The Association for Black Cultural Centers
22nd Annual Conference Comes to Purdue

By Allias Jones, Staff Writer

The 22nd Annual Association for Black Culture Centers Conference will be hosted by Purdue University from Thursday, October 25th through Sunday, October 28th. The Association for Black Culture Centers (ABCC) is an organization that seeks to celebrate, promote, and critically examine the culture of people of African descent through the institutionalizing of black and multicultural centers to enhance individual, community, and global development. In 1987, ABCC founder and Executive Director, Dr. Fred Lee Hord, as the first director of the Center for Black Culture and Research at West Virginia University, introduced the idea of a new organization to promote networking among cultural centers. After receiving administrative acceptance and a large following across 17 colleges, the ABCC has grown into an organization with more than 700 colleges and universities that are members or affiliates in all 50 states as well as in the Caribbean and West Africa, increasingly involving historically and predominantly Black colleges, universities, museums, and community centers along with multicultural centers and offices. Beginning in 1989, the ABCC conferences serves to give the attendees the opportunity to learn more about relevant issues related to black and multicultural centers as well as the field of African American (Black) Studies. The theme this year will be “Culture, Concerns, and Contradictions: Being Black In The Age Of Obama.”

In addition to panel presentations by scholars from across the country also featured at this year’s ABCC conference will be speakers Dr. Michael Dyson, Dr. Lori Patton Davis, Dr. Reiland Rabaka, and Dr. Victor Anderson. Dr. Michael Eric Dyson - who is an American Book Award recipient and two-time NAACP Image Award winner - is one of the nation’s most influential and renowned public intellectuals. He has been named one of the 150 most powerful African Americans by Ebony magazine. The Philadelphia Weekly contends that Dr. Dyson “is reshaping what it means to be a public intellectual by becoming the most visible black academic of his time.” Dr. Lori Patton Davis is a higher education scholar whose research agenda focuses on African Americans in postsecondary contexts. She is a well-known researcher and scholar in the area of culture centers. Her dissertation focused on culture centers, entitled, From Protest to Progress: An Examination of the Relevance, Relationships and Roles of Black Culture Centers. Reiland Rabaka, Ph.D., is an Associate Professor of African, African American, and Caribbean Studies in the Department of Ethnic Studies and the Humanities Program at the University of Colorado at Boulder, where he is also an Affiliate Professor in the Women and Gender Studies Program and a Research Fellow at the Center for Studies of Ethnicity and Race in America (CSERA). He is an editorial board member of the Journal of African American Studies, Journal of Black Studies, and Africana Studies Annual Review. Dr. Victor Anderson is the Oberlin Theological School Professor of Ethics and Society at Vanderbilt Divinity School and Director of the Program in African American and Diaspora Studies in the College of Arts and Sciences. A member of the Vanderbilt faculty since 1992, he is author of several books. Online registration information and any other pertinent information regarding matters such as lodging and driving directions can be found at the ABCC website, www.abcc.net.
Welcome Readers ...

The fall semester theme for the Purdue Black Cultural Center is “Black Detroit: The History, Movement & Music That Changed a Nation”. This fall is unique because we are focusing on a particular city for our theme. Detroit was selected because the city provides an incredible narrative of the African American experience in the United States. Throughout the semester, the BCC will focus on three core components: the Abolitionist Movement/ Underground Railroad, the Great Migration and the birth of the middle class, and the rebirth of the city of Detroit.

Detroit played a critical role in the Underground Railroad as the last stop in a long journey for fugitives before crossing the river to Canada and freedom. During the Great Migration 1910-1940, unprecedented numbers of African Americans flocked to Detroit. The Great Migration is a term used to describe the mass migration of African Americans from the Southern United States to industrial centers of the north. It is estimated over 100,000 African Americans came to Detroit to escape harsh segregationist laws and pursue economic opportunities. In the 1950’s Detroit hit its peak in population. Since 1960 the city has lost 60% of its population due to the de-industrialization of the city and the economic downturn. Despite the urban blight the city has experienced, the residents who remain have a spirit of resiliency. Today there is a renaissance happening in Detroit. We are excited to spend this semester exploring how the artistic community is playing a key role in the reinvention of Detroit, and learn more about the historical significance of the city.

Beyond the Detroit theme, we are positioning the BCC to be a campus leader in providing volunteer opportunities for students to play a larger role in creating a community of respect. The Race Experience will be on campus October 15 – 29. During this time you can enter the Race Experience kiosk and see yourself as a person of another race. The Race Experience will be complimented by a series discussions sponsored by the Division of Diversity and Inclusion centered on race and identity.

In addition to our programmatic efforts, the BCC has entered into a new partnership with the office of the Dean of Students. The BCC is providing meeting space for DOS staff members to host office hours on Thursday afternoons at the BCC. Administrators from DOS are available to meet with students to discuss academic and personal concerns, emergency loans, withdrawals and other confidential information. This collaboration is an expansion of our already existing relationship with the Counseling and Psychological Services drop in service. These efforts are designed to promote a holistic approach to education at the BCC.

I look forward to seeing you at upcoming BCC programs and utilizing the center throughout the semester.

Renee Thomas
Celebrating 100 Years of Hail Purdue

Purdue’s 2012 Homecoming festivities take place October 12th through October 14th. Homecoming is a celebration we look forward to every year, almost like a family reunion! You walk in the welcoming doors of the Black Cultural Center and await to see what familiar faces are back here on Purdue’s campus from years ago or maybe just last year. Each year brings a renewed feeling with family and friends reuniting.

The 2012 Homecoming theme is “Celebrating 100 years of ‘Hail Purdue.” The Purdue Black Alumni Organization is focusing their homecoming weekend activities on honoring African American Purdue athletes. Along with celebrating black athletes there will be a memorial tribute to Roger Blalock.

Roger Blalock passed away unexpectedly on April 9, 2012 at the age of 65. He was a very active member here at Purdue. He served Purdue University for 45 years Purdue and was working as a Senior Associate Athletics Director until his retirement in January 2012. He also worked in the Purdue’s Office of Admissions as an associate director, assistant director, and financial aid counselor. Before Blalock moved into his administrative position he was a men’s basketball assistant coach from 1974-1979. He supervised men’s and women’s cross country, softball, men’s and women’s track and field, volleyball and wrestling. He graduated from Purdue with a bachelor’s in physical education and a concentration in communication. He excelled as an athlete as well, averaging 12.3 points every basketball game. He was a two-year letter winner in basketball.

In addition to a registration open house on Friday evening at the Black Cultural Center other events include:

- Saturday, Continental Breakfast at the BCC (Free) 8:00-10:00 am
- Saturday, Black Voices of Inspiration perform @ 9:15 am on Stadium Mall
- Football Game-noon
- Tailgate at the BCC (Free) -10:00 am – 6:00 pm
- Party at Mackey Arena ($20.00/$25.00 @ the door) 8:00 pm – 2:00 am
- Sunday, Tour Mackey Arena (Free) – 11:15 am

For more information about any of the above events please visit: https://www.purduealumni.org/pbao/events/homecoming-2012/#_schedule

By, Loretta Davidson, Staff Writer

www.purdue.edu/BCC
Empowering & Cultivating
Emerging Leaders Conference 2012

On Saturday, September 8, 2012 the Office of the Vice Provost for Diversity and Inclusion sponsored the 2nd Annual Empowering and Cultivating Emerging Leaders Conference. The conference focuses on encouraging first year undergraduates to take advantage of the many opportunities Purdue offers for them to become on-campus and off-campus leaders.

The morning and afternoon sessions took place in Rawls Hall with lunch being served in the North ballroom of Purdue Memorial Union. After registration the attendees were welcomed by Dr. Melissa Exum, Vice President of Student Affairs. The first breakout sessions were organized according to gender. For the ladies, “Sister to Sister: Discover the Queen in You” was presented by Purdue alumna, Cynthia Newman. The discussion in this session on developing a healthy self-image and building a strong value system. Ms. Newman is an entrepreneur and a regional vice president partner with Primerica. The session for the gentlemen was titled, “Boys to Men.” This consisted of a panel of Purdue male faculty, staff and graduate students facilitated by Alvin Lee, employee relations specialist from Human Resources. During this break out session, male students were given tips on how men of color can practice their full responsibilities, rights and privileges as leaders and students at Purdue.

Two of the highlights of the conference occurred during the luncheon: the announcement of the Roger Blalock Leadership Award winners and the keynote address given by Purdue alumna Chelsea Hayes. Blalock Award winners had to attend last year’s conference, be a student in good academic standing with the university and complete an application which highlights their leadership experience at Purdue and in the community (see pg. 6 for more about the winners). Each winner received a $250 scholarship. Purdue and BVOI alumna, Chelsea Hayes gave a energetic and engaging keynote address titled, “The Lyric Inside the Leader.” Hayes, a 2011 graduate in Public Health Promotion and Public Relation is also the National 2nd VP of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. She recently earned her Masters Degree in communication from Northwestern University and is currently employed in human resources at GE Capital in Chicago. Hayes encouraged students to make friends who cultivate the best in you and to participate in campus organizations and programs which cultivate leadership. The afternoon portion of the conference provided students an opportunity to select from three workshops: “Legacy Leadership,” “#RealTalk about Thriving on a Predominately White Campus” and “Professional Development: Internally, Interpersonally, and on the Internet.” Students who attended the conference described the experience as “The conference was incredible. I am very excited to move forward and leave a lasting impression at Purdue. The conference encouraged me to become more actively involved in diversity and challenge normalcy.” Others added: “The conference was well presented, very informative and entertaining. The presenters addressed a lot of concerns that I had about my 1st year and I am more confident in facing new challenges,” and “The overall conference was engaging and interesting. Definitely happy that I attended and I do want to do more and involve myself. I feel confident about my future and the prospect of finding what I want to do.” There was little doubt after Dr. Christine Taylor’s closing that the conference was a success!

By Juanita Crider, Editor
Enjoy Graphic Novels from the BCC Library
By Allias Jones, Staff Writer

Dark Rain: A New Orleans Story is a graphic novel written by Mat Johnson and illustrated by Simon Gane. The story is centered around two ex-convicts who attempt to gather funds in the wake of Hurricane Katrina to put their life back together. A customs officer named Dabny Arceneaux and an assistant bank clerk named Emmit Jack both end up in jail after making their own poor choices and end up being roommates in a halfway house in Houston, Texas upon their release. After the hurricane hits, Emmit views it as an opportunity to seek justice against the bank that had him arrested by travelling to New Orleans and breaking into the vault he was sure must have been abandoned. Dabny, needing child support money in order to be able to see his daughter, reluctantly agrees to assist Emmit in this endeavor in exchange for a third of the take. Unfortunately, Emmit tries to obtain assistance from one of Dabny’s old military contacts Colonel Driggs, a ruthless schemer and murderer who currently leads the Dark Rain private security team. After pumping Emmit for all of his information, Driggs decides to cash in on the deal without Emmit or Dabny, turning the hunt into a battle of wills and skill.

The graphic novel does a particularly notable job in giving different voices to each of the characters that the reader comes across. There are many different stories and just as many powerful emotions and realities depicted within this book; when a society begins to crumble the true priorities and character of a person are forced to the light, powerful and moving things will happen. This story also does quite well in keeping a mixed tone of light and dark notions throughout the unraveling of these journeys. The resoluteness and passion of the human spirit even as one stares death in the face is a wonderful thing to see. The reader can become one with the struggle of a natural disaster survivor as they realize how much they value life and what they are willing to do to keep it. Dark Rain is a very quick read; I highly suggest picking it up and giving it a good gazing if only to go beyond one’s own experience and attempt to sympathize with another. The illustration, of the pain and enduring fight for survival shared with the audience is all too real. Such perspectives as the ones within this book are valuable, tastefully represented, and touching in a soulful way; I recommend Dark Rain to anybody looking for something meaningful to experience and artistic to enjoy.

Recommended Reading

A. D.: New Orleans After the Deluge
By Josh Neufeld

Yellow Rose of Texas: the Myth of Emily Morgan
By Douglas Brode
Accolades to....... 
During the summer and the first few weeks of the fall semester Purdue faculty, staff, students, and alumni have been doing some great things we would like to share with you.

Congratulations to Associate Professor of History, Cornelius Bynum, who was featured on the PBS series History Detectives. The episode, “KKK Record and the Bright Fiery Cross,” features a record purchased at an Indiana antique store connected to Indiana’s infamous KKK history. If you missed it you can view the episode online at: http://video.pbs.org/video/2256479334

Congratulations to Purdue alum, Baratunde Cola. Cola, earned a Ph.D. in Mechanical Engineering from Purdue in 2008 and is currently an assistant professor in the George Woodruff School of Mechanical Engineering at the Georgia Institute of Technology. Cola was recently awarded the Presidential Early Career Award for Scientists and Engineers (PECASE). This award is the highest honor bestowed by the United States government on engineering and science professionals in the early stages of their careers.

Congratulations Roger Blalock Award Winners.....
These three students are the first recipients of the Blalock Emerging Leader Award.

Elenora Chakraborty 
Major: Biomedical Engineering

Peter Mercado-Reyes 
Major: Biochemistry

Chenetta Watson 
Major: Communications
BCC Exhibit: Sarah Price: The Legacy of a Community Leader

By Joan Ogwumike, Staff Writer

The Black Cultural Center (BCC) has presented the Purdue community with an exhibit for the Lafayette local, and Civil Rights pioneer, Mrs. Sarah Price. Price was originally from Tennessee and moved to Lafayette in 1949 for better job opportunities, but turned her life’s mission to challenging boundaries during the Civil Rights era. The exhibit, located next to the BCC library, contains Mrs. Price’s awards and biography. Mr. Langston Bates, BCC Librarian with the aid of graduate student and library aide, Keturah Nix, set up the exhibit and explains to readers that Mrs. Price was, “As a mother of eight, determined not to let the overt discriminations she faced detour her or her children from integrating and reforming the community she would belong to until her passing in 2011.”

Her significance in the Lafayette community over shadows her personal struggles. “Mrs. Price’s story is one of triumph in the face of adversity and unselﬁsh dedication to a cause greater than herself. In present society, we often encounter many hardships that can either consciously or subconsciously create tunnel vision for us and the situations we go through. However, opening ourselves to a cause greater than our own presents the opportunity for growth and change around us and within us” states Mr. Bates.

In addition to being one out of many trying to make a difference in their communities, the exhibit will help viewers “gain a stronger appreciation for the spirit of service and unity for any cause they may choose. Mrs. Price’s legacy is an inspirational account of an ordinary person who accomplished extraordinary feats by remaining dedicated to a cause she believed would improve the lives of those in her community and throughout the country. In Mrs. Price’s obituary is a quotation from Dr. Mary McLeod Bethune, “Faith is the first factor in a life devoted to service, without it nothing is possible, with it nothing is impossible.” We desire these words to resonate in people’s minds after walking away from Mrs. Price’s exhibit at the BCC.”

With a ﬁnal comment on Mrs. Price’s life, Mr. Bates states, “As we journey our own paths, let us remember to pay homage to the pioneers, such as Mrs. Price, who have devoted their lives to the call of service for humanity. Paying homage occurs in different respects and can include anything from actively working with an organization to simply sharing a story of inspiration to someone outside of your immediate network. Actively involving ourselves keeps the spirit of humility thriving and effectual change consistent.” In the end, respect must be paid to those who have made sacriﬁces and truly deserve it. Please read more on Mrs. Sarah Price by visiting her exhibit.

April 2, 1929- October 25, 2011
Pioneers and Purdue.....

Juanita Crider, Editor

On Saturday August 25, 2012 the Purdue community lost one of our most renown alumna, Neil Armstrong. News of Armstrong’s passing spread quickly throughout the world. I was eight years old when the famed Apollo 11 mission took place. Armstrong, along with Buzz Aldrin landed on the moon in this July 1969 space mission. This lunar mission was the one where Armstrong became the first person to walk on the moon.

In taking in all of the accolades and tributes in honor of Armstrong I have been thinking a lot of the word pioneer. Perhaps the most traditional use of the word pioneer describes individuals (or groups) who are the first to inhabit a territory. Pioneer is also used to define people who open up and originate new ways of thinking and/or new methods of technology. Well that surely describes the people who make up the Purdue community, i.e. faculty, staff, students and alumnae.

So to those of you who are taking your “first steps” on this campus as any of the above but particularly students; you are not only walking the pathways of pioneers, you are in a pioneer factory! Take advantage of all the opportunities to cultivate your pioneering legacy. In 1947 when Armstrong first enrolled as a student on this campus he had no idea he would be walking on the moon 22 years later. I look forward to seeing what trailblazing things some of you will be doing while you are students and years later upon your graduation from Purdue. Boiler Up!