

# SHOREFRONT

Collect | Preserve | Educate

## ***For Members Only and African American Life at Northwestern University 1970-2021***

**Creator:** For Members Only

**Collection Title:** For Members Only and African American Life at Northwestern University, 1970-2021

**Date Span:** 1970-2021

**Extent:** 2.2 Linear Feet

**Processor:** Originally processed by Katie Obriot and Olle Larson CLIR-funded Black Metropolis Research Consortium "Color Curtain Processing Project," December 7, 2011. Updated by John Miles Branch, Shorefront archives intern, August 2022.

**Repository:** Shorefront Legacy Center, 2214 Ridge Avenue, Evanston, IL 60201

### **Administration Information**

**Access Restrictions:** No access restrictions.

**Usage Restrictions:** All copyrighted material was transferred to Shorefront Legacy Center upon donation of materials.

**Language:** English

**Preferred Citation:** Shorefront Archives

**See Also:** Northwestern University

### **Administrative History**

For Members Only (FMO) is an African American student group founded at Northwestern University in 1967. During the 1960s, the number of African American undergraduates enrolled at Northwestern increased dramatically, and the group was started by students who felt that these students needed an institution created by and for Black students. In 1968, FMO played a crucial role in the Bursar's Office Takeover, during which over 100 African American students protested racism on campus and presented the university with a series of demands. In the years that followed, FMO members were heavily involved in the establishment of new institutions at Northwestern such as the Black House and the African American Studies department, which began in response to the takeover. Today, the group "serves to encourage political, social, cultural and intellectual unity and growth first and foremost within Northwestern University's Black community, but also within the broader Northwestern community as well."

#### *Sources:*

"For Members Only," Northwestern *Wildcat Connection* website, <https://northwestern.campuslabs.com/engage/organization/formembersonly>. Accessed August 3, 2022.

# SHOREFRONT

Collect | Preserve | Educate

Troy Closson, "In Focus: Fifty years after Bursar's Office Takeover, Northwestern reconciles continued parallels in black student concerns," *Daily Northwestern*, May 3, 2018. <https://dailynorthwestern.com/2018/05/03/in-focus/in-focus-fifty-years-after-bursars-office-takeover-northwestern-reconciles-continued-parallels-in-black-student-concerns/>. Accessed August 3, 2022.

Colin Boyle, "For Members Only panelists discuss history, future of black community at NU," *Daily Northwestern*, February 21, 2018. <https://dailynorthwestern.com/2018/02/21/top-stories/members-panelists-discuss-history-future-black-community-nu/>. Accessed August 3, 2022.

## **Scope and Content**

This collection includes several publications that have operated as "satellite" organizations of For Members Only. Since its inception, FMO has published a series of newspapers and magazines—most prominently *BlackBoard*, which has been published since 1971. FMO's publications address a diverse set of themes related to Black life on campus and in Evanston more broadly, including racism and civil rights, political thought, arts and culture, sports, and religion. The third series, "FMO Administration and General Black Life," includes FMO materials other than printed publications, some of which are related to the administration of FMO publications. Together, the materials chronicle important currents in the experiences of African American students at Northwestern and how they have related campus events to broader political and cultural questions and events.

## **Container List**

### **Series 1. BlackBoard Issues**

This series is comprised of issues of *BlackBoard*, the longest-tenured FMO publication. BlackBoard has taken many forms—starting in 1971 as a news bulletin and transitioning to a magazine format in the 1980s. After a hiatus during the 2010s, *BlackBoard* returned to print in 2016.

<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Date</b>
1	1	BlackBoard	1971
1	2	BlackBoard	1972
1	3	BlackBoard	1973
1	4	BlackBoard	1974
1	5	BlackBoard	n.d. (c. 1975)
1	6	BlackBoard	1975-1976
1	7	BlackBoard	1977
1	8	BlackBoard	1979
1	9	BlackBoard	1980
1	10	BlackBoard	1981
1	11	BlackBoard	1982
1	12	BlackBoard	1983
1	13	BlackBoard	1984-1985
1	14	BlackBoard	1985-1986
1	15	BlackBoard	1986-1987
1	16	BlackBoard	1987-1988
1	17	BlackBoard	1988-1989
1	18	BlackBoard	1989-1990
1	19	BlackBoard	1990-1991
1	20	BlackBoard	1991-1992

# SHOREFRONT

Collect | Preserve | Educate

1	21	BlackBoard	1993
1	22	BlackBoard	1994
1	23	BlackBoard	1995
1	24	BlackBoard	1995-1996
1	25	BlackBoard	1996-1997
1	26	BlackBoard	1999-2000
1	27	BlackBoard	2002
1	28	BlackBoard	2002-2003
1	29	BlackBoard	2003-2004
1	30	BlackBoard	2004-2005
1	31	BlackBoard	2005-2006
1	32	BlackBoard – CDs of Past Issues	c. 2005
2	1	BlackBoard	2005-2006
2	2	BlackBoard	2006-2007
2	3	BlackBoard	2007-2008
2	4	BlackBoard	2009
2	5	BlackBoard	2009-2010
2	6	BlackBoard	2017
2	7	BlackBoard	Fall 2017
2	8	BlackBoard	Spring 2018
2	9	BlackBoard	Fall 2018
2	10	BlackBoard	2019

## Series 2. Other FMO Publications

This collection is comprised of issues of several other FMO-affiliated publications that have existed since the organization's founding. *Mjoooni Pamoja Kwa-Uhuru* and *Pamoja People* served largely as forums for political discussion about campus events and national and global affairs alike in the 1970s. *BlackBeat*, designed as a more frequent news-focused "supplement" to *BlackBoard* once it transitioned to a quarterly magazine, ran from 1984 to 2003, and "FMO Informant" and "Black Voices" played a similar role at points in the 1990s. *Voice & Vision*, an FMO literary magazine, ran for several years in the 2000s, and *Pulse*, a magazine focused on fashion and culture, had a run of several years in the early 2010s.

Box	Folder	Title	Date
3	1	Mjoooni Pamoja Kwa-Uhuru, Vol. 1, Nos. 1 and 2	1970
3	2	Pamoja People, Vol. 1, Nos. 2 and 3	1972
3	3	FMO Informant	1994
3	4	BlackBeat	1984-2003
3	5	Black Voices, Vol. 1, No. 1	1998
3	6	Voice & Vision	2006
3	7	Voice & Vision	2007
3	8	Voice & Vision	2008
3	9	Voice & Vision	2009
3	10	Pulse / General	n.d.
3	11	Pulse	2011-2012
3	12	Pulse	2013
3	13	Pulse	2014

# SHOREFRONT

Collect | Preserve | Educate

## Series 3. FMO Administration and General Black Life

This series consists of unpublished materials. Box 4 is comprised of internal FMO and BlackBoard documents, while Box 5 comprises a range of materials related to Black life at Northwestern more generally, including efforts to commemorate the early years of FMO.

Box	Folder	Title	Date
4		FMO Constitution	n.d.
4		BlackBoard Constitution	n.d.
4		BlackBoard/BlackBeat Petition for Change	n.d.
4		BlackBoard Various Notes & Clips	n.d.
4		BlackBoard Board Documents	1988
4		BlackBoard Board Documents	1991
4		BlackBoard Executive Board	1991-1992
4		BlackBoard Application	1992
4		NU Press Releases to John Ellis	1992
4		BlackBoard Profile: Dean Evans	1994
4		FMO Scrapbook	2009-2010
4		BlackBoard Letterhead & Phone List	1993
5		General Campus Black History	n.d.
5		Various News Clippings	n.d.
5		Northwestern Community Ensemble 50 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary	n.d.
5		African-American Video Collection	n.d.
5		Black Student Handbook	1973-1974
5		"Being Black at Northwestern"	c. 1970s
5		African American Student Affairs	1975-c. 2010
5		Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary Program	1987
5		Continuum	1989
5		Alpha Kappa Alpha	1999-2001
5		Black History Month Activities/M.L.K. Day of Remembrance	2000-2003
5		Northwestern Magazine – Celebrating Sesquicentennial	2001
5		Alpha Phi Alpha Scholarship Application	2003
5		Northwestern Magazine – Angela Jackson	2009
5		Creation of Black Archives	2016
5		"The African American/Black Student Experience" Final Report	2016
5		Reaffirming the Purpose...Black House	2016-2020
5		Northwestern University Library <i>Footnotes</i> , Spring 2018 (p. 6-9: Take Over of 1968)	2018
5		4 <sup>th</sup> Annual NUBAA Summit	2018
5		Community Recognition Luncheon	2018
5		Northwestern Magazine, Spring 2018 (p. 36-39: Eva Patterson Jefferson, "Reflections of a Black Student Activist")	2018
5		Northwestern University Press, Spring/Summer 2021 Catalog – 1 <sup>st</sup> Black Director Parneshia Jones	2021
5		Daily Northwestern, "The Black House is Back"	October 18, 2021