The UNCP chapter of the NAACP sponsored the "Fallen Civil Rights Leaders," on Feb. 4 as part of their annual NAACP week on campus and to pay homage to civil rights leaders. The program featured Nigerian born storyteller Osukunka Akilana, who was accompanied by the very talented April Turner, who is both percussionist and dancer.

The event began with a very rhythmic drum performance by the African drummers. Akilana’s focus was Uruban folklore through the drums of this drum that "change" has finally arrived. The group sang "I feel blessed that I made it here today. We have witnessed history being made in the achievement of U.S. President Barack Obama," said Dr. J. Gentile Everett, senior pastor for Mill Branch Baptist Church in Fairmont, N.C.

"When I think of fallen civil rights leaders, two people come to mind and they are Frederick Douglass and Nat Turner. Both were very instrumental in civil rights, but held different beliefs. Nat Turner decided to use violence in order to gain freedom, and Frederick Douglass chose to use his mind," Dr. Everett said.

The melodies of the ensemble permeated the room as the air captured that “change” has finally arrived. The group sang "I am glad that we are asked to be a part of such a great event,” said Sharon Brown, member of Anu Praize.

"We must build on our similarities to overcome our differences," added from this drum was filled with African American stories and the purpose of this presentation was to promote literacy and celebrate African American culture throughout Black History Month. A crowd of rough-ly 60 was in attendance to partake in this experience.

The event lasted throughout Black History Month. A reception will follow this program with the 20th National African American Read In Literacy Program in the UC Annex. On Feb. 17, Oral Readings of African American Literature will be held at Mary Livermore Library in the Main Reading Room at 7pm.

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