year, GSS only managed to recruit three members. Luchey thinks this collaboration will allow for more diversity and involvement within the group.

"For this year, [the candidates] will be elected internally," Luchey said. "The group will take the con-

sensus for who's going to do what. They will call themselves an 'interim government' so it's clear they are not a traditional government fully elected by the student body. They're going to use this year to build, to tweak, to write the constitution, to see what works."

Although no concrete structure has been established, members have a loose idea of the dynamic: a single graduate or undergraduate president, a graduate vice president, an undergraduate vice president and

a graduate treasurer to ensure and protect proper funding of student events.

UB students will vote on the new structure after a trial term.

"I think there will be a stronger student voice with one student government...if it's done well, the potential for a stronger, unified student voice is terrific," Luchey said.

Planning for the Student Senate is scheduled for May 15 to June 30.

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A Lone, Grand Piano

By JACK COMBS
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On Saturday, April 4th, the Student Center Performing Arts Theater hosted its latest artist in the UB Great Pianist Series, Peter Serkin. Performing in front of a small crowd, Serkin played passionate renditions of classic compositions by John Null

and Claude Debussy, J.S. Bach and Johannes Brahms.

The evening started with a lone Steinway & Sons grand piano sitting cozily in its isolation on a small, pale stage, and the evening would end with that same portrait: the soft black glaze under dim house lighting. Patrons may have been few, but they treated the event as legiti-

mately as if it were held at a concert hall in midtown Manhattan. Refreshments were arranged in a sophisticated spread, and wine was the drink of choice at intermission. Sharing opinions of the featured pianist's tone and interpretations, they stared out onto the city streets that glowed four-stories below from the swirls of street lights and the distant downtown skyline.

Peter Serkin is undoubtedly the consummation of talent and edu-

cation. His performance was an inspired and impassioned concert; it was something that someone who had never attempted to play even the simplest tune on piano would know wasn't like the college kids and their strumming of acoustic guitars for the sake of eyes and ears. It was a celebration of the music so many value; an intellectual experience that predates the Ramones and their tight, shredded pants. Humming to the progressions and flinching at

every inflection, his renditions were grandiose drama on a small, classical scale.

After an 80-minute performance, "Bravo" was proclaimed from the left side of the theater as Serkin took his final bows - even if it was cliché in its absolute and utter praise, it was still something to hear on a random, spring night. Something more than loud dance songs and foam parties.

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