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From: Kevin Kosanovich <kwkosa@email.wm.edu>

Date: Tue, Oct 9, 2012 at 12:45 PM

Subject: Fwd: W&M SHHO History

To: "Schindler, Amy C" <acschi@wm.edu>

Received all this from Bobak. Great written history, but more importantly, all the flyers! I'll try and upload some of these this afternoon.

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From: Bobak Kasrai <bxbkasr@gmail.com>

Date: Sun, Oct 7, 2012 at 11:00 AM

Subject: W&M SHHO History

To: kwkosa@email.wm.edu

Cc: Blair Smith <blairebonysmith@gmail.com>

How we started...

My good friend from Middle/High School, Arnold Yun, started the Student Hip-Hop Organization as a freshman at VCU. He spent two years trying to convince me to start a second chapter (at W&M). I didn't think that I knew enough people who were supportive and that in to hip-hop. Fast forward to my Junior year (Fall 07), a young lady/Freshman named Blair Smith ('11) and I ('09) began to realize that we were into a lot of the same musical tastes. We got to talking about hip-hop and she mentioned that she would love to start a student organization based on hip-hop. So I touched base with Arnold and he gave us all of the information he used to start the SHHO and we began our journey, along with Lamar Shambley ('10) the third co-founder at W&M, we wrote out our constitution, met with Mark Constantine, and got our final approval. Our next step was to garner some interest amongst the student body, which didn't

seem to be much of an issue at first. We easily packed out meeting rooms in Blair Hall and shared cool tidbits in meetings like what our favorite albums, artists, and songs were. We watched hilarious youtube videos and talked about hip-hop music and culture. From there we grew and put on events and created a small influence that helped spread hip-hop culture and music across campus. (And to be completely honest, Blair carried a huge load of the work, ideas, and planning on her back and did it all as a Freshman... Lamar and I had pretty rough Spring semesters and although we started SHHO in Oct. 2007, we weren't really ready to hold any events until the Spring.)

On to some of our first events... I've attached a few flyers...

- concertflyerfinal.pdf = Our first concert ever! March 22, 2008. The concert included Median, Edgar Allen Floe, and M1 Platoon. All were working with and/or have worked with the legendary producer 9th Wonder. This was also the first time that we met Rapsody of Kooley High, (<http://www.kooleyhigh.com/tag/rapsody/>) a group that we would later invite to perform at W&M on multiple occasions. (Rapsody, also recently released her debut album and has a full page story on her in the latest issue of The Source.) One of our biggest goals as a young organization was to offer another perspective on hip-hop, we didn't believe that AMP (at the time was known as UCAB - University Center Activities Board), understood our take on the culture and the music. So we wanted to offer FREE opportunities for W&M students to become fans of hip-hop and learn more about the culture and the music. Prior to this concert, we held a graffiti day where we bought a number of pieces of plywood and got permission to have students come out and spray paint them on the Sunken Gardens, during this event we met a young guy named Barry O'Keefe, a W&M student and talented graffiti artist. Barry came with a pre-planned design and decorated our one huge board, which we eventually brought to every show and had all of the artists that performed at our shows sign it. (Unfortunately, I missed a majority of these events this semester but Blair really held the org down as a freshman with some help from other members and some of her closest friends to pull it all together! And she currently has the board, we had it cut into 6 pieces and Blair took it with her when he graduated, it was very difficult to store on campus and there was no clear person to pass it along to at the time when Blair graduated.)

- flyersshopurple2 = The flyer for our party the day we had the graffiti event. The boards were brought here if anybody had the desire to spray paint. Otherwise, we just had a DJ spinning some hip-hop classics and we had fun! The party's title was inspired by this song (<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FRGz2yuPGD4>). (Again, another event that I missed out on but Blair should be able to give you more details.

- Pajama Jammy Jam Flyer = This was the flyer for our second party/fundraiser. It was a Pajama Party, with a 90s hip-hop era twist. Again all fun and hip-hop.

- uniconcert5 - Our one year anniversary concert... "Going Back to Cali" - we brought out U-N-I, an up and coming rap group out of California (they have since parted ways :(...) This was huge for us to be able to bring an artist all the way from Cali. And we worked our butts off to pull this off, many of the members of SHHO along with many of our close friends sold concessions at every football game that semester just to raise enough money to pay for this concert. Saturdays suuuuuuuuuucked!!! We even had to work concessions the day of the show, and to help us out with the day, one of our Sociology professors, Danielle Currier, picked U-N-I up from their hotel, took them around campus and even got them tickets to the football game (on one of the COLDEST days in November I can remember and U-N-I was freezing with their skimp Cali clothes, lol). And the openers for this show were, the Earhtones Crew, a group of musicians from Richmond, VA, DJ Cutty Sharp, Craig Arthur, who DJed many of our early events, and Intalek, a local rapper from VA Beach who blessed us with his presence on multiple occasions following this concert, a true supporter of what we were trying to do and an all around great guy! Please support the homie if you can, it doesn't hurt that he makes great music as well! Also, we had a dinner before the concert for the artists and all of the people who helped us raise the money for this concert. We bought some of the food already prepared but Blair's mother, "The Mother of W&M SHHO," cooked some food and bought a beautiful cake in the shape of the concert flyer. It was a really nice touch to all of the hard work our SHHO folk had put in to make this show happen. Here is a link to the facebook album of pics for this concert...

<http://www.facebook.com/media/set/?set=a.1007762165537.2000680.1569420075&type=3>

The 2008-2009 school year was also around the same time that the W&M Bboy Club was founded, later to become The Smiles Crew. We would partner with them on a few events in the future. Like for example a movie screening... that is attached as "Planet Bboy flyer.doc"

W&M High Fidelity.jpg - This was our next big concert, which was probably attendance wise the biggest concert we ever held. It included opening acts Intalek, Nickelus F, a super dope rapper from Richmond, VA and continual support and counterpart in the SHHO Movement, and even a performance from a W&M student, Jerome (I forgot his last name, but Blair should be able to clarify) - raps as J.B. da Pilot. The Smiles Crew danced during intermission and the show was headlined by Kooley High and Tanya morgan as a part of there nationwide tour (that flyer is "The High Fidelity Tour.jpg").

I graduated in 2009, so from here on out Blair would be the best person to ask for specific details on events and happenings on SHHO. But I will add as much as I can...

shhoflyerthumbnail.jpg - This was our next big concert. The opening acts were again Intalek, Millz, another SHHO staple (him and Nick F actually dropped a few mixtapes and videos in conjunction with the SHHO), and Ced Hughes, a norfolk rapper who has built a decent sized buzz. And the headliners were Actual Proof, a duo from NC signed to 9th Wonder's Jamla Records.

all the numbers.jpg - This was the last big concert that W&M SHHO held. It was opened by Millz and the headliner was DTMD, another duo from the DMV (DC urea) and collaborators with Oddissee and Mello Music Group.

The W&M SHHO was also the second SHHO chapter to have Malice of the Cliche come speak about his book "Wretched, Pitiful, Poor, Blind, & Naked."

He went on a book talk tour through all of the SHHO chapters starting with ODU then going to W&M and moving along.

I was the advisor for the ODU SHHO and helped to start the chapter there while i was a graduate student. Blair is currently a PHd student at Syracuse University and is in the works of helping to start a chapter there. There are currently chapters at VCU, W&M, UVA, ODU, VA Tech, GMU, and the University of Central Florida... Expansion is currently underway...

I hope all of this helps to shed some light on what SHHO has been through at W&M and how it helped to bring more hip-hop to W&M. if you want to get any more specifics or need some clearer answer feel free to email me back or give me a call, 540-840-8356. Blair is also open and willing to help answer questions and help clarify the happenings of SHHO at W&M.

Thanks for helping to recognize and remember the influence and history of hip-hop at W&M. And please thank Amy Schindler for all of her help and work at W&M, she truly is an awesome person and terrific at her job!

Peace and Love,

Bobak Kasrai

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