

Gospel Explosion

by Dexter Johnson

Even after I chose engineering I wasn't sure I was going to be able to make it. When I looked at the curriculum I had no idea what the names of the courses meant. I struggled with chemistry as a freshman.

As a release from some of the pressure, I began to get involved with student groups, in particular the gospel choir. I held major positions in the choir: Vice President, then President. Gospel Choir gave me the opportunity to come together with other students of like faith once a week to learn songs. Many times we'd go on trips to other colleges.

It was under my presidency that we initiated the Gospel Explosion in 1987. The previous president and I devised the program and launched it under my presidency. We called it the New York State Universities and Colleges Gospel Explosion, and the goal was to have a conference of college gospel choirs. We invited Cornell, Syracuse, Binghamton, and New Paltz among others. It was held at the Prince of Peace church for a couple of years and then we held it at UB, first in Woldman Theatre (if I remember correctly) and later in Slee Hall.

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