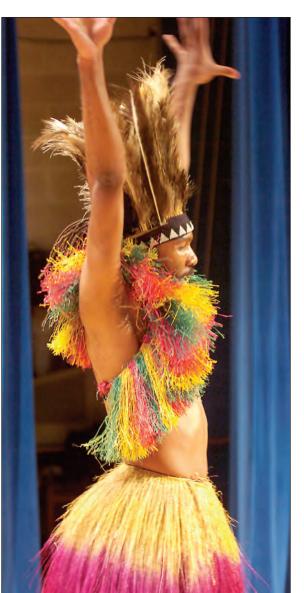
The News Reporter, Thursday, February 15, 2007, Section C

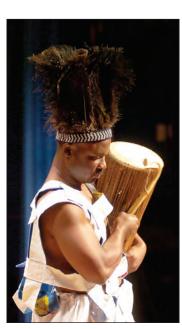


Southeastern Community College presents...

The African American Dance Ensemble



Stafford C. Berry Jr., above, in the opening dance presents drums and rhythms to Osei Appiagyei, above right.





The top piece of the above costume is adorned with shells like those once used as currency. Below, grass costumes provide colorful sights and soothing sounds during performances.



Ensemble founder and artistic director Dr. Chuck Davis explains traditions and dances.







Photographs by Mark Gilchrist

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Dancers use rhythm sticks, common instruments in African performances.



An exciting and powerful performance by the African American Dance Ensemble in the Southeastern Community College auditorium February 7 was both entertaining and enlightening.

Chief Photographer

Five dancers and three musicians filled the stage with a thrilling spectacle of beautiful costumes and inspiring dance and music, sharing traditions and messages from the African continent.

Ensemble founder Dr. Chuck Davis

hosted the event, explaining the meanings of the dances and motivations of the dancers. Davis began his performing arts career nearly five decades ago and directs the Durham-based troupe.

The overall message between the footsteps and drumbeats was revealed throughout the evening. The group sees itself not only as entertainers, but as an "agency of positive social change," and woven into the music and movements was its mantra; "Peace, love, respect for everybody,"



Dancers perform Judge Ye Not!, a lesson in tolerance.

Musicians play hollowed-out logs, some of the oldest musical instru-

ments known to man.

FOR

EVERYBODY