



F E B R U A R Y 2 0 0 3

"Father of Modern Black Historiography" Dr. Carter Godwin Woodson (1875-1950)

"There will be a vast respect and thankfulness for the life of this man. Under the harshest conditions of environment Woodson kept to one great goal, worked at it stubbornly and with unwavering application and died knowing that he accomplished much if not all that he planned."

- W.E.B. Du Bois

By Christen Tibbs
Staff Writer

During Black History Month, we celebrate and remember, through various festivities, the advances blacks have made throughout history. February is the time when we share and reflect upon the impact our ancestors have made in our lives. We show our appreciation for their determination, strength and perseverance in a fight for equality and the American dream.

A prominent figure in Black history, in addition to many others, is Dr. Carter G. Woodson. Often, Black History Month is celebrated without knowing when or how it was developed, not to mention who helped create it. Dr. Woodson has been named the "Father of Modern Black Historiography" because of his own personal struggle to have the calendar mark the accomplishments of African Americans.

According to Jacqueline Goggin, author of *Carter G. Woodson: A Life in Black History*, Dr. Woodson, a son of freedman, was "taught to be polite to everyone but to insist on recognition as a human being, and if necessary, to fight to the limit for it." He educated himself while working on the family farm as a sharecropper. After attending Douglas High School in Huntington, West Virginia for two years, Woodson received his teaching diploma. Following this, he earned his B.A. and M.A. from the University of Chicago. He made history in 1912 when he became the second African American to earn a doctorate degree from Harvard.



As an educator, Dr. Woodson was disturbed by the disregard or misinterpretation of black history in the educational system. As a result, he gladly took the responsibility of making black history a part of world history, instead of a special sector to be held apart. After founding The Association for the Study of Negro Life and History in 1915, Dr. Woodson campaigned for Negro History Week, which was gained in 1926. He viewed this time as a way to provide awareness of black history and to have this subject matter integrated into the educational structure to be taught truthfully as world history. Woodson believed that Negro History Week would no longer be necessary for promoting awareness when black history and world history had become one. Negro History Week became Black History Week, and Black History Week became Black History Month in 1976.

This February, we pay tribute to the historian and educator, Dr. Carter G. Woodson, for his special contributions that led to Black History Month. His extraordinary drive not only increased awareness of the great accomplishments made by African Americans, but it also made steps toward bringing black history and world history together as one.



February is Black History Month!

The Black Cultural Center offers creative, educational and enlightening cultural and community events and programs for everyone. Enjoy a series of special events that honors the past, addresses the present and celebrates the human spirit. Throughout the month there will be performances, lectures, art exhibitions and programs featuring a multitude of talented artists.

Acclaimed author Maya Angelou is among the highlights of the BCC Black History Month events. Regarded as one of the great voices of contemporary literature, Angelou is a poet, educator, historian, best-selling author, actress, playwright, civil rights activist, producer and director. She has written 12 best-selling books, including *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings*. Angelou's presentation will be on Wednesday, February 5 at 7pm in the Elliott Hall of Music. Throughout the month of February I hope you will visit the art exhibits in the Robert L. Ringel and Stewart Center galleries entitled, "Ritual and Rebirth: African Masks from the West Guinea Coast" and "Images of Human Rights." "Ritual and Rebirth" features masks that were traditionally used in ceremonial rites of passage in which young men and women were indoctrinated into the social responsibilities of adulthood. "Images of Human Rights" includes a portfolio assembled to celebrate the creation of the South African Bill of Rights. The BCC Haraka Writers are composing writings that reflect upon the exhibit and will present their works on February 13.

Grandma's Quilt – The Journey of an African Woman from Slavery to Freedom" will be presented on February 11, in the Experimental Theatre. "Grandma's Quilt" is a theatrical chronicle of an African female born in slavery and her struggle in finding freedom. Closing out the month of February will be "Black Women's Studies and the Academy: A National Symposium" February 27 through March 1. Confirmed speakers include Delores Aldridge, Darlene Clark Hine, Valerie Lee, Obioma Nnaemeka and Jessie Carney Smith. (see page 3 for complete story) In addition to the events listed, there will be several performances by the BCC ensembles and other programs sponsored by the center to celebrate Black History Month. Please feel free to stop by the center and pick up a complete listing of our programs and events.

Renee Thomas

Up Coming Events

Spoken Word

The BCC Haraka Writers will present poems in response to the Images of Human Rights artwork on display in the Stewart Center Gallery.

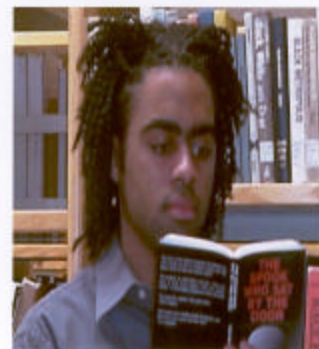
Thursday, February 13, 2003
Stewart Center Galleries 7:00 PM

Meeting of the Scholars

Black Women's Studies and the Academy A National Symposium

The Symposium will feature a panel of African American women with profound knowledge of Black Women's studies and the current issues facing them. Confirmed Speakers: Delores Aldridge, Darlene Clark Hine, Valerie Lee, Obioma Nnaemeka and Jessie Carney Smith. Mark your calendar for a weekend of stimulating debate and intellectual sharing.

Thursday, February 27- Saturday, March 1, 2003



Brandon Carter

to lead discussion on
THE SPOOK WHO SAT BY THE DOOR

by Sam Greenlee

Thursday & Friday, February 6 & 7,
2003, 6:30 pm
Black Cultural Center Library
Purdue University

1100 3rd Street, West Lafayette, IN

For more information contact:
BCC Librarian Dorothy Washington,
(765) 494-3093

Library hours: Monday-Friday, 8am-9:30 pm

web site: www.purdue.edu/bcc/library

The Black Cultural Center Brings Symposium to the Purdue Community

By Collette C. Emery,
Senior Writer

According to author Jacqueline Jones Royster, author of *Traces of a Stream*, African American women have been persistently subjected to measures of value and achievement that have been set and monitored by others, who have not had their interests or potential in mind. Historically, black women have been discounted, ignored, and disempowered. Barriers of social, political and cultural definition harshly impacted the lives of African American women and cast them in the shadow. Not only have black women been limited, but their achievements have been filtered, screened even from view of the women themselves. And when they do seep into view, black women's accomplishments are typically considered exceptional rather than as part and parcel of a pattern. Despite the constraints of stereotype, single-parent homes, lack of solid home structure and the genocide of AIDS, African American women's resistance to sociopolitical strongholds indicates that although their performance may have been devalued, they have not been thoroughly neutralized or contained.

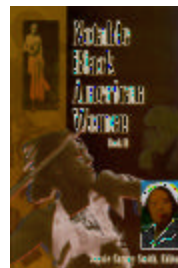
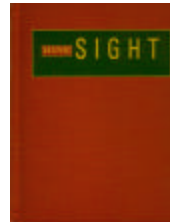
In celebration, exploration and evaluation of the life road that African American women journey, the Black Cultural Center is hosting the first "**Black Women's Studies and the Academy**"—a symposium that will provide an the opportunity for scholars, faculty, students, professionals and other researchers to trace the development of Black women's studies as a

discipline; discuss theory, pedagogy, and epistemology as related to the study of Black women; and consider issues of institutionalization and canonization. The symposium will provide a forum for scholars to consider critical issues facing Black women and explore possibilities of a collective research agenda toward effecting positive social change. Topics discussed will be Africana Women, Anna J. Cooper's *A Voice from the South*, Black feminism, Canonization, Collection Development and Library Services, Curriculum development, Cultural Aesthetics, Ethics, Globalization, Institutionalization, Literature, Origins

and Development of the Discipline, Pedagogy, Science and Technology, Spirituality and Writers and Thinkers.

"The Black Cultural Center is pleased to convene this national symposium," on "We are proud that two of our invited speakers, Drs. Delores P. Aldridge and Darlene Clark Hine, whose careers have significantly impacted the development of Black Women's Studies, have been associated with this institution. Thus, we feel it is most befitting that the symposium, an event [we] hope will chart the future directions of Black Women's Studies and advance the conversation of the discipline within the academy, is held at Purdue University."

Other featured speakers include Valerie Lee, professor and chair of the Department of English at Ohio State University, Obioma Nnameka associate professor of Women's Studies, African American Studies and French at Indiana University, and Jessie Carney Smith, the William and Camille Cosby Professor in the Humanities and University Librarian at Fisk University. The Black Women's Studies and the Academy will be held at Purdue University February 27-March 1, 2003.



Cultural Arts Series

January - February, 2003

Ritual & Rebirth: African Masks from the West Guinea Coast and Images of Human Rights Art Exhibit

Running through February 23, 2002, the Galleries will present a pair of exhibits representing the traditional and the contemporary in African Culture. The Robert L. Ringle Gallery will present association masks from the Poro and Soweii societies. At the same time in the Stewart Gallery, "Images of Human Rights" will unfold the promise of the burgeoning South African democracy in a portfolio of black and white woodcuts recently acquired for the Purdue Galleries permanent collection. The BCC Haraka Writers will present poems in response to the artwork on February 13.

Robert L. Ringle Gallery
Stewart Center Gallery

Saturday, February 8, 2003

Doreen Rappaport~ Lecture

Doreen Rappaport is the author of several **children's books including** *More! Stories and Songs of Slave Resistance*, a riveting anthology compiled by Doreen Rappaport and stirringly illustrated by Shane W. Evans. *Martin's Big Words: The Life of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.*; illustrated by Bryan Collier, received the Caldecott Honor Award and a Coretta Scott King Honor Award for illustration.

BCC Multipurpose Room
1:00PM

Tuesday, February 11, 2003

Grandma's Quilt~ The Journey of an African Woman from Slavery to Freedom"

Theatrical Performance

Grandma's Quilt is a one-woman theatrical chronicle of an African female born in slavery and her struggle through into finding freedom. "Grandma's Quilt begins in the post-slavery era of the 1920's, winds through two world wars, explores the innocence of America in the 1940's and 50's and completes in present day.

Experimental Theater
7:00 PM



Prominent African Americans Continue the Tradition

By *Faihe Ways Staff Writer*

Motivation and inspiration from within the African American community are priceless gifts that extend beyond the boundaries of time. Pioneers of peace, defenders of equality, and beneficiaries of progress can all be found within our rich heritage. As a race we have excelled and established ourselves as intelligent leaders within the world. We must thank our ancestors for their fervent activism and undying will that has helped provide better lives for generations to come. We have emerged as prominent doctors, lawyers, writers, government officials and overall positive contributors to society. Two of the most prominent names within the African American community are Dr. Ben Carson and Maya Angelou. Their accomplishments are worthy of praise and recognition. They have persisted in the steps of our ancestors by continuing the tradition of establishing and preserving African American excellence.

Born in 1951 in Detroit, Michigan, Dr. Ben Carson is a renowned neurosurgeon and real life miracle worker. Despite a rough upbringing filled with divorced parents, poverty, and overall obstacles, he managed to emerge as true success. Although his mother, Sonya Carson, only attained a third grade education, she instilled the importance of education within her son at an early age. Ben embraced those principles and excelled in academics. He attended Yale University on an academic scholarship and later attended the University of Michigan Medical School. He also completed his neurosurgery training at Johns Hopkins Hospital which was a highly coveted position due to the fact that Johns Hopkins only accepted two students a year out of more than 125 applicants. Upon completion of his neurosurgery training at Johns Hopkins, Dr. Carson traveled to Australia for additional rigorous medical training. At the age of thirty-three, Dr. Carson was named the youngest-ever director of pediatric neurosurgery at Johns Hopkins Hospital.

Dr. Ben Carson is a highly respected and honored man within the field of medicine. He is most recognized for his separation of the Siamese twins. An openly religious man,

Dr. Carson has a strong foundation that is built on his faith in God. In his first autobiography, *Gifted Hands*, he journeys through his life highlighting the struggles and successes he encountered along the way. Dr. Carson is an inspiration to aspiring African Americans because he represents the belief that without struggle there is no progress. He overcame adversity to achieve his goals and we can all apply the same principles and disciplined attitude to our lives.

“Phenomenal Woman” is the most appropriate phrase to describe Maya Angelou. She was born on April 4, 1928 as Marguerite Johnson, but the name Maya was a nickname given to her by her brother. Distinguished writer, poet, director and performer are among a few of Maya Angelou’s major accomplishments. She has written a series of autobiographies, a collection of essays and numerous books of poetry primarily based on personal experiences from her own life. One incident chronicled in her writing occurred at the age of seven when her mother’s boyfriend raped her, which traumatized Angelou and caused her to stop speaking for a period of time. After this incident Angelou sought refuge in studying music, literature, and writing and thus gained the will to speak again.

This strong will drove her to write with a profound voice that allowed her to emerge as one of the most prominent and respected voices not only in the African American community, but in the world. Maya Angelou has acquired an assortment of awards during her lifetime. She was nominated for a Pulitzer Prize in 1971, as well as a Tony Award in 1975 for her Broadway performance debut. She received a Grammy Award in 1995. Maya Angelou writings portray the voice of perseverance and realization of potential in world of disorder and chaos. We should congratulate her works and embrace her philosophies because they exemplify the significance and essence of our rich African American culture. Dr. Ben Carson and Maya Angelou have continued the tradition of African American excellence and we must strive to do the same.

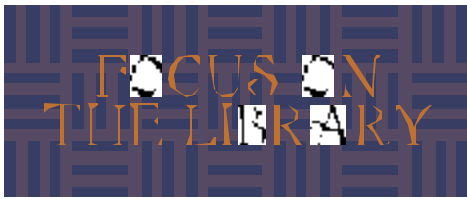


Coming Soon
An Evening with

Maya Angelou

Dr. Angelou will captivate the Purdue Community lyrically with vigor, force and perception. Hailed as one of the great voices of contemporary literature, Dr. Angelou continues to travel the world making appearances, sharing her wisdom. She is only the second poet in the U.S. History to have the honor of writing and reciting original work at the Presidential Inauguration

February 5, 2002 7PM
Elliot Hall of Music



The Face of Our Past

Images of Black Women from Colonial America to the Present

By Christen Tibbs
Staff Writer

“We have traveled along two parallel paths, black history and women’s history, to bring black women onto center stage. Working as hard as we could at the intersections of race and gender to create still another story, ... we have made considerable progress in our efforts to identify black women and to answer the inevitable questions about who they are.”

-Darlene Clark Hine

Did you know that African American women served as spies for the Union Army during the Civil War? It’s true. The widespread roles and images of black women in America may surprise you. *The Face of our Past: Images of Black Women from Colonial America to the Present* by Hilary Mac Austin and Kathleen Thompson is full of eye-opening facts.

The book demonstrates the diverse positions held by black women throughout American history. The readers are provided with detailed, accurate depictions of colonial and modern black women. Covering this range of time, the authors are able to balance the “mammy” and slave images often associated with black women with groundbreaking, professional images of the same time period.

This hardback delves into the family lives of black women in addition to their work experience throughout generations. During an era when most black women held positions as field laborers and domestic workers, many gained the education necessary to become skilled physicians, lawyers and educators. Mac Austin and Thompson share the stories of black women in professional roles such as a high school principal in Hawaii 1898, black women sweating in American factories during

World War I, black female doctors in the 1920s, a district attorney of New York in the 1930s and the first female bishop in the history of the Episcopal Church.

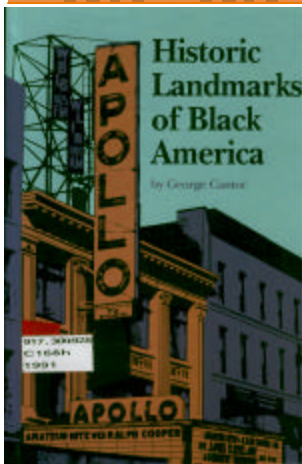
We learn of the actions of black women to gain freedom and equality throughout history in the midst of hurt and pain. In spite of Mamie Bradley’s heart-wrenching sorrow, she decided to bury her son, Emmett Till, in a glass-topped coffin, allowing all Americans to see the torture mobs had put him through. Mac Austin and Thompson show us a black, female student at Howard University in 1934 wearing a symbolic noose in protest of the omission of lynching from the agenda of a national conference on crime.

The Face of Our Past guides readers through travel into additional subjects such as education, class, religion, community, inner life and even recreation. This book grants those who curiously turn its pages a discovery of how these topics relate to the experiences of black women throughout the ages. Enlighten yourself with Hilary Mac Austin and Kathleen

Thompson’s book of wisdom and truth, which allows us to view black women in ways rarely seen and even more seldom taught.

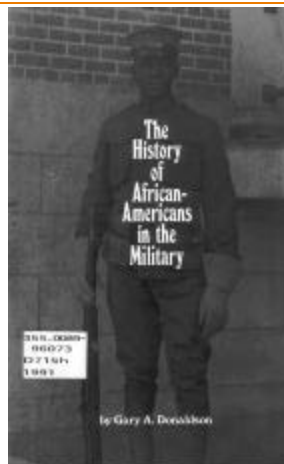


Recommended Reading



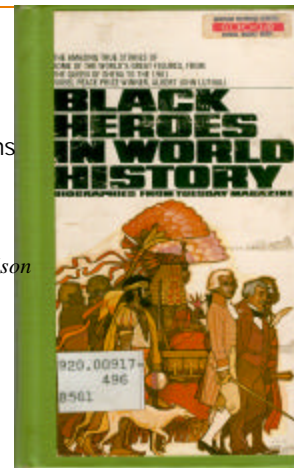
Historic Landmarks of Black America

By George Cantor



The History of African Americans in the Military

By Gary A. Donaldson



Black Heroes in World History

Biographies From Tuesday Magazine



Introducing Joi Warren, President of the Black Student Union

Collette C. Emery, Senior Writer

Campus Culture usually focuses on noteworthy African Americans who enrich the Purdue campus whether through professorship, administration or counselling. However, this month we've searched among our student leaders, and Joi Warren, president of the Black Student Union (BSU), is a shining star, who through means of service, leadership and outreach has brightened the light of African American students on campus. For one year, Joi has led the way for strengthening the voice and image of African American students.

"I have enjoyed watching the BSU build to more than 50 dedicated and hardworking members this year," said Warren. "I don't take credit for that, but a lot of pride in the accomplishment we've had so far and the many more we're setting to do."

"I have also tried to develop and maintain close relationships with all of the members so they can learn from me and my mistakes," she continued. "The members can rely on me for direction, advice, and encouragement. I understand the difficulty in being a 'dot' in such a large establishment, and if there is anything that I can do to make their time here more comfortable, then I will do so."

Under Warren's leadership, the BSU has taken a more aggressive approach in reaching African American students on campus. She has encouraged the executive board to be more active in the movement of their ideas in connection with the goals of the University, while continuing to promote unity among all organizations. BSU members have had the opportunity to grow and develop, which has initially led to the building up of the organization along with others that cater to minority students. The Thanksgiving Unity Dinner was a welcomed success as well as the upcoming Minority Leader's Retreat, which targets student leaders to collaborate on diversity issues.

"Through my leadership and direction, I believe I have encouraged my executive board as well as the new members to strive to have a voice on this campus, become involved in the movement of their ideas and

goals of the University and continue to promote unity among the organizations," said Warren. "I can't say that I single handedly devise and execute programs to fulfill the objective, but I strive to maintain



Joi at the office

our annual events as well as implement new ideas to further our minority students, including the first BSU Aspirations and Endeavors Book Scholarship."

A leader at heart, Warren comes from supportive family—who has walked with her on this academic journey. As a (soon to be) first generation graduate, she is "a product of young parents, through trials and tribulations," she said. "They have always provided and encouraged me to set forth to achieve my dreams. They have always praised my accomplishments and pushed me to achieve even more. Despite their circumstances, I've never struggled or suffered and for that, I strive to have the dedication and commitment that they have had for me as parent. For a role model, Warren looks to Jesus Christ. "I look at myself, my characteristics and my flaws as Man and I admire and strive to be like a Man who would give His life for someone so undeserving as myself," she said.

A Graduating Senior in Psychology minoring in OLS, Child Development & Family Studies and African American Studies, Warren chose to attend Purdue because of its prestige, location and challenge. Coming here enabled her "to

achieve my highest aspirations as well as provide other opportunities that I might not afford in another place," she said. After graduation, Warren plans to attend graduate school, pursuing a MS degree in Industrial Organization Psychology, focusing on Human Resource and Diversity Consulting.

Warren's vision for the BSU is to see it grow not only in numbers, but also in the principles, values and programs that it represents. "Hopefully, with increasing numbers in hard working members, as well as the new ties we're developing with other organizations, faculty and the BCC, we will be able to implement more programs and scholarships to aid other students," she said.

As an African American student who will have achieved a four-year degree, Warren hopes to see other African American students "continue to pursue goals and belief and faith in oneself. I hope to see our students continue to pursue further degrees, accept honors and awards, apply and be accepted to the best programs and jobs and not settle for what someone has led them to believe they only deserve."

Warren encourages students to be steadfast in their education, life and spirituality. "Always set out to achieve whatever it is your heart desires," she said. "I know it sounds cliché but, remember that nothing should come between achieving goals and dreams, so take the extra step to achieve them. Don't settle. I am by no means saying that the road to success is easy. Sometimes, being a minority is another stumbling block within itself, but no goal should be unattainable. And in pursuits, live by my favorite scripture and direction, Philippians 4:13 *I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.*"

The History of Valentine's Day



By *Faith Ways*
Staff Writer

Love is in the air as we enter into the month of romance.

Filled with lots of hugs and kisses and hearts overflowing with special wishes, February is considered to be the month of love. Lovers, loved ones, families, and friends use this time of year to express their warmth and love for one another.. Expressions of love are given and displayed throughout the month, but especially on the most romantic day of the year, Valentine's Day. We use this day to demonstrate our love and emotional sentiments in an assortment of ways. Flowers, cards and candy are just a few things we use to show those closest to us how much we love, care for and appreciate them. Although this holiday is nationally practiced and a known moneymaker for retailers, what is the true meaning, purpose and origin behind Valentine's Day?



The origin of Valentine's Day can be linked back to the Catholic Church during the early fourth and fifth centuries A.D. Originally, Valentine's Day was created as a temporary substitute for a well-known ritual that the Romans had taken part in since the fourth century B.C. The ritual involved the Romans' celebration of a young man's rite of passage to the god Lupercus. The celebration included a lottery, which assigned the young men a female companion for the duration of a year. During this year, the female companion acquired in the lottery, along with the young boy, was meant to provide one another with mutual pleasure. This lottery was held in mid February and was repeated annually.



Due to the spread of Christianity, the leaders of the Catholic Church decided to dispose of their lottery practice. In its place the leaders chose to pick a lover's saint to replace the god Lupercus. They selected St. Valentine, a bishop who had been imprisoned and eventually martyred in the third century A.D. for his strong beliefs concerning love. He was stoned, clubbed, and beheaded in February of 270. St. Valentine was convicted for performing secret marriages after the Emperor had outlawed them. He did not feel that young lovers should suffer the pain of being denied the privilege and happiness of marriage. During his time in prison he corresponded with the members of his parish by sending letters and love notes. He also fell in love with the daughter of the jailer who was blind. In his final days, St. Valentine sent his love a farewell message that contained an epic closing: "From Your Valentine". Throughout his life, St. Valentine exhibited his personal conviction to love and he even ended his life by sending love to the love of his life.

From the inspiration and abundance of love that dwelled within St. Valentine comes our well-known and respected day of love or Valentine's Day. One man's commitment to love has resulted in a national holiday for lovers everywhere. We should remember St. Valentine's loving nature and commit ourselves to being dedicated to love. This Valentine's Day remember the true meaning, purpose and origin behind this special day by always remembering to share and give love.



Expression with Love

*Join the Haraka Writers on
February 14, 2003
for an evening of love poems.*



This is my final “And Finally” with the Black Cultural Center. My part-time stay here has been all too brief and I’m struggling with how to reflect on its quick passing. Al Pacino’s shout from “Scent of a Woman” comes to mind. “I’m just gettin’ warmed up!” he growled in that prep school “courtroom.” But it’s freezing cold outside and it’s time that I move on. Lynette Daughtery will be joining the BCC as the program advisor and newsletter editor. I think her full-time dedication will bolster the many programs offered at the center, as well as this monthly newsletter.

I hope I didn’t pass on too many bad habits to the three students on staff. As a deadline writer, I tend to put off the writing task until the last possible moment. This month has been no different. Collette Emery, our senior writer, suggested I write about my experiences as a white person with Black History Month. So, with another deadline looming, here goes.

Ten years ago in February (and even that ten has seemingly flown by) I read *The Autobiography of Malcolm X*. It was the same year that Spike Lee’s movie version of the book came out, and you saw the “X” baseball caps all over the place. I was living in Indianapolis, had finally graduated from IUPUI the previous May, and really had no idea about how I was going to make a living with my journalism degree. I had a series of part-time jobs—putting weekend high school sports scores on the AP wire at the *Indianapolis Star*, delivering furniture, and still selling ads for my old college newspaper. I knew I wanted to write, but quite frankly wasn’t sure if I had anything to say.

What amazed me in reading and later seeing the story of Malcolm X was the number of changes a person can go through in one lifetime. From an impoverished childhood to small then bigger-time crime. From prison to one of the leaders of the Nation of Islam. From someone misinformed to someone who sought the ultimate truths, even at the cost of his life. His dedication to self education stands out in my mind, especially with the movie images of him copying out all of the words from a dictionary. In the end, his words gave rise to one of the most powerful voices of the 20th Century.

In my brief BCC stint, I’ve tried to encourage the students to tell stories in their own voices—to share news of events, books and people on campus in the same way they might tell their best friends. Along the way I got to say things I’ve always heard about writing, like how hard it is to entice readers, and why five words are better than ten. The experience has been a wonderful and enlightening twist in my own life. As I age, still trying to figure out what it is in this life that I have to say, I know that I’m bettered by any cultural exchange. And because of the BCC I have indeed changed.



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