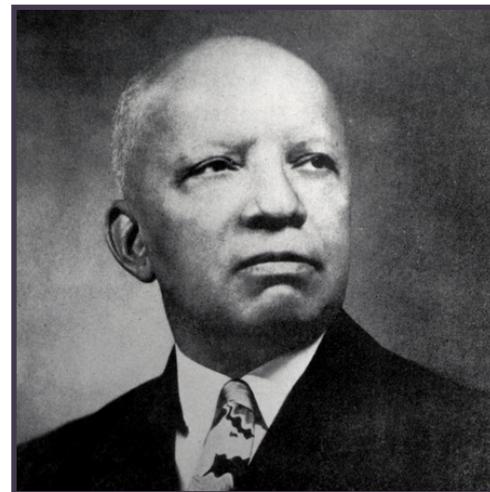




A Century of Black Life, History and Culture

In 1915 Carter G. Woodson founded the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History which today is known as The Association for the Study of African American Life and History (ASALH). He also established Negro History Week in February 1926. Why February? Many believe that February was chosen due to the birthdays of both Abraham Lincoln and Frederick Douglass occurring during the month. However, according to ASALH, Woodson was more interested in changing the already established Black tradition of merely celebrating the lives of these two men and extend it to honoring and studying the contributions of Blacks to world civilization. Negro History week was extremely popular. Many schools embraced the week and black history clubs became popular. ASALH began to set themes and recommend materials for teachers and clubs to use. These materials included plays, poetry, pictures and lesson plans (<http://asalh100.org/origins-of-black-history-month/>).



Dr. Carter G. Woodson

In 1969 a student organization, Black United Students, at Kent State University proposed that the celebration be expanded from a week to a full month. In February of 1970 the first celebration of Black History Month occurred at Kent State. Six years later during the United States Bicentennial the informal expansion was officially recognized by the U.S. government. President Gerald Ford encouraged Americans to “seize the opportunity to honor the too-often neglected accomplishments of black Americans in every area of endeavor throughout our history” (<http://www.ford.utexas.edu/library/speeches/760074.htm>).

ASALH continues to play an important role in the preservation and study of African American life, history and culture. Since 1928 the organization has selected a national theme for the week and later the month. Themes often are analogous with important anniversaries in African American history, for example, in 2004 the theme was “Before Brown, Beyond Boundaries: Commemorating the 50th Anniversary of Brown v. Board of Education.” In 2016 the national Black History Month theme will be: “Hallowed Grounds: Sites of African American Memory.”

ASALH holds an annual conference where scholars present papers on a variety of subjects related to African American history, life and culture. Several Purdue graduate students presented their scholarship at the 2014 conference held in Memphis, TN. Purdue Professor of history, Dr. Cornelius Bynum, is 2016 Co-Chairman of the Academic Program Committee for the organization. The 2015 conference in Atlanta, Georgia September 23-27 will recognize the organization’s centennial. For more information concerning the conference and ASALH in general visit: <http://asalh100.org/>

Juanita Crider, Editor

Build on the Legacy...

February is Black History Month. People of African descent have been on U. S. soil for over 400 years. We have accomplished amazing things against insurmountable odds. African American men and women have survived slavery, braved Jim Crow segregation, and fought tirelessly for equality. We have a stunning history of achievements in every field of human endeavor from art and literature to engineering, science, education, athletics and even space exploration.

Countee Cullen earned national recognition as a poet. His first volume of poetry, *Color* (1925), was published while he was a graduate student at Harvard University. David Crosthwait, born in 1898 earned his Bachelor (1913) and Masters of Engineering degree in 1920 from Purdue University. One of his greatest milestones was the creation of the heating system for the Rockefeller Center and New York, Radio City Music Hall. He was awarded an honorary doctoral degree from Purdue University in 1975. Scientist George Washington Carver (1864-1943) served as head of the Agriculture Department at Tuskegee Institute where he studied ways to improve the depleted soil of the south by crop rotation and planting a variety of foods such as peanuts, soybeans or sweet potatoes. He was the first African American to be honored in a national monument. Distinguished educator Mary McLeod Bethune was the daughter of enslaved Africans. She started a private school in Florida which developed to become Bethune-Cookman University. She was a member of President Franklin D. Roosevelt's Black Cabinet and the founder of the National Council of Negro Women. NCNW is an organization with a mission to advance opportunities and quality of life for African American women, their families and communities. Muhammad Ali is known as one of the most recognized sports figures in the past 100 years. He is one of the greatest athletes in the world of boxing. Ali is widely regarded for the skills he displayed in the ring plus the values he exemplified outside of it. Astronaut Mae Jemison became the first African American woman to travel in space when she went into orbit aboard the Space Shuttle Endeavor nearly 23 years ago. In a speech to youth she stated "I learned very early not to limit myself due to others limited imagination."

February is a time for everyone to learn more about the powerful legacy of African Americans. The Black Cultural Center is an institution that supports and advances the dynamic cultural traditions of African Americans. We all have stories that are special and worth telling. As you think about what your legacy will be remember most people who became history makers all started as ordinary people. Many of you reading this column are embarking on your journey to become history makers. You are exceptional students, strong and imaginative leaders. You must understand that you are living in an era of greatness. Do not be afraid to dare. There is no limit to what you can achieve. As a member of the "younger generation" you are positioned to make a significant contribution and build on the legacy of your ancestors. Celebrate Black History Month by committing to learn something new about African American culture and begin carving out your path to greatness!

Renee A. Thomas
Director

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February Highlights Spectacular Speakers !

Black, history, culture and thought in the United States and throughout the diaspora is at the heart of what we do at the Black Cultural Center during an entire academic year. However, February is typically an extremely busy month due to its designation as National Black History Month. Glancing across the calendar of events for February 2015 two words come to mind: spectacular and stellar!

An exciting aspect of many of the programs and presentations is that they represent collaborative efforts with many departments across campus. For example, on February 10th the Division of Diversity and Inclusion, which includes the Black Cultural Center, the NAECC, the LGBTQ Center and the LCC is sponsoring Soledad O'Brien's Black in America Tour. This event, held from 6-7:30 pm in Elliott Hall of Music. Purdue's own Dr. Venetria Patton, director of African American Studies and Research Center and professor of English, will join a panel featuring: Dr. Julianne Malveaux, Daymond John, and Chuck D. O'Brien will moderate a conversation on contemporary black life in America.

On the very next evening Dr. Carl Hart, Associate Professor of Psychology in both Departments of Psychiatry and Psychology at Columbia University, will present "Promoting Social Justice Through a Neuropsychopharmacology Lens." Hart's most recent book *High Price: A Neuroscientist's Journey of Self Discovery That Challenges Everything You Know About Drugs and Society* is the 2014 recipient of the prestigious Pen/E.O. Wilson Literary Science Writing Award. This event is cosponsored by the BCC, Purdue Libraries, Health and Human Sciences: Psychological Sciences, and The College of Pharmacy.

We will close out the a month of dynamic speakers on February 25 with Angela Davis at 5:00 pm in Elliott Hall of Music. Davis is known for her scholarship and activism. For many decades Davis has been deeply involved in our country's quest for social justice. Her work as an academic emphasizes the importance of building communities and the struggle for economic, racial and gender justice.

Juanita Crider, Editor



Cultural Arts Series

The Will to Adorn: Understanding Black Aesthetics, Identity and Dress

Wednesday March 4, 2015
2:00 pm; BCC

Kadari Taylor-Watson, a Ph.D. student in American Studies will showcase a collection of unique adornment pieces from the BCC collection and provide context of how adornment is an important element of Black cultural histories. Attendees will also have a hands-on "adornment" experience.



BCC Educational and Cultural
Tour
Louisville, KY
March 6-7, 2015



Black Thought Collective
Symposium
Am I Black Enough for You?
Pt. 2
"Jiggaboos vs. Wannabes: The
Madness Continues"

Wednesday March 25, 2015
6:30 pm; BCC

Come join us for the second installment of this BCC discussion series that addresses issues including topics such as identity politics, colorism, religion and cultural representations through lively engaged and informed debate and discussion.

African American Read-In

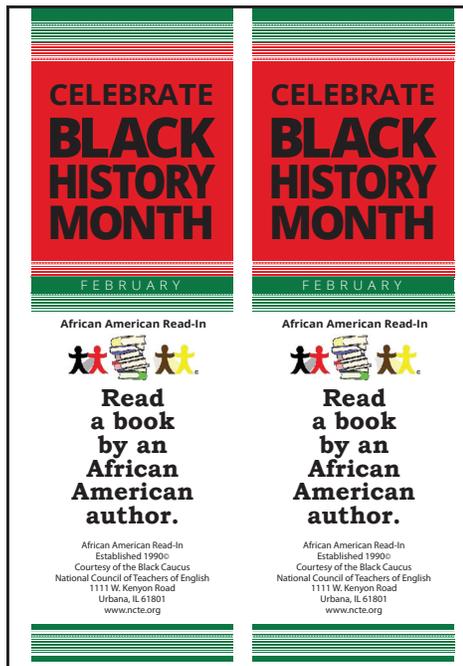
Michael Sullivan, staff writer

The annual African American Read-In will open its doors to the public for free at 5 p.m. on Feb. 20 at the Black Cultural Center. An African American Read-In is a celebration of literary works written by black authors done through public readings of community members. A Read-In serves as an opportunity to educate about the contributions of black writers and to promote literacy within the community.

Jerrie Scott founded African American Read-In 25 years ago as a literary initiative of the National Council of Teachers of English. Since its inception hosts of churches, schools, libraries, bookstores and other community organizations participate and host African American Read-In activities. According to the National African American Read-In web site estimates are that over 5.5 million people would be participating by the year 2014!

The BCC library had their first African American Read-In last year, and the center is continuing this new tradition. Refreshments will be provided to anyone who wishes to attend the event, where they will also have an opportunity to discover African American authors through public readings.

Students, staff, and faculty, as well as community members, are invited to participate by reading a short piece of African American literature (fiction, nonfiction, poetry, etc.) of their choosing. Anyone interested can contact Jamillah R. Gabriel, a BCC Librarian, directly at: jgabrie@purdue.edu Interested parties can provide her with a piece they would like to read so that she can add them to the sign up list.



ACCOLADES TO:

Jamillah R. Gabriel, Black Cultural Center librarian, has been chosen as a recipient of the Institute of Museum and Library Sciences-Rare Book School Fellowship for Early Career Librarians. Gabriel is one of 20 recipients selected from more than 110 applicants. The fellowship provides tuition to attend a week long course at Rare Book School; a year's membership to the Rare Books and Manuscripts Section of the Association of College and Research Libraries; registration fees for the RBMS 2015 conference; and a stipend covering the cost of travel and housing at RBS and RBMS. The RBS - an independent, nonprofit institute that supports the study of the history of books, printing and related subjects - offers over 30 courses annually on special collections, rare books, manuscripts, bibliography and printing. Gabriel plans to use skills gained from the RBS course and apply it to her work with cultural heritage collections. The Institute of Museum and Library Services is the primary source of federal support for the nation's libraries and museums



Focus on the Media

Selma: A Campus and Community Viewing & Dialogue

Michael Sullivan, staff writer

A sold-out crowd of approximately 175 attended a reduced-rate screening of “Selma” at the Wabash Landing 9 on January 18, 2015. Afterwards, 70 to 80 of the viewers participated in a discussion about the film conducted by Purdue University Professor of history, Dr. Cornelius Bynum. Members of the audience ranged from people who had lived during the era that the film was set to young college students.

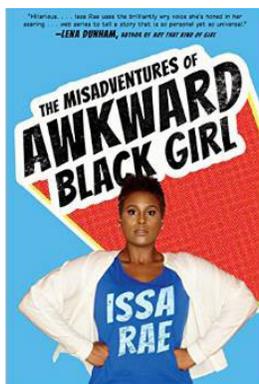
“Selma” focused on Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and his followers’ march from Selma to Montgomery during the American Civil Rights Movement. The film was well received by many attending the viewing. “I think David Oyewolo did an incredible job portraying King, and I like the fact that the film made King human, warts and all, who had doubts, fears, highs, lows, worries, etc. like the rest of us, since it seems that the media, certain pundits, and even allies and friends have deified him,” said Dr. Thomas Gass, BCC program and facilities manager. After the viewing, Gass attended the discussion with many others to discuss the merits and the pitfalls that the film had. The overall tone was positive when discussing the narrative that the film portrayed.

“My favorite part of the film was seeing how diverse the group of protestors were,” said Priscilla Hurn, a junior majoring in OLS, “it was a much bigger moral and ethical issue for everyone.” Despite the positive reception to the film, members of the discussion noticed that there were several historical inaccuracies and misrepresentations in the film.

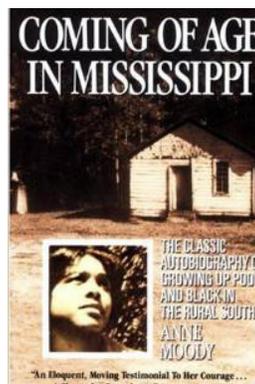
Dr. Gass noted that the facts in “Selma” did not match historical records and some instances were taken out of context. He also noted that the role of women was down played in the film.

Members of the discussion noted that many people who had helped King were left out of the film, which took away from the reality that the Civil Rights Movement was the result of many rather than a few.

Recommended Reading



The Misadventures of Awkward Black Girl
By Issa Rae



Coming of Age in Mississippi
By Anne Moody

Meet Dr. Kim Gallon: Assistant Professor of History



Dr. Kim Gallon

The BCC welcomes Dr. Kimberly Gallon as a new assistant professor of African-American Women's History. Gallon grew up in New Jersey, but she has spent most of her adult life in Pennsylvania. At the University of Pennsylvania, she received her Ph.D. in History with major fields in African American and American History and Women, Gender and Sexuality. She started her career at Purdue earlier this academic year in August.

What is your full academic history (in addition to receiving your Ph.D. from the University of Pennsylvania)?

I actually began my education at a community college in New Jersey. For many years, I chose not to reveal that I started at a community college for fear of the stigma of not taking the “traditional” route to achieving a college degree. Now I believe that skipping over this step in my education does an incredible disservice to the wonderful professors that initiated my intellectual curiosity in the past and prepared me to transfer to Rutgers where I earned a bachelor’s degree in English. More importantly, I believe that my journey can inspire others who also begin their path to a college education in a way that is not always viewed as ideal. After leaving Rutgers, I taught middle school and high school for year at a school in New Jersey. While I was teaching, I enrolled at Drexel University where I earned a Master’s of Science degree in Library and Information Science. I was fortunate enough to get a job as the African American Studies Research Librarian at the Van Pelt library at the University of Pennsylvania before I graduated from Drexel. While I was there, I began taking courses to earn a master’s degree in liberal arts and took a course with professor of history who inspired me to apply for the doctoral program there. And here I am!

What led you to become a professor at Purdue?

My path to Purdue is an interesting one. While I had always known about Purdue, my first-hand experience with it came in 2009 with my participation in the African American Studies & Research Center 25th Annual Symposium. This experience introduced me to the African American Studies program, which I found to be excellent and a place where important work on African Americans and the African Diaspora is being done.

Fast forward to the fall of 2013, I was an assistant professor of History and director of Africana Studies at Muhlenberg College, a small liberal arts college in Pennsylvania, when I noticed posting for professor of African American women’s history. I immediately thought about the vibrancy of the African American Studies & Research Center. After more investigation, I realized that the history department embodies its own excellence and was thrilled at the prospect of teaching and conducting my research at Purdue. I am fortunate that I was hired and am very pleased with my experience thus far!

What do you plan to accomplish at Purdue?

Well, like most faculty at Purdue, I am heavily invested in my research, which is focused on the history of gender and sexuality in the African American and African Diasporic experience. I hope to fulfill these research goals. I also hope to develop more courses on sub-Saharan Africa and the African Diaspora. As it pertains to the Purdue campus and the Black experience,

continued on pg. 8

Black History Trivia

In celebration of Black History Month test your knowledge of African American history. Answers are at the bottom of the page.

1. Who founded the Southern Leadership Conference (SCLC)

- a. Coleman Young
- b. Dr. Ralph Abernathy
- c. Richard Allen

2. Where was Malcolm X killed?

- a. Downtown Boston
- b. Audubon Ballroom, Manhattan
- c. His home in Queens, N.Y.

3. Where was the first “sit-in” at a segregated lunch counter?

- a. Atlanta, Georgia
- b. Greensboro, North Carolina
- c. Charleston, South Carolina

4. At its height, what was the slave population in the U.S.?

- a. 1 million
- b. 2 million
- c. 4 million

5. An all white jury acquitted J.W. Miliam and Roy Bryant for the murder of whom?

- a. Medgar Evers
- b. Emmett Till
- c. Martin Luther King Jr.

6. Sarah Goode was the first African American woman to receive a patent. What did she invent?

- a. Folding Bed
- b. Dry Cleaning Process
- c. Lip Stick

7. The Black Panthers “drafted” these two members of the Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) into their own organization. Who were they?

- a. Bobby Seale and Huey P. Newton
- b. Stokely Carmichael and H. Rap Brown
- c. Eldridge Cleaver and Elaine Brown

8. How long did the Montgomery Bus Boycott last?

- a. 287 days
- b. 381 days
- c. 365 days

9. In what year did Toni Morrison become the first African American to win the Nobel Prize for Literature?

- a. 1990
- b. 1997
- c. 1993

10. In the 1970s, an East Bronx gang named Savage Seven started to organize cultural events for youths. The gang members formed a hip-hop awareness group in 1973 called what?

- a. Naughty By Nature
- b. Zulu Nation
- c. A Tribe Called Quest

ANSWERS: 1.b, 2.b, 3.b, 4.c, 5.b, 6.a, 7.b, 8.b, 9.c, 10.b

And Finally...

Meet Dr. Gallon continued...

I am interested in working with faculty, staff and students to bring greater attention to the connections between global and systemic inequalities that African people across the world continue to experience. I think the West's overall dismissal of Ebola in Liberia, Sierra Leone and Guinea and the grand jury's decision in the Ferguson case in Missouri indicates that Black people's lives are of little value across the globe. For this reason, I hope to create opportunities for students, faculty and staff of African descent to dialogue across our cultural and geographical differences.

What do you do in your spare time?

I have two young children, so I spend a lot of my time with them. However, I like to run. I've just started training for my first half marathon, which I hope to run this coming spring.

Anything else you would like people to know about you?

I am a proud Black feminist who uses my intersectional identities of Blackness and womanhood to advocate for social justice for oppressed people across the world.



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