Sister Mary Antonia Ebo, Norman Seay honored

Two African-American leaders in the nation’s struggle for justice and civil rights - Sister Mary Antonia Ebo and Norman Seay - received honorary doctorates from the University of Missouri-St. Louis during its commencement ceremonies on Saturday.

At the morning ceremony, Sister Ebo, of the Franciscan Sisters of Mary, was given an honorary doctorate of humane letters by Chancellor Tom George.

"I felt honored, and I think the main thing for me is to always remember that I don’t get this on my own - it was my teammates," Ebo told The American.

"I really actually receive these type of honors for being a Franciscan Sister of Mary and for all the people who have walked with me and prayed with me and helped me along the way," Ebo was thrust into the international spotlight in 1965 in Selma, Alabama, when she and six white nuns joined a group of St. Louis clergy who went south to march for

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voting rights for blacks. Police blocked the group in Selma who were attempting to march to Montgomery from crossing the Edmund Pettus Bridge.

"Years ago, people were not standing up. That's why we are proud of Sister Ebo because she stood up and stood out upon the Catholic nuns," said Seay, who received the doctorate of humane letters during the afternoon commencement service. "And we can count the number of priests in the King movement."

Seay and others helped to integrate public institutions that systematically denied blacks the right of access, service and jobs in the 1950s and 1960s. He said the honor from UMSL came as a surprise, because of his previous activities at the university.

"I was rough and tough," Seay said as he laughed. "The student body was not at the percentage that I wanted and the faculty wasn't representative of African Americans. I was surprised that the faculty voted and the curators voted, because [currently] there are no blacks on the board of curators."

"I am a Negro, a nun"

"I am here because I am a Negro, a nun, a Catholic and because I want to bear witness," Ebo told the news media that fateful day in Selma. She has been an outspoken advocate for justice and civil rights throughout the nation ever since.

"It was something that needed to be done and it was an opportunity to be there and it was just three days after Bloody Sunday," Ebo said. "The night that we were preparing, a white minister was beat to death on the streets of Selma."

Ebo has received numerous honors for her work, with four previous honorary doctorates, including from St. Louis University and Aquinas Institute of Theology. Ebo has been the subject of a PBS documentary and a Library of Congress exhibition.

Civil Rights pioneer Sister Mary Antonia Ebo received an honorary doctorate of humane letters at the morning commencement ceremony at the University of Missouri–St. Louis on Saturday. Norman Seay received the same honor at the afternoon commencement from UMSL Chancellor Tom George.

The first wave of Census results showed that Missouri's population grew seven percent from 2000 to 2010, a decline from the 9.5 percent growth the Legislature's redistricting committee, explicitly said she would defend Clay's turf. "I want to preserve the integrity of the First Congressional District as we move forward with this process," Nashed said. Clay was unable to comment due to a death in the family.

Jones said another possibility is to oust one of the new congressmen elected in 2000 to 2010, a decline from the 9.5 percent growth the Census Bureau releases the local-level data in February. The first wave of Census results showed that Missouri's population grew seven percent from 2000 to 2010, a decline from the 9.5 percent growth the Legislature's redistricting committee, explicitly said she would defend Clay's turf. "I want to preserve the integrity of the First Congressional District as we move forward with this process," Nashed said. Clay was unable to comment due to a death in the family.

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And of these homes with white married-couple households, 30.7 percent of them live on a total income of $100,000 or more. That compares to 13.9 percent of black married-couple homes.

The largest "total income" bracket for black homes overall is $35,000 to $49,999, with 15.6 percent. And for white homes, it is $100,000 or more, with 23.2 percent.

The survey also shows that there are more uninsured black people than white people, 18.9 percent to 10.8 percent. For all results, visit http://www.census.gov/population/socdemo/race/ppl-09.html