African American History Month

The Library of Congress, National Archives and Records Administration, National Endowment for the Humanities, National Gallery of Art, National Park Service, Smithsonian Institution and United States Holocaust Memorial Museum join in paying tribute to the generations of African Americans who struggled with adversity to achieve full citizenship in American society. As a Harvard-trained historian, Carter G. Woodson, like W. E. B. Du Bois before him, believed that truth could not be denied and that reason would prevail over prejudice. His hopes to raise awareness of African American's contributions to civilization was realized when he and the organization he founded, the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History (ASNLH), conceived and announced Negro History Week in 1925. The event was first celebrated during a week in February 1926 that encompassed the birthdays of both Abraham Lincoln and Frederick Douglass. The response was overwhelming: Black history clubs sprang up; teachers demanded materials to instruct their pupils; and progressive whites, not simply white scholars and philanthropists, stepped forward to endorse the effort.

The celebration was expanded to a month in 1976, the nation's bicentennial. President Gerald R. Ford urged Americans to “seize the opportunity to honor the too-often neglected accomplishments of black Americans in every area of endeavor throughout our history.” That year, fifty years after the first celebration, the association held the first African American History Month. By this time, the entire nation had come to recognize the importance of Black history in the drama of the American story. Since then each American president has issued African American History Month proclamations. And the association—now the Association for the Study of African American Life and History (ASALH)—continues to promote the study of Black history all year.

This year's theme "Black Women in American Culture and History" honors African American women and the myriad of roles they played in the shaping of our nation. The theme, chosen by the Association for the Study of African American Life and History urges all Americans to study and reflect on the value of their contribution to the nation.

Information provided by: www.africanamericanhistorymonth.gov/index.html
What does it mean to be an African American Professor, Latina Director of Graduate Recruitment, or Native American Interpreter? Del Smith and his co-author, Holly Slay, attempted to answer this question in their recent research published in *Human Relations*. Specifically, they wanted to know how being part of a stigmatized cultural identity influenced how individuals developed their professional identity.

A stigmatized cultural identity is one in which members of a group are assumed to be tainted or inferior, resulting in a blemished identity that prevents easy inclusion in society. African Americans, Latino/a Americans, and Native Americans often face this type of stigma as they enter and progress through their career. Professional identity development under conditions of stigmatized cultural identity presents an interesting puzzle. Professional roles are prestigious and often come with a degree of privilege, yet stigmatized persons are often accorded less prestige and/or privilege because their identities are tainted.

To research the question, Smith and Slay studied the narratives of prominent African Americans in journalistic careers who discussed what it meant to be Black reporters during a period in American history when Black journalists were rare and the professional identity of ‘Black journalist’ did not exist in the minds of many people.

Their research revealed that development of professional identity for members of stigmatized groups evolved from one of adaption to redefinition. In other words, instead of seeking to identify role models and acquiring external feedback to adapt to a presubscribed professional role, members of stigmatized groups began to (1) develop their own unique set of values and goals based on a positive sense of cultural identity, (2) see professional value in the stigmatized identity, and (3) find a balance between the stigmatized and professional identity.

Submitted by: Del Smith
Personal Financial Planning Tips

Our very own Freddie Cox provides AFSA with some financial planning tips!

Re-evaluate your financial situation periodically.

Financial planning is a dynamic process. Your financial goals may change over time due to changes in your lifestyle or circumstances, such as marriage, birth, inheritance, house purchase or change in job status.

Revisit and revise your financial plan accordingly so you can stay on track to meet your long-term goals and changes.

Expressions of Kings Legacy—Record Numbers

The spirit of the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. was celebrated on January 23rd in dance, poetry and a rousing speech by renowned author and activist Cornel West. About 2,500 students and members of the community gathered at the Gordon Field House and Activities Center at Rochester Institute of Technology and were treated to an energized performance by Garth Fagan Dance, the poetic words of Joshua Bennett and West urging them to live the King philosophy. King, said West, was "a revolutionary Christian" who confronted the evils of society and mobilized people for change. "When you really love the poor, you can’t stand the fact that they are treated unjustly, you loathe the fact they are treated unfairly," West said.

To read the complete article please go to:

http://www.democratandchronicle.com/article/20120124/NEWS01/201240335
The Season, launched at the United Nations in 1998, marks the annual 64 calendar days between the memorial anniversary of the assassination of Mohandas K. Gandhi on January 30 and that of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. on April 4. The Season teaches that every person can move the world forward in the direction of peace through daily nonviolent choices and actions.

Visit http://betechangerochester.org/events-calendar/ to check out events around the Rochester area.

In Celebration of Black Heritage Month the City of Rochester’s Black Heritage Committee Presents:

**Heritage Gospel Concert**
Featuring AKOMA and Voices of Thunder
6 p.m., Saturday, Feb. 18
Mt. Olivet Baptist Church
141 Adams St.

**Black Heritage Story Telling**
1 to 2 p.m., Thursday, Feb. 23
Ryan Community Center
530 Webster Ave.
Featuring local storytellers

**Night at the Theatre: "A Raisin in the Sun"**
6:50 VIP Reception, 7:30 Performance
Thursday, Feb. 23
Geva Theatre
75 Woodbury Blvd.
Tickets: $37.50 floor level or $35.25 balcony. Tickets can be purchased direction from Colleen Brown, 232-1366 ext. 3057 or cbrown@gevatheatre.org
Monday through Friday.
Tickets are NOT available through the Geva box office.

**10th Annual Black Heritage Gala**
6 p.m., Saturday, Feb. 25
Hyatt Regency Hotel Ballroom
125 E. Main St.
Tickets: $50 per person, can be purchased from the City Bureau of Youth Services, 2nd floor of Sibley Bldg., 25 Franklin St., or City Hall Room 202A. For more information about the Heritage Gala, call 428-9857.

**Bring the Joyful Noise Concert**
4 to 6 p.m., Saturday, Feb. 25
Public Safety Building, 185 Exchange Blvd.

**Student Talent Show**
10 a.m. to noon, Monday, Feb. 27
Come watch children from School #50 and Edison Tech perform their best.

For more info on events visit:
www.blackheritagerochester.org.
Rochester City Court 
Judge Teresa Johnson isthe 2011–2012 Mi-
nett Professorat RIT. 
Johnson, who has 
served in the Rochester 
City Court for more 
than 20 years, has 
serves as an adjunct 
faculty member in 
RIT’s College of Lib-
eral Arts. 
Johnson is the next dis-
tinguished speaker for 
the Finding My Path 
Speaker Series. This speaker series em-
phazises the informed 
reflections of commu-
nity members, faculty, 
staff and alumni who 
will share personal 
journeys and intellec-
tual passions. This pro-
gram strives to give 
students role models to 
open their view of the 
diverse world and mo-
tivate their college ca-
er.

Monday, 
February 20, 2010 
12:30 pm-1:30 pm 
Campus Center, 
Bamboo Room 2610 
**Light refreshments 
provided**

For questions contact: 
Stephanie Paredes 
sxpns@rit.edu 
585-475-6918

Rush-Henrietta Sen-
ior High School and 
the African-
American Leadership 
League pre-
sents the second an-
ual African-
American Heritage 
Celebration from 
7 to 9 p.m. Thurs-
day, Feb. 16, in the 
high school audito-
rium, 1799 Lehigh 
Station Road. 
The dynamic event 
will feature guest 
speakers, dance, 
poetry reading, sto-
rytelling, and a gos-
pel choir. The Senior 
High’s own MLK 
Singers will also 
perform. 
Everyone is invited 
to attend.
Daisy Bates: First Lady of Little Rock

WXXI's Community Cinema invites you to a free screening of a film that tells the story of a woman who refused to accept her assigned place in society.

Join us Sunday, February 19 from 2-4 p.m. for WXXI's Community Cinema presentation of Daisy Bates: First Lady of Little Rock. The event, which is also part of WXXI's African American Education Awareness Film Series, is free and open to the public. The screening will be held at WXXI's Studios (280 State Street), and will be followed by a group discussion led by Marsha Jones, President & CEO of 4-1-1 Communications.

For more info go to: http://interactive.wxxi.org/highlights/2011/11/daisy-bates-first-lady-little-rock

Around The Town...

VENU STUDIO CAFÉ OPEN MIC POETRY
February 16th @ VENU Poetry Art Music Jam Session OPEN 7PM – 10PM Admission Free $2 Domestic Beer & Well Open Mic for all creative levels.

A Raisin in the Sun
Feb 21-March 26th

The Younger family receives an insurance check for $10,000. Each family member has their own idea about how to use the money. 75 Woodbury Boulevard Rochester, NY 14607 Box Office: (585) 232.GEVA (4382)

UGLY DISCO

The 9th Annual Ugly Disco Bash is February 25th 8pm

This has become the swing-in-est bash this side of Hawaii-Five-Oh. Set to the LIVE (not Memorex!) tunes of Atlas Band, The Sky-coasters, Fever – The Wrath of Polyester and a live DJ spinning the top radio hits of the late 70’s. We party not just because – but for a cause.

Tickets available in the Club Resource Center Campus Center FREE TO RIT MEMBERS

For more info go to: http://www.uglydisco.com
AFSA 2011-2012 Meeting Times

Mark your calendars for AALANA Faculty/Staff Association meetings. They will be held in the Campus Center, Room 2650 from 12 pm - 1pm.

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Room</th>
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<tr>
<td>3/12/2012</td>
<td>Monday ROOM TBA</td>
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<tr>
<td>4/2/2012</td>
<td>Monday Room 2650</td>
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<tr>
<td>5/8/2012</td>
<td>Tuesday Room 2650</td>
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Individual commitment to a group effort - that is what makes a team work, a company work, a society work, a civilization work.

Vincent Lombardi

Laugh of The Day...

Tastes funny...