Kenyan Students Admitted to Guilford College

Spring, 1962

Washington Rakama’64 and Ayub Watakila’65, both from Kenya, were admitted in spring of 1962 (Alex Stoesen, On the Strength of 150 Years, p. 99). They began classes in the fall of 1962, at the same time James McCorkle, the first full-time African American student, began classes (McCorkle oral history interview).

Washington Rakama’64

- According to Ann Deagon, Washington Rakama lived for a time with Ed Burrows.
- He is listed in the 2010 Alumni Directory as address unknown.
- His photograph appears in the 1964 Quaker, p. 56.

Ayub Watakila’65

- Ayub Watakila is listed in the 1965 commencement program in Guilford College Bulletin, Numbered and Unnumbered, v. 58, 1965 (housed in College Archives). His degree is listed as a B.S. in Physics.
- According to Ann Deagon, Ayub Watakila (and later his wife) lived with Ann and Don Deagon (telephone conversation Sept. 24, 2012).
- He is listed in the 2010 Alumni directory as deceased.
- His photograph appears in the 1965 Quaker, p. 144.
- Ayub Watakila’s daughter is Ruth Watakila’86. She lives in Greensboro, N.C. and has completed an oral history for the FHCs oral history project, “Guilford’s Integration, 1962 Before and After: an Oral History. Ayub Watakila’s son attended Guilford College for one year in the 1980s, and transferred to N.C. A&T.

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