

University of Dayton

From the Selected Works of Julius A. Amin

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The Time of Africa Has Come

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"The time of Africa has come. And within the next 10 years, people will want to know what makes Africa tick," said Julius Amin, assistant professor of history.

Amin believes not only will there be a renewed interest in Africa from colleges and universities, but from U.S. corporations as well.

"Africa is a continent of importance to many companies in the United States because Africa stands as a giant in raw materials."

Amin, who came to the United States in 1981 from Cameroon, West Africa, and to UD last August from Texas Tech University, is teaching two courses this semester: history of African-Americans since 1900 and survey of American history since 1865.

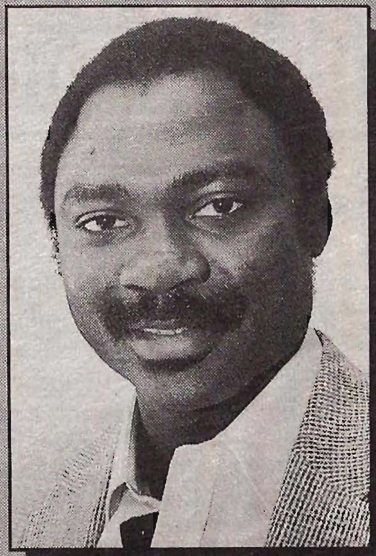
American executives need to grasp the customs of the African people they work with in order to successfully negotiate business ventures with their governments, he said.

ACTION PROFILE

Students of all races should study black as well as African history because, "as students get out into the job market, whether they like it or not, they will end up in an environment where blacks are employed.

"There was a time when the literary focus of black history attracted only black students. Today, more white students are becoming interested in black history and realizing that it is a part of American society, and needed to fill in the gaps of American history."

Education concerning black cul-



Julius Amin

ture could ease racial tensions by eliminating some of the misunderstandings between blacks and whites, Amin said.

"When most people talk about ghettos, slums, drugs and other problems blacks have, they ask for solutions. But how can you provide a medication to an illness when you don't know the cause?"

"I think more and more people will try to understand some of the problems blacks face by looking at their history as a way of providing answers."

This summer, Amin will return to Cameroon to study the positive and negative impact the U.S. Peace Corps has made in the past 20 years. Two grants from the UD Research Council are funding the study.

—Tom Diederich